

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 32702

Title: Tumor Biopsy and Patient Enrollment in Clinical Trials for Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma.

Reviewer's code: 03538668

Reviewer's country: Greece

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2017-01-22 13:14

Date reviewed: 2017-02-02 18:03

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this letter to the editor by Rimassa et.al, the authors argue that it is important to use core needle biopsy samples from hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients not only for diagnostic purposes but also for deciphering tumor biology and enrolling them in clinical trials. It is a well-written manuscript expressing an interesting opinion which needs to be made known to the clinicians treating HCC patients so that more cancer centers implement such an approach. Ultimately, understanding the biology of the tumor, through biological assessment of biopsies, may lead to the discovery of novel biomarkers and more efficient therapeutics for HCC. Minor comments The authors should provide the full name of a gene when first mentioned i.e. AFP, MET, VEGF etc.

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Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS manuscript NO: 32702

Title: Tumor Biopsy and Patient Enrollment in Clinical Trials for Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma.

Reviewer's code: 03015689

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear author, Thank you for submitting your manuscript for revision. The most remarkable points of this manuscript are the covering of a great area of lack of knowledge in advanced HCC with molecular pathological information and a predetermined circuit of well designed clinical trials as well as that it gathers so many leading research centres in HCC treatment. It should also be noted that its greatest novelty lies in understanding that the current non invasive diagnose misses the chance of obtaining specimens for molecular studies in many cases, whilst focusing in this subgroup would make an increase in this research field possible, something greatly needed in HCC. The second aspect that adds novelty comes from providing the general guidelines that it a circuit should have in order to channel these patients in clinical trials. If I may offer some feedback, in my opinion the article greatly benefit from reviewing the following points: The abbreviations are not explained (with the exception of HCC). Even if it's not the main point of the manuscript to offer a list of instructions / recommendations, hospitals could benefit from including a certain set of more specific guidelines: i.e. bundles with the hospital characteristics required to study these patients, what specific centres



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are suggested for diverting clinical cases, samples, sample obtention protocols as well as their integral manipulation, etc Finally, regarding readability, it has a clear and concise approach and its information is easily exposed to the reader.? I have thoroughly enjoyed reviewing your article and in my opinion it?could greatly benefit from adding?some of the points previously named. Yours sincerely,