

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Manuscript NO:** 77458

**Title:** Impact of sarcopenia on tumor response and survival outcomes in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma treated by trans-arterial (chemo)-embolization

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05194619

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** France

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-02

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-16 01:08

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-25 03:33

**Review time:** 9 Days and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No
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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This paper proposes a view that sarcopenia is a radiological biomarker of poor prognosis in patients with HCC treated by TACE or TAE. Through a retrospective multicentric cohort study, it shown that sarcopenia is associated with a higher rate of tumor progression and shorter survival. The work of this paper is practical and logical. It can raise the awareness of doctors to notice sarcopenia in patients treated by TACE or TAE.

However, there are some problems to be further improved as well. The information that patients have ever accepted nutritional support and/or physical activity before or after TACE or TAE are not collected which may affect the accuracy of the results. And it would be better if there is a diseases forecasting model which can figure out the character of HCC patients who may easier develop into sarcopenia after treated by TACE or TAE, which is quite meaningful in clinical practice.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05720932

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Consultant Physician-Scientist

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Author's Country/Territory:** France

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-02

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-06-02 16:45

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-06-02 17:49

**Review time:** 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Overall the article is well written and addresses an interesting and actual topic. I have a few suggestions/remarks: - the "p" of p-values should be written in italics lowercase letter; authors should keep this consistent throughout the manuscript. - Introduction: when referring to the BCLC staging system, please cite the 2022 edition (doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2021.11.018). - Introduction: when referring to TACE/TAE treatments, please also add a line and citation on DSM-TACE (doi: 10.3390/cancers13205122). Discussion: "However, as sarcopenia has also been associated with poorer survival outcomes in patients under systemic therapies (8)". Please change "(8)" to "[8]". -

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06266268

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Chief Physician

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** France

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**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-06-02 00:17

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-06-08 04:26

**Review time:** 6 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The study aims to evaluate the prognostic value of sarcopenia in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma treated by trans-arterial (chemo)-embolization. The topic is interesting and of great significance in clinic. The structure is clear and the language is easy to understand. However, there are still some problems to be solved and revised. Figure 2 and figure 4 are blurred and need to pay attention to the case of the language in the legend of figure 2.