

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 81462

Title: Conditional survival probability of distant-metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma: A population-based study

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02944288

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Lecturer, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-06-24

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-07-18 06:57

Reviewer performed review: 2023-07-22 00:58

Review time: 3 Days and 18 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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
Peer-reviewer statements	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

Dear authors. From my point of view your article needs minor revision. The number of references is small. References for conditional survival in other tumors are more than 20 years old. Large number of authors did not consider chemotherapy and radiation are able to boost OS rate in distant metastatic disease. So you have to be careful with such a conclusion. worse survival in not-chemo-radiotherapy patients may be due to poor condition of that patients (so they could not tolerate chemo-radiotherapy) or other factors.

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Title: Conditional survival probability of distant-metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma: A population-based study

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05569437

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Adjunct Professor, Attending Doctor, Postdoctoral Fellow, Surgical Oncologist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-07-24 21:32

Reviewer performed review: 2023-08-01 13:36

Review time: 7 Days and 16 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
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty

Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation
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Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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Peer-reviewer statements	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

In this study, the authors investigated overall survival (OS), cancer specific survival (CSS) and conditional survival (CS) at 3 different moments from diagnosis, of patients affected by metastatic HCC. In particular, they investigated factors associated with shorter OS, CSS and CS. The majority of patients affected by metastatic HCC have a very short survival, with less than 20% of them surviving more than 12 months. In this context, the reliability of survival predictors of OS and CSS may be limited; CS may help to identify survival predictors at a particular time from diagnosis. The authors found that, as OS and CSS decreased over time, CS increased. They also found that factors impacting on survivals changed according to different CS time points. This study is overall quite well written and designed, however I have some comments. I suggest the authors to carefully review the manuscript: some grammar/ortograph mistakes can be found in the text, for example: introduction line 4, I suggest to replace "comprising" with



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"Accounting for". Paragraph "Comparison of OS and CSS", line 13 .And patients with bone metastases "who (add)" received radiotherapy even... . In particular, the discussion needs to be re-reviewed: some sentences have no verb and are difficult to understand. I suggest the authors to use in the tables, for p values values, real numbers (0.045) instead of notations like 4.57e-02. this may make the table more understandable. as acknowledged by the authors in the study limitations paragraph, patients survivals is affected by the use of combo therapy of new generation and, in this context, focusing on a study population of patients diagnosed in average 10 years ago may make the study results not reliable: please comment on this. finally, I suggest the authors to expand on the importance of their findings: how knowing CS and related predictors of survival may impact on clinical practice?