



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 501,
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

Telephone: +1-925-223-8242

Fax: +1-925-223-8243

Manuscript No: 74138

Title: Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Clinicopathological Features of HCC Patients
Who Have Undergone Liver Transplantation: Case-Control Study

Dear editor in Chief

We appreciate your interest in our article. We have tried to make the necessary changes in our article and here, we are submitting the revised form of the manuscript for your evaluation.

We hope to hear from you soon,

Sincerely yours,

Reviewer ID: 03674268

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors:

Comment 1 Add a summary of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on organ transplantation especially liver transplantation in the introduction section.

Response 1 We have added a whole paragraph summarizing sum of the key studies evaluating the impact of the pandemic on liver transplant activities around the world.

Comment 2 Interestingly, LDLT has increased during the pandemic, and the specific reasons should be discussed more in the discussion section.

Response 2 Thank you for your comments. We have added our opinion regarding the sustained LDLT rates during the pandemic. This seems to be no surprise for LDLT is still the mainstay of the liver grafts transplanted in

our country and it depends on the voluntary actions of the relatives of the patients.

Comment 3 I hope that the authors will continue to follow up patients to explore the differences in prognosis for HCC liver transplant patients before and during COVID-19 pandemic.

Response 3 We thank you for your positive criticism.

We have also made major revision of the English language and we have opened the tracking mode for the changes that we have made and via tracking the editorial office can see the changes that we have made.

Reviewer ID: 05721372

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors:

Comments I recommend authors to develop in the discussion sections some more considerations about heterogeneity of HCC (cite Ceausu M, Socea B, Serban D, Smarandache CG, Predescu D, Bacalbaşa N, Slavu I, Tulin A, Alecu L, Ceauşu Z. Heterogeneity of antigenic constellation in human hepatocellular carcinoma. *Exp Ther Med.* 2021 Mar;21(3):270. doi: 10.3892/etm.2021.9701). In the introductory part, the authors should mention about the reorganization required in hospitals in time of Covid (cite Dimitriu MCT, Pantea-Stoian A, Smaranda AC, Nica AA, Carap AC, Constantin VD, Davitoiu AM, Cirstoveanu C, Bacalbasa N, Bratu OG, Jacota-Alexe F, Badiu CD, Smarandache CG, Socea B. Burnout syndrome in Romanian medical residents in time of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Med Hypotheses.* 2020 Nov;144:109972. doi:



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10.1016/j.mehy.2020.109972) that affected all medical conditions, even emergencies (cite Serban D, Socea B, Badiu CD, Tudor C, Balasescu SA, Dumitrescu D, Trotea AM, Spataru RI, Vancea G, Dascalu AM, Tanasescu C. Acute surgical abdomen during the COVID-19 pandemic: Clinical and therapeutic challenges. Exp Ther Med. 2021 May;21(5):519. doi: 10.3892/etm.2021.9950).

Response We would like to thank the reviewer for the constructional critiques. We have read the recommended references and necessary additions have been made at the necessary sites in the “Introduction” and “Discussion” sections.

Sincerely Yours

Sami Akbulut, MD, PhD, Prof, FACS
Department of Surgery and
Liver Transplant Institute,
Inonu University Faculty of Medicine,
Elazig Yolu 10. Km
Malatya 44280, Turkey.
Telephone: +90-422-3410660
Fax: +90-422-3410036
Email: akbulutsami@gmail.com