

Response letter

March 27, 2013

Dear Editors,

File name: 1485_review, response letter.doc

Title: Survival outcome of patients with spontaneously ruptured hepatocellular carcinoma treated surgically or by transarterial embolization

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript Number: 1485

Thank you for your valuable comments and suggestions. Furthermore, we appreciate for the Board of Editors and the Reviewers offering us the opportunity to resubmit our manuscript. All the authors discussed your comments in great depth. And, we have made corrections and additional explanations on your comments. Now, we are resubmitting our manuscript after making a revised version according to your kind recommendations. Let us address your comments and suggestions, and the manuscript

has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

[Responses to the Reviewer's Comments]

Response to reviewer's specific comments:

1. It is a rare situation specially for Western Europe, so it is good to know the experience of the group. Albeit is a retrospective study, it lasts for 10 years. It can give lessons and orientations for other groups and incoming patients with the same situation. The references, in general are too old. The authors must put some more recent references.

Answer) Thank you for your helpful comment. As you commented, we cited the more recent references than the existing those. The references 9, 11, and 21 were replaced with the newly numbered references 9, 12, and 21, respectively. In addition, the reference 25 was replaced with the previously cited reference 15. However, the reference 27 was removed because we think that removal of that reference had no effect on the flow of context.

Reaction's as following;

(Reference: removed references)

9. Ong GB, Taw JL. Spontaneous rupture of hepatocellular carcinoma. British medical journal 1972;4:146-9.

11. Nouchi T, Nishimura M, Maeda M, Funatsu T, Hasumura Y, Takeuchi J. Transcatheter arterial

embolization of ruptured hepatocellular carcinoma associated with liver cirrhosis. Digestive diseases and sciences 1984;29:1137-41.

21. Sato Y, Fujiwara K, Furui S, et al. Benefit of transcatheter arterial embolization for ruptured hepatocellular carcinoma complicating liver cirrhosis. Gastroenterology 1985;89:157-9.

25. Ong GB, Chu EP, Yu FY, Lee TC. Spontaneous Rupture of Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Br J Surg 1965;52:123-9.

27. Ong GB, Taw JL. Spontaneous rupture of hepatocellular carcinoma. British medical journal 1972;4:146-9.

(Reference: newly added references)

9. Aoki T, Kokudo N, Matsuyama Y, et al. Prognostic Impact of Spontaneous Tumor Rupture in Patients With Hepatocellular Carcinoma: An Analysis of 1160 Cases From a Nationwide Survey. Annals of surgery 2013.

12. Liu CL, Fan ST, Lo CM, et al. Management of spontaneous rupture of hepatocellular carcinoma: single-center experience. Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology 2001;19:3725-32.

21. Kim JY, Lee JS, Oh DH, Yim YH, Lee HK. Transcatheter arterial chemoembolization confers survival

benefit in patients with a spontaneously ruptured hepatocellular carcinoma. European journal of gastroenterology & hepatology 2012;24:640-5.

Thank you again for revision of our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely,

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