

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 5, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 15739-review.doc).

**Title:** A high level of ICAM-1 affects prognosis of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma

**Author:** Peng-Peng Zhu, Sheng-Guang Yuan, Yan Liao, Li-Ling Qin, Wei-Jia Liao

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 15739

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewed by 02992845

(1) The authors need to add the healthy subjects serum ICAM-1 as controls;

*Answer:* Previously our laboratory had already found that the median of ICAM-1 in 50 healthy blood donors was 305 ng/ml, see the article "Clinical significance of serum intercellular adhesion molecule-1 detection in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma".

(2) There are still many typo-grammar error in the current MS.

*Answer:* We have provided English language editing by American Journal Experts (AJE) company.

Reviewed by 02992983

(1) The paper reported that AUC of ICAM-1 was 0.636 with a 95% CI of 0.571 to 0.698, and a sensitivity of 60.2% and specificity of 77.3%. Why not compared the AUC with the serum AFP?

*Answer:* Because of serum AFP value is the clinical convention indicators.

(2) Could ICAM-1 be combined with AFP or other serum markers to enhance the accuracy of HCC diagnosis?

*Answer:* In clinical settings, AFP was the most commonly used indicator for the early detection of HCC, but the clinical value has been challenged due to their poor sensitivity and specificity, so the first time we think of the combination serum ICAM-1 and AFP, and the results demonstrates the joint detection of this two indexes have significantly increased the positive diagnostic ratio for HCC. Yet, because of the limitation of the experiment time and subject, it is necessary to investigate whether the combination of serum ICAM-1 and other serum markers also have practical value for diagnosing of HCC. Based on the present available test investigations, we have good reason to believe that the serum ICAM-1 could be combined with AFP or other serum markers to enhance the accuracy of HCC diagnosis in the further clinical practice.

(3) "a cutoff value of 684 ng/ml was found to have a relatively high specificity". How to determine the cut-off value? There isn't relevant description in statistical method.?

*Answer:* The cut-off value was analyzed by MedCalc statistical software version 11.3.0.0 (MedCalc Software, Broekstraat 52 Mariakerke, Belgium).

(4) The authors should better revise the manuscript by a naive English speaker. Several grammatical mistake are found, such as "Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), ranking the sixth most common malignant tumors worldwide".

It was a wrong sentence without predicate. "intra and extrahepatic metastases" should be changed to "intrahepatic and extrahepatic metastases" or "intra- and extra-hepatic metastases". "cut-off" or "cutoff"? The text should be unified. There are lots of such problems about English expression in the manuscript.

*Answer:* We have provided English language editing by American Journal Experts (AJE) company.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

*weijia Liao*

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