

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

September 30, 2016



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: ).

**Title: Anatomical Resection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Critical Review of the Procedure and its Benefits on Survival**

**Author:** Koo Jeong Kang, Keun Soo Ahn

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 29770

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

<1<sup>st</sup> reviewer >

- 1- failure to recognise the advances in liver anatomy performed by the French school (Couinaud)

Answer) Our manuscript is based on Couinaud segment system. An anatomical segmentectomy is performed according to Couinaud system.

- 2- Lack of evidence of chemical agents used clinically in liver resection.

Answer) Chemical dye agents such as methylene blue early era and later indigocyanine dye has been used safely for guiding anatomical segmentectomy in our study. We added relevant references. (7,12,21,28,30,32,36)

3- Oncological principles were not stated properly

Answer ) We added following oncological principles in the introduction with reference.

“The oncologic principles of hepatic resection, especially in cirrhotic liver, are that resect all of the malignant tissue (tumor, satellite nodules, and portal vein territory) completely with effective clearance with preserving enough non-tumorous liver parenchyma to prevent postoperative liver failure.”

4- Propensity match score is not a novel statistical method The authors should focus in statistical analysis rather than theoretical thoughts of advantages of anatomical resections.

Regarding this issue:

Answer) We agree to reviewer's opinion and we deleted 'novel'. We reviewed reference papers regarding anatomical resection and considered their statistical power. According to statistical analysis in each paper, we showed results of pro and cons of anatomical resection. As we stated, there are very important biases in case series, the most importantly cirrhotic degree between anatomical and non-anatomical resection groups. The propensity score matched analysis is one of good methodology to remove these biases within our knowledge.

<2nd reviewer>

it is a good article on an interesting argument. I suggest to reduce the first part in order to increase the comments on the articles selected for the analysis

Answer) As your recommendation, we reduced the first part.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

I appreciate again for your decision to revise our manuscript for consideration to publish in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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