**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology  
**Manuscript NO:** 70902  
**Title:** Efficacy and safety of computed tomography-guided microwave ablation with fine needle-assisted puncture positioning technique for hepatocellular carcinoma  
**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed  
**Peer-review model:** Single blind  
**Reviewer’s code:** 05088185  
**Position:** Editorial Board  
**Academic degree:** MD  
**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Chief Doctor, Director, Vice Editor-in-Chief  
**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** United States  
**Author’s Country/Territory:** China  
**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-03-14  
**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique  
**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-03-15 15:11  
**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-03-15 15:26  
**Review time:** 1 Hour

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<td>Conclusion</td>
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<td>[ ] Minor revision</td>
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<tr>
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<td>[ ] Yes</td>
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript describes a useful technique during liver tumor ablation, used to mark a target under US guidance, akin to fiducial placement for SBRT. In challenging locations such as near diaphragm, this technique can help. However, I do not believe you could draw many conclusions from a comparative study, as ablation probe placement skill is largely operator dependent, location and lesion size play a major role. Ability to paralyze the patient under general anesthesia during lesion's targeting and most importantly the use of CT-fluoroscopy are not addressed by the manuscript.
PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

Manuscript NO: 70902

Title: Efficacy and safety of computed tomography-guided microwave ablation with fine needle-assisted puncture positioning technique for hepatocellular carcinoma

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 05531699

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Italy

Author’s Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-03-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-03-14 14:16

Reviewer performed review: 2022-03-19 10:04

Review time: 4 Days and 19 Hours

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
This is a well-conducted and well-reported retrospective study comparing FNP technique and conventional puncture technique in CT-guided MWA. In my opinion results are interesting and deserve publication. One general comment: the Introduction and the Discussion can be seen as too long. can the Authors reconsider their length, and maybe shorten these sections a bit? very minor: reference #1, is it correct to cite an Erratum?
Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 70902

**Title:** Efficacy and safety of computed tomography-guided microwave ablation with fine needle-assisted puncture positioning technique for hepatocellular carcinoma

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 02579144

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Doctor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Japan

Author’s Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-03-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-03-17 11:09

Reviewer performed review: 2022-03-22 04:07

**Review time:** 4 Days and 16 Hours

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### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

To the authors: “Efficacy and safety of CT-guided microwave ablation with fine needle assisted puncture positioning technique for hepatocellular carcinoma” My comments are as follows.

1. Please show the rationale for setting the cut-off value of AFP to 400 ng/mL.
2. I think the CT image is upside down in Figure 3.
3. How about the analysis of overall survival between two groups?
4. You mentioned “the FNP technique used in CT-guided MWA in the current study may improve outcomes in terms of LTP, RFS and procedure-related complications for HCC, and FNP technique was independently associated with good LTP and RFS”. Can you say the same result in radiofrequency ablation for HCC? Please explain your opinion. I hope that my comments will be useful in improving the article.
RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology
Manuscript NO: 70902
Title: Efficacy and safety of computed tomography-guided microwave ablation with fine needle-assisted puncture positioning technique for hepatocellular carcinoma
Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed
Peer-review model: Single blind
Reviewer’s code: 02579144
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD, PhD
Professional title: Assistant Professor, Doctor
Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Japan
Author’s Country/Territory: China
Manuscript submission date: 2022-03-14
Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan
Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-14 14:50
Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-30 00:53
Review time: 15 Days and 10 Hours

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| Peer-reviewer      | Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous | [ ] Onymous |
SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
The manuscript has been revised well.