

2015-12-12
Ya-Juan Ma
Editor
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Dr. Ma,

Thank you for the opportunity to re-submit our revised manuscript, which is titled “**Non-oncological factors affect recurrence after liver transplantation in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma**” (manuscript ID: 23184). Per your instructions, we have revised the manuscript based on the reviewers’ comments, and our responses to those comments are included below.

We believe that these changes have significantly improved the manuscript, and will further increase its relevance to your readers. Furthermore, we have obtained professional English-language editing for the revised manuscript, and the certificate for this service is included with our re-submission.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope that our revised manuscript is suitable for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely,
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Replies to Reviewers

First of all, we thank all reviewers for their positive and constructive comments and suggestions.

Reviewer #00503516 suggested including a table/section briefly explaining the different techniques usable to perform liver transplantation. Finally, I have not seen any reference of the figure in the text, I suggest including it

Answer: I have supplemented the disadvantages and rates of different techniques usable to perform liver transplantation. But after great consideration, we removed the figure in order to avoid ambiguity. Because we found that there was not too much evidence to demonstrate the modifiable or non-modifiable factors.

Reviewer #00680628’s major comments: the length of the manuscript is too long. As the structure is too loose, half of the length could be decreased to make the manuscript more concise. Minor comments: **1.** For easy understanding, please use Table(s) to categorize factors and show the real recurrent rates between subjects with/without different factors, related references (authors, year published) could also be shown. **2.** The non-oncological factor should be categorized by the donor side and recipient side (patients with HCC), then describing different effects about tumor recurrent rates. **3.** This manuscript described the different effects of living and deceased donor liver on tumor recurrence of post-LT HCC. Do other factors affect tumor recurrence? Such as donor liver (partial or whole liver), sex, age, BMI, hepatitis virus infections (with or without antiviral treatment), any liver disease (steatohepatitis), life habits (habitual smoking or alcohol drinking), diabetes mellitus, HIV, etc. **4.**

There are many errors in “references” section, please revised them. **5.** The mechanisms of HBV/HCV-related carcinogenesis may be omitted or described briefly.

Answer: Thank you very much for the suggestion. I have decreased the length of the manuscript to make the manuscript more concise with the help of a medical editing company. And I have added tables (table 1, 3) to categorize factors and showed the part recurrent rates, except for some factors (recipient age and gender) which had little reported. In the clinical practice, some experts find that some factors (recipient age and gender) have the potential to affect the HCC recurrence, but need further clinical research, so we briefly summary these non-oncological factors. This manuscript has described the effect of some non-oncological factors on tumor recurrence, including role of immunosuppressive agents, transplant type, hepatitis virus, recipient characteristics (overweight and obese), graft-related factors and others. I have changed the style of references according to the journal, and simplified the mechanisms of HBV/HCV-related carcinogenesis.

Reviewer #00182548 suggested it should be systematized, and it's good to be included a table with referenced studies, and recommended to authors to also add other causes of post-transplant HCC recurrence. Writing bibliography should follow the directions of this magazine.

Answer: Thank you very much for the suggestion. I have added tables to describe the non-oncological factors. Because little has been reported on postoperative complications affecting early HCC recurrence after LT, we cannot add these factors.