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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 103631

Title: Clinical observation of nivolumab combined with cabozantinib in the treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 07746654

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: Chief Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2024-11-25

Reviewer chosen by: AI Editor

Reviewer accepted review: 2024-11-27 15:54

Reviewer performed review: 2024-11-30 09:25

Review time: 2 Days and 17 Hours

Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Language quality	Grade B (Very good)
Conclusion	Minor revision



Re-review	No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This article retrospectively analyzed the effects and efficacy of nivolumab combined with cabozantinib on tumor markers, immune function and efficacy in 100 patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. The study compared several key parameters between the two groups, including disease control rate, objective response rate, T lymphocyte subsets, AFP, liver function, renal function and 12-month progression-free survival. This comprehensive approach provides a detailed understanding of the efficacy of nivolumab combined with cabozantinib. The results showed that nivolumab combined with cabozantinib in the treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma can increase the number of T lymphocytes, reduce the level of tumor markers, effectively prolong survival, and has better efficacy than cabozantinib alone, and has a good safety profile. Overall, this is a very powerful paper, and the results presented are novel and important. However, there are also some minor problems and limitations, as described below. If these problems are satisfactorily resolved, the paper will be accepted. 1. It is recommended to add tumor markers and immune function in keyword. 2. The authors mentioned in the introduction that “The combination of cabozantinib and nivolumab as a single antibody has demonstrated significant clinical efficacy in the population of HCC patients in prior studies, and its toxicity has been deemed tolerable”. If this issue has been demonstrated in previous studies, how is this study different from previous studies? What is the merit? 3. The statements in 2.2 and 2.3 are easily ambiguous. It is better to state that there was no significant difference in the data of the two groups of patients before treatment. Otherwise, it is easy to confuse readers. 4. Too much content in the



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discussion section is repeated in the introduction. The focus of this section should be on the analysis and comparison of the results of this study. In addition, the discussion could be strengthened by more clearly emphasizing the clinical relevance, the limitations of this study, and next steps.



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Reviewer's code: 07747237

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: Associate Professor, PhD

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2024-11-25

Reviewer chosen by: AI Editor

Reviewer accepted review: 2024-12-02 12:10

Reviewer performed review: 2024-12-10 11:28

Review time: 7 Days and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	Grade C (Good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade B (Very good)
Conclusion	Minor revision



Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for submitting the manuscript entitled “Clinical observation of nivolumab combined with cabozantinib in the treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma” for me to review. After carefully reading and analyzing your work, I would like to make some comments and suggestions on the paper. The paper is generally well-structured and logically coherent. This is positive because good structure and clear logic can help readers better understand the content and conclusions of the study. However, I noticed several areas that need improvement in the paper. (1) The Methodology section outlines your experimental design. However, because human subjects are involved, your study requires approval from the ethics committee of your institution. (2) The entire Results section is too general. The authors need to summarize the results and state the significance of these results. Some important results need to be highlighted separately. (3) The first and second paragraphs of 2.2 seem to be repetitive. (4) The Conclusion summarizes the main findings but lacks a strong forward-looking statement. Consider adding a sentence that emphasizes the potential application of your study or its impact on future research. Your manuscript addresses an important area of research, and addressing these issues will greatly improve its quality and clarity. I look forward to seeing a revised version that incorporates these suggestions. (5) The Discussion section introduces too much basic knowledge and needs to be reorganized. It is recommended that the authors emphasize the important and inspiring results and compare them with newer similar works at home and abroad to reflect the academic value or innovation of the authors' work and try to examine the problem from a new perspective to enhance the



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innovation of the paper. The English of your manuscript must be improved before resubmission. We strongly suggest that you obtain assistance from a colleague who is well-versed in English or whose native language is English.