

Reply to the reviewers' comments

Manuscript id: 97570

Firstly, we would like to thank the journal and the reviewer for the review and we believe the suggestions will make our paper better. Here are the points requested and their responses:

- **Introduction section: although the authors correctly included important papers in this setting, we believe the evolving systemic treatment scenario for HCC and predictors of response to ICIs should be further discussed and some recent papers added within the introduction (PMID: 38791914), only for a matter of consistency.**

Reply: We have added 3 new references of recent articles in the introduction section including the one mentioned by the reviewer.

- **Of note, the authors should expand some sections, including a more personal perspective to reflect on. For example, they could answer the following questions – in order to facilitate the understanding of this complex topic to readers: What are the knowledge gaps and how do researchers tackle them?**

Reply: This has been added at the end of the discussion section.

- **How do you see this area unfolding in the next 5 years?**

Reply: This has been added at the end of the discussion section.

- **We suggest a linguistic revision and the addition of some references for a matter of consistency.**

Reply: We have sent this to a language editing professional service for improving the quality of the language in this article. We have also added a couple of references in the discussion section.