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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Transplantation*

Manuscript NO: 104945

Title: Current Perspectives and Guidelines on Liver Transplantation for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 08248897

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: Assistant Professor, PhD

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Bulgaria

Manuscript submission date: 2025-01-06

Reviewer chosen by: Shang Wu

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-01-13 01:38

Reviewer performed review: 2025-01-15 07:28

Review time: 2 Days and 5 Hours

Content to be reviewed	
Scientific quality	Grade C (Good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very 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)



Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	Yes
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most common malignancy worldwide. Liver metastasis is the most common site of distant spread and significantly affects the prognosis of patients with colorectal cancer. With palliative chemotherapy, only 14% of patients with stage IV colorectal cancer have a 5-year survival. The purpose of this review is to clarify the criteria and clinical circumstances for patients with CRCLM may be considered for liver transplantation, a large number of authoritative clinical research data and multi-center case data are cited in this paper. This paper summarizes the results of the clinical trial, where the heterogeneous study group showed an estimated 5-year survival rate of 60%, then the SECA-II study improved the estimated 5-year survival rate to 83% by using more stringent selection criteria. However, it is suggested that patients must meet the strict criteria described in two prospective studies, and that the treatment of LT patients with N-RCRCLM should follow the consensus guidelines published by the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. Clinical practicability is the highlight of this paper. This paper interprets the guidelines in detail and provides clear guidance for clinicians in practice, which is of great significance for



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improving patient prognosis. However, this article still has the following problems: 1. Most of the references are before 2020 and need to be updated. 2. Abstract and introduction are highly repetitive. 3. It was mentioned in the introduction part that "Liver metastases are the most common site of distant spread, accounting for approximately 15–25% of CRC patients.", which is inconsistent with the describe in discussion part "It is a well-established fact that more than 40% of patients with CRC develop liver metastasis". This paper also has some limitations. In view of the differences in medical levels and resources in different regions of the world, some of the recommended guidelines are difficult to implement in some regions with poor medical resources. Overall, this paper concludes that LT could be a treatment option for patients with unresectable CRCLM without extrahepatic involvement, while the initial assessment and proper selection of suitable patients is mandatory for better outcomes for these patients. Although there are limitations, it does not affect its significance in promoting the progress of clinical practice in this field.



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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 08447451

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: Academic Fellow, MD, PhD, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Bulgaria

Manuscript submission date: 2025-01-06

Reviewer chosen by: Shang Wu

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-01-22 01:12

Reviewer performed review: 2025-01-22 01:17

Review time: 1 Hour

Content to be reviewed	
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Language quality	Grade A (Excellent)



Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	No
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	Yes
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	Yes
Conclusion	Major revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript provides a thorough review of liver transplantation (LT) as a therapeutic option for metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC), focusing on colorectal liver metastases (CRLM). By summarizing key clinical trials, advancements in patient selection, and the integration of modern surgical techniques, the authors highlight the emerging role of LT in oncology. The manuscript addresses an important clinical topic, but it requires improvements in language clarity, grammatical accuracy, consistency in formatting, and additional references to strengthen key claims. Abstract Line 4: Rephrase "Recent advancements and a deeper understanding of oncologic outcomes..." to "Recent advancements in oncologic outcomes and clinical understanding..." Line 12: Correct "We discussed the inclusion criteria and eligibility factors..." to "This review discusses the inclusion criteria and eligibility factors..." Introduction Line 7: Provide updated statistics on cancer in general as well as this cancer type prevalence, including survival rates, to highlight the critical need for prognostic biomarkers. Cite "Cancer statistics, 2024, 2024". Then give intro in cancer therapy in general, cite NIH paper "Cancer treatments: Past, present, and future, 2024" (PMID: 38909530) for more information. Include citations for



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liver metastases being the most common site of distant spread in CRC. Line 14: The phrase "Traditional management strategies include..." should specify examples such as surgical resection and systemic chemotherapy, with citations. Line 26: Add recent references to support the statement that LT achieves survival rates comparable to primary liver malignancies. Eligibility Criteria Line 5: Rephrase "In the past decades, LT for CRCLM was a contraindication..." to "Historically, LT for CRCLM was contraindicated..." Line 18: Provide more details about the Oslo score and Fong clinical risk score in Table 1, emphasizing their clinical relevance. Line 25: Include a brief explanation of the significance of BRAF and RAS mutations in patient selection. Trials and Studies Line 6: Clarify the differences in inclusion criteria between SECA-I and SECA-II, highlighting their impact on survival outcomes. Line 14: Add a summary table comparing the methodologies and key outcomes of trials listed in Table 2 for clarity. Line 20: Include references to studies on normothermic machine perfusion technologies improving graft utilization rates. Discussion Line 5: Discuss the potential barriers to global adoption of LT for CRLM, such as healthcare policy and ethical considerations. Line 14: The statement "Immunosuppressive therapy used to prevent allograft rejection may accelerate oncologic relapse..." requires additional references and clarification. Line 22: Expand on the long-term outcomes of RAPID and RAVAS techniques, with case-specific examples if available. discuss general cancer biomarker studies and emphasize how they help cancer patients, you can emphasize some previous pan-cancer work from Liu's lab, such as "A pan-cancer-bioinformatic-based literature review of TRPM7 in cancers, 2022, Voltage-gated sodium channels in cancers, 2024, Pan-cancer genetic analysis of disulfidptosis-related gene set, 2023a" Conclusion Line 8: Suggest future research directions, including large-scale randomized controlled trials and advancements in donor pool expansion. Line 12: Reiterate the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in optimizing LT outcomes for CRLM.



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RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Transplantation*

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 08447451

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: Academic Fellow, MD, PhD, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Bulgaria

Manuscript submission date: 2025-01-06

Reviewer chosen by: Xin-Liang Qu

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-03-04 17:44

Reviewer performed review: 2025-03-04 17:46

Review time: 1 Hour

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? Yes Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? Yes Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? Yes Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? Yes Are the Key Words complete? Yes
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Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes**

Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete?

Yes

Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Yes**

Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Yes**

Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Yes**

Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Yes**

Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Yes**

Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Yes**

Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Yes**

Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes**

Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes**

Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes**

Do authors omit important references? **Yes**

Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes**

Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **Yes**

Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes**

Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers?
Yes

Are additional experiments needed for the study? **Yes**

Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Yes**



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Language quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	Yes
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	Yes
Conclusion	Accept
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

OK



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Academic degree and professional title: Assistant Professor, PhD

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Bulgaria

Manuscript submission date: 2025-01-06

Reviewer chosen by: Xin-Liang Qu

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-03-05 06:41

Reviewer performed review: 2025-03-05 12:25

Review time: 5 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? Yes Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? Yes Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? Yes Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? Yes Are the Key Words complete? Yes
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Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes**

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Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Yes**

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Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Yes**

Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Yes**

Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes**

Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes**

Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes**

Do authors omit important references? **Yes**

Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes**

Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **Yes**

Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes**

Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers?
Yes

Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No**

Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Yes**



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Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The revised manuscript has addressed the majority of the questions; however, several formatting issues remain in the article. For example, some references are outside the period (e.g., [1,2] in line 5 of introduction, [4] in line 14 of introduction), while some are inside (e.g., [3] in line 13 of introduction). The formatting of numerical-unit spacing demonstrates inconsistent application. Additionally, spelling errors are present, such as “5-yas” in third line from the bottom of page nine. Overall, the manuscript requires further inspection and correction.