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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

Manuscript NO: 78466

Title: Immunotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma: a promising therapeutic option for advanced disease

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05267231
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD, PhD
Professional title: Chief Physician
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece
Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-04

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-07-25 03:24

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-02 14:46

Review time: 8 Days and 11 Hours

Scientific quality	[Y] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[Y] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No

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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The abstract is clear. The English language is excellent. I want to congratulate the authors on this work. I am impressed by the balanced structure and the detailed approach to such a complicated issue. The reference is up-to-date. I do suggest a high-priority publication. The only minor concern I have to indicate is that the tables are not informative enough and must be revised. Authors should also include further information (number of included patients, outcomes-survival, p-values) for each study.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06307934
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD

Professional title: N/A

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-04

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-03 12:53

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-04 09:01

Review time: 20 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No

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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors systematically introduce several state-of-the-art immunotherapies for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma, summarizing the perspectives for overcoming the limitations, and propose future prospects. My comments are as follows: 1. The limitations of vaccine therapy need to be clarified. 2. Simple conclusions and lack of unique insights. 3. Some references need to be cited, such as “The tumor microenvironment (TME) of HCC is the result of complex interactions between hepatic non-parenchymal resident cells, tumor cells, immune cells, and tumor-associated fibroblasts. The TME has important effects on all signaling molecules, such as cytokines and chemokines, as well as other paracrine factors” and “TGFβ is abundant in the HCC TME and is produced by tumor cells, TAM, or Treg cells”. 4. The citation format is incorrect in some places, such as “HCC cells sometimes overexpress some proteins relative to the surrounding healthy tissue; this is the case for glypican-3 (GPC3) [104]”. 5. Please provide the full name of MHC Ⅱ and CTL.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05569437
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Adjunct Professor, Attending Doctor, Postdoctoral Fellow, Surgical Oncologist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: South Korea

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-04

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-03 17:58

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-10 10:54

Review time: 6 Days and 16 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [Y] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection

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Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [ ] Anonymous [Y] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this well written manuscript, the authors review the available evidence concerning the use of immunotherapy treatemnts for patients affected by HCC. After resuming the physio-pathological mechanisms which regulate the liver immnue system and the development of HCC, the authors focus on different immunotherapy strategies for HCC patients, including targeted monoclonal antibodies, vaccine therapy, adoptive cell therapy, and combination of immunotherapy with existing oncologic strategies, including TACE, RFA, chemotherapy. I have only a comment, concenring the manuscript title: given that the majority of the studies cited in this manuscript concerns immunotherapy as a treatment strategy for advanced unresectable, not responding to chemotherapy, or not treateble by locoregional strategies HCC, I would suggest the authors to specify in the title that the manuscript focuses on advanced HCC.