Reviewer's report

Title: Outcomes and factors influencing the survival in cases with spontaneous rupture of hepatocellular carcinoma: a multicenter study

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Reviewer: Spiros Delis

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This paper puts into context the previously exaggerated claims for spontaneous rupture of HCC.

1. The manuscript and particular the discussion needs to be shortened
2. The manuscript is interesting due to the fairly large cohort of ruptured HCC although the comparison groups are not similar regarding liver function. ConT group seems to have less hepatic reserve compared to TAE group.
3. Although all patients died from re-rupture or liver failure in the ConT group there is no reported effort for rescue TAE in this group of patients who developed rebleeding. What was the reason?
4. There was also not reported any effort for liver resection in patients who eventually survived by TAE. How many patients developed recurrence post TAE and how they were treated during the follow up period before they finally died? Do you use other strategies: such as RF ablation or repeated TAE