Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 9 January 2009

Reviewer: Kelvin K C Ng

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

This is a retrospective multicenter study on the survival outcome and the associated prognostic factors in patients with spontaneous ruptured hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Transarterial embolization (TAE) was the only independent prognostic factor affecting median survival. One criticism is the way to elaborate the univariate and multivariate analysis of those prognostic factors is not clear. First, the authors need to describe clearly all clinicopathologic factors to be considered for the analysis. Second, the results of univariate analysis needs to be presented and preferably tabulated. Third, the detailed results of multivariate analysis needs to be mentioned. Moreover, due to small number of patients in TAE group, the results of multivariate analysis in this subgroup is not valid.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Table 2 is not necessary since its information is repeated in Fig 1.
2. Was there any complication after TAE treatment?
3. What would be subsequent management protocol after successful TAE treatment?

Discretionary Revisions

N/A

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests