Reviewer's report

Title: Predictive and prognostic relevance of circulating nucleosomes and oncological biomarkers in liver cancer patients undergoing transarterial chemoembolization therapy

Version: 1 Date: 26 November 2010

Reviewer: Peter Schemmer

Reviewer's report:

Major critique
- A detailed description of patients who underwent therapy would be helpful to be able to interpret the findings. Data on the number and size of nodules, treatment performed before / during TACE (chemotherapy, resection, etc.) should be included in the manuscript
- Was the intention for TACE treatment bridging to transplantation or was it palliative therapy
- p-values should be provided
- it might be beneficial for the manuscript to focus on TACE therapy; thus patients who underwent RFA should be excluded from analysis

Minor critique
- native speaker review should be performed

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? yes
3. Are the data sound? yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Minor changes needed
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? Minor changes needed

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.