Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical features and prognostic factors in patients with bone metastases from hepatocellular carcinoma after liver transplantation

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Reviewer: Marie-France BELLIN

Reviewer’s report:

The paper entitled « Clinical features and prognostic factors in patients with bone metastases from hepatocellular carcinoma after liver transplantation » is an original scientific paper that deals with a topic rarely investigated in the radiological literature. It is logically constructed and well written. The series is retrospective but, considering the number of liver transplantations performed each year, it is difficult to conceive a prospective study on that topic. From a more precise point of view, the following comments need minor essential revisions:

Abstract
Conclusion: The first sentence needs to be rephrased in order to include what readers need to know and to summarize the main results of the study.

Introduction:
- Page 4 last paragraph, line 19. “are rarely reported” : a few papers should be quoted, mainly the most significant ones.
- The aim of the study should be included at the end of the introduction section. I suggest: “from HCC after LT in order to identify prognostic factors.”

Patients and methods
- Was an informed consent needed or obtained?
- Page 6: the first paragraph should be amended
- first of all, the tense should be the past instead of the present which is used by the authors from the third sentence to the end of the paragraph!
- instead of general considerations, the authors should state how the diagnosis of bone metastases was established in their study population: number of CT scans performed, number of MRI examinations performed, number of biopsies?
- Page 7: last paragraph: Please replace “The doctor recorded …” by “.He recorded …”.

Results: OK

Discussion
It is well conducted.
- Page 11 line 6: Please correct: “Roayaie et al. previously ...”.
- Page 13 line 3: Please correct: “beyond bone. Shin et al. reported ...”
- Page 13 line 11: Please correct: “and lack of the incidence ...”.

References: OK

Figures and legends: OK

In conclusion: This paper may be of interest for the majority of the readers. It shows that better survival was significantly associated with a better Karnofsky performance status and well-controlled intrahepatic tumor. Other parameters are not significant. The paper does not contain methodological errors. I recommend it for publication when minor amendments are obtained.

**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'