Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic Value of alpha-Fetoprotein and Des-gamma-Carboxy Prothrombin Responses in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma treated with Transarterial Chemoembolization

Version: 3 Date: 31 May 2012

Reviewer: Bertino Gaetano

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors stated that: "An AFP or DCP response was defined as a reduction of more than 50% from the baseline level 1 month after TACE". This is not a correct method. Indeed, the persistence of DCP serum levels after TACE could be an expression of persistence of disease and may influence, as indeed happens in the sample studied, the lower survival. Some references of the past are not relevant to support the research objectives.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests