Reviewer’s report

Title: Transcatheter arterial chemoembolization combined with radiofrequency ablation prolongs tumor progression and overall survival in patients with intermediate stage (BCLC B stage) hepatocellular carcinoma

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Reviewer: Hiroyuki Kirikoshi

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Comments to Author

Title: Transcatheter arterial chemoembolization combined with radiofrequency ablation prolongs tumor progression and overall survival in patients with intermediate stage (BCLC B stage) hepatocellular carcinoma

Journal: BMC Cancer

Type of article: Research article

Authors: Xin Yin, Lan Zhang et al.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE MANUSCRIPT
Accept.

This manuscript described the combination of radiofrequency ablation (RFA) following transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) therapy prolongs tumor progression and overall survival in patients with intermediate stage (BCLC-B stage) hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) compare to RFA alone therapy. This manuscript is clearly written, easy to read, and seemed to be revised version.

COMMENTS

Although this manuscript was retrospective study and the topic was described in previous studies including our report (Hepatol Res 2009; 39: 553-562), in this manuscript, the sample size is large and the procedure of combination therapy considered to good. Furthermore, there were not so many previous studies which compared the survival between combined TACE / RFA therapy to RFA alone therapy in intermediate stage HCC patients.

The treatment criteria especially combined (add-on) RFA protocol seemed to be reasonable.

In these reasons described above, this manuscript is impressive for the readers.

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.