Reviewer's report

Title: Factors affecting post-embolization fever and liver failure after trans-arterial chemo-embolization in a cohort without background infective hepatitis - a prospective analysis

Version: 1 Date: 19 June 2015

Reviewer: DARIO PORETT

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MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1. In the methodology chapter it is not stated if patients receive any type of parenteral medication before, during and after the chemoembolization procedure. This is a key issue for several reasons: it affects pain and nausea if pain killers and antiemetics are used, it might have an impact on fever for the possible risk of developing infections, especially for patients with previous interventions on the biliary tract, if antibiotics are used.

2. In the Results the complications are correctly enumerated, but in the discussion only PEF and AHD are taken into consideration. This is a severe lack in the paper, especially for AKI, because it is a possible life threatening complication. We need to know the degree of insufficiency and the way it has been treated. It is also important to know the severity and duration of the other complications: NV, abdominal pain and infection. The latter in particular has to be correlated to the dimensions of the lesions treated, which is accepted as a key element.

3. In the discussion section: - line 268 – please define how much hospital stay was prolonged; - line 270 – what are the precautions you consider could be useful in reducing the incidence of the complication?

As previously stated please complete with consideration on all the other complications non discussed.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'