Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comparison of overall survival on surgical resection versus transarterial chemoembolization with or without radiofrequency ablation in intermediate stage hepatocellular carcinoma: A propensity score matching analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Lingling Tian

Editor-in-Chief of BMC Gastroenterology

Re: BMC Gastroenterology Manuscript ID BMGE-D-20-00078 R1 entitled "Comparison of overall survival on surgical resection versus transarterial chemoembolization with or without radiofrequency ablation in intermediate stage hepatocellular carcinoma: A propensity score matching analysis".
Thank you very much for your e-mail dated March 17, 2020, in which you kindly informed us that our manuscript will be accepted for publication in BMC Gastroenterology, pending minor revision. I wish to express my sincere thanks to you and the reviewers for the comments/suggestions.

We have revised our manuscript according to the editor’s comments. We have provided point-by-point responses in this letter and have revised the manuscript accordingly. If there are further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chao-Ming Hung

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Responses to the editor’s comments:

We are grateful to the reviewer for his/her positive comments on our manuscript. We are also thankful that the reviewer supports the publication of our manuscript in BMC Gastroenterology.

Editor’s Comments:

1. Availability of Data and Materials

In the "Availability of Data and Materials", you have indicated that data is not yet available as it has not been generated at the time of writing. However, we note that this is not the case, and data has been used by/generated in your study as per the Results and Discussion section. Therefore, please amend the statement in this section to merely state that data is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

We thank the editor for this suggestion. We have explained the reason and provided the answer according to editor’s suggestion.

In Declaration section, Page 16, Line 4 to 5.

Availability of data and material
Data is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

2. Role of Funders

Please note the role(s) of the funding body (bodies) in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript, which should be declared in the Funding section.

We thank the editor for this suggestion. We have explained the reason and provided the answer according to editor’s suggestion.

In Declaration section, Page 16, Line 10 to 14.

Funding

This study was supported by grants from Ministry of Science Technology (108-2314-B-214-006-MY2) to Chih-Wen Lin. The funders had a role in study design, decision to publish and preparation of the manuscript. No additional external funding was received for this study.

3. Formatting

--Please remove the Authors Information statement from the Declarations section

--Please add the heading "Conclusions" above the concluding paragraph of the Discussion section

We thank the editor for this suggestion. We have explained the reason and provided the answer according to editor’s suggestion.

In Declaration section.

We remove the Authors Information statement from the Declarations section.

We add the heading "Conclusions" above the concluding paragraph of the Discussion section.

4. Remove supplementary file

Please remove the supplementary language certificate from the manuscript, as these files are not required to be attached to the manuscript at this stage of the editorial process.
We thank the editor for this suggestion. We have explained the reason and provided the answer according to editor’s suggestion.

We remove the supplementary language certificate from the manuscript, as these files are not required to be attached to the manuscript at this stage of the editorial process.

5. Clean manuscript

At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

We thank the editor for this suggestion. We have explained the reason and provided the answer according to editor’s suggestion.

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6. We have noted that the corresponding authors' email address, provided on the title page, differs to the one on file in the editorial manager system. Please ensure that the corresponding author and their details match in the manuscript file and in the editorial manager system.

We thank the editor for this suggestion. We have explained the reason and provided the answer according to editor’s suggestion.

We make sure that the corresponding authors' email address is ed101968@edah.org.tw. We provided the consist email (ed101968@edah.org.tw) on the title page and the editorial manager system.

7. Rename the heading Contributions to "Authors' Contributions".

We thank the editor for this suggestion. We have explained the reason and provided the answer according to editor’s suggestion.

We revised the authors’ contributions.