Reviewer’s report

Title: The prognostic value of combined TGF-beta1 and ELF in hepatocellular carcinoma

Version: 2
Date: 22 December 2014

Reviewer: Min-Shan Chen

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Major Compulsory Revisions
(1) Can the liver resection in HCC patients with PVTT be thought as curative? It is well-known that HCC with PVTT are so advanced.

(2) In this study, only 84 cases were involved in the study from June 2007 to October 2009. Why are there so few cases recruited during 3 years?

(3) Does the author have any plans to assess patients in the future on a prospective basis or in a clinical trial looking at adjuvant therapies?

Minor Essential Revisions
A careful language editing is needed. There are several typos and grammatical errors:

(1) In page 3, raw 60, “datas” # “Data”.
(2) In page 4, raw 67, “our” # “Our”.
(3) In page 6, raw 112, “can” # “could”.
(4) In page 7, raw 143, “patients of intrahepatic stones” # “patients with intrahepatic stones”.
(5) In page 10, raw 201, “was” # “were”.
(6) In page 11, raw 241, “P = .04” # “P = 0.04”.
(7) In page 11, raw 242, “P = .010” # “P = 0.010”.
(8) In page 13, raw 269, “patients’ survival” # “patients’ survival”.
(9) In page 13, raw 281, “, Also” # “. Also”.
(10) In page 16, raw 336, “tissue” # “tissues”.
(11) In page 16, raw 352, “is” # “was”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no financial conflicts to disclose