Author’s response to reviews

Title: Liver function changes after transarterial chemoembolization in US hepatocellular carcinoma patients: The LiverT study

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Linda Gummlich, Editor
BMC Cancer

Dear Dr Gummlich,

Thank you for returning editorial comments on the resubmitted version of our manuscript (Reference number: BCAN-D-19-00018).

Please find below our point-by-point summary of author responses and subsequent amends made to the manuscript following resubmission. Our replies are reported in underlined text here below.

Editor Comments:
1. Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). A statement to this effect must appear in the appropriate Declaration subsection of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate. If the need for ethics approval were waived, then please clearly state this, including the name of the ethics committee that provided the exemption, together with the reasons for the waiver, or a reference to the relevant legislation.

Author Response: We have added in a statement under the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the manuscript (Page 15, lines 351–356): “Patient data were de-identified by an independent statistical expert following the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 procedures and managed according to customer data use agreements. In the United States, Institutional Review Board/Independent Ethical Committee approval and written informed consent by patients are not required for such retrospective analyses using de-identified secondary data.”

2. For all research involving human subjects, informed consent to participate in the study should be obtained from participants (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 16) and a statement to this effect should appear in the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the Declarations including whether the consent was written. When reporting on such studies, individual patient data should not be made available unless consent for publication has also been obtained. If the need for informed consent has been waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this with details, including the name of the Board or a reference to the relevant legislation in the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the Declarations.

Author Response: Please see response to comment 1.

3. Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.

Author Response: We have added this statement into the ‘Author contributions’ section of the manuscript (Page 17, line 402).

4. Please note if you wish to acknowledge someone by their full name in the Acknowledgements, ensure you have obtained permission from them to so do.

Author Response: Permission was obtained by all.

5. At this stage, please upload your proofread manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethrough or text in different colours. All relevant tables and figures should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.

Author Response: All documents uploaded as described above.
Yours sincerely,

Fabio Piscaglia