

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Well-developed paper, congratulations.

Reply 1: Thank you very much.

Changes in the text: None

Reviewer B

Comment 1: First, this model was included therapeutic factors in addition to tumour or background. Especially for chemotherapy, there are many different types of chemotherapy and the therapeutic effects are varied. It is not a good idea to include it as a factor when the treatment effect is not predictable. Therefore, It is not appropriate to include them as factors in a survival model.

Reply 1: Thank you for valuable suggestion. There were surgery and chemotherapy included in model as therapeutic factors. SEER database clearly classifies surgery as non-surgery, local destruction and resection. Local destruction is classified into photodynamic therapy, cryosurgery and radiofrequency ablation and so on; resection is classified into wedge or segmental resection, lobectomy and hepatectomy and so forth. Therefore, the specific surgery method for each patient is known and the corresponding efficacy could be predictable for survival time for patients with HCC.

As for chemotherapy, there are many different types of chemotherapy with varied therapeutic effects, and it is unclear which chemotherapy drug was used in SEER database. Therefore, chemotherapy is excluded in nomogram model in the revised manuscript and the related figures and tables were revised.

Changes in the text: We added some text to clarify that chemotherapy is excluded in nomogram (see Page 13, line 19 - Page 14, line 2).

Comment 2: Second, tumour size might be related to survival time. Wouldn't it be reasonable to include the size of the tumour?

Reply 2: Thanks for your comment. Many studies have reported that tumor size was associated with survival of patients with HCC. In our study, there was no statistical difference in tumor size in univariable analysis, so it was not subsequently included in multivariable analysis. On the other hand, T stage was included in nomogram model instead of tumor size, and T stage was based on tumor size and number according to AJCC staging criteria, so T stage could reflect the role of tumor size in survival prediction.

Changes in the text: None

Reviewer C

1. Provide the full name of “AFP” “OS” “TNM” in the Highlight box.

Reply: Done.

2. Figures and tables

(1) Define all abbreviations in Figure 1 legend.

Reply: Done.

(2) Whether **age=18 years old** belongs to inclusion or exclusion criteria. And revise **Figure 1** if necessary.

Reply: Done.

(3) Figure 3: What the two lines (black/blue) stand for? Please indicate their meanings in the legend.

Reply: Done.

- (4) Please check through and make sure that **all abbreviations in each figure and table have been defined in each legend**. For example, please provide the full name of “TNM” in the legend of Figures 5-6, and “HCC” “AJCC” “AFP” in Table 1.

Reply: Done.

- (5) Please indicate how data are presented in **Table 1**, such as mean±SD, No. (%).

Reply: Done.

- (6) Please check below number. Should it be 302?

Race			
White	632 (62.5)	250 (60.4)	NA
Black	127 (12.5)	58 (14.0)	NA
Other	253 (25.0)	106 (25.6)	359 (25.2)

Reply: We are sorry for this mistake. It should be 302 (100.0) and has been corrected. Thank you.

- (7) Please indicate the meaning of “2” and “3” (superscript) in Table 2.

Surgery
None
Local destruction ²
Resection ³

Reply: Done.