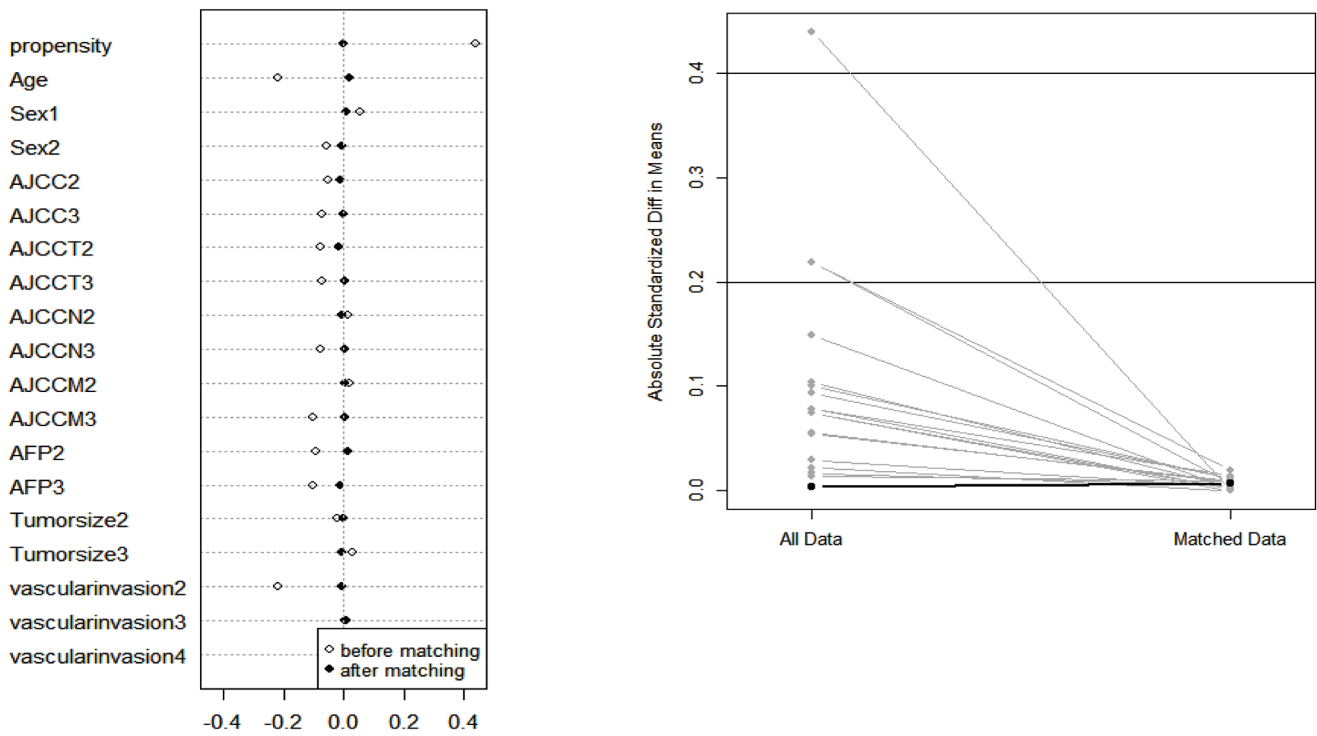


Supplementary



**Figure S1** Propensity score-matched fibrosis subsets in patients with HCC showing well-balanced distribution with no significant differences at baseline. HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; AJCC, American Joint Cancer Committee; AFP, alpha-fetoprotein.

**Table S1** Total of patients with HCC and varying fibrosis scores after PSM and adjustment of AJCC T staging

Variables	Unclear T stages classified as T1-2			Unclear T stages classified as T3-4		
	F0-4 (n=1,660)	F5-6 (n=1,563)	P value	F0-4 (n=1,660)	F5-6 (n=1,563)	P value
AJCC T, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., n			0.6234			0.5007
T1-T2	1,459	1,383		729	705	
T3-T4	201	180		931	858	

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PSM, propensity score matching; AJCC, American Joint Cancer Committee.

**Table S2** Total of patients with HCC and varying fibrosis scores after PSM and adjustment of AJCC M staging

Variables	Unclear M stages classified as M0			Unclear M stages classified as M1		
	F0-4 (n=1,660)	F5-6 (n=1,563)	P value	F0-4 (n=1,660)	F5-6 (n=1,563)	P value
AJCC M, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., n			0.9162			0.8321
M0	1,613	1,517		890	844	
M1	47	46		770	719	

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PSM, propensity score matching; AJCC, American Joint Cancer Committee.

**Table S3** Association between adjusted AJCC T staging and OS in patients with HCC after PSM, plotted by Kaplan-Meier method (log-rank test)

Variables	Unclear T stages classified as T1–2			Unclear T stages classified as T3–4		
	All patients	Survival time (months) median (95% CI)	P value	All patients	Survival time (months) median (95% CI)	P value
AJCC T, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed.			<0.001			<0.001
T1–T2	2,842	37 (33.798–40.202)		1,434	56	
T3–T4	381	9 (7.077–10.923)		1,789	19 (16.854–21.146)	

AJCC, American Joint Cancer Committee; OS, overall survival; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PSM, propensity score matching.

**Table S4** Association between adjusted AJCC M staging and OS in patients with HCC after PSM, plotted by Kaplan-Meier method (log-rank test)

Variables	Unclear M stages classified as M0			Unclear M stages classified as M1		
	All patients	Survival time (months) median (95% CI)	P value	All patients	Survival time (months) median (95% CI)	P value
AJCC M, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed.			<0.001			<0.001
M0	3,130	33 (30.318–35.682)		1,734	42 (37.38–46.62)	
M1	93	4 (3.191–4.809)		1,489	21 (18.404–23.596)	

AJCC, American Joint Cancer Committee; OS, overall survival; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PSM, propensity score matching.

**Table S5** Multivariate analysis of factors predicting patient OS, after PSM and adjustment of AJCC T staging

Variables	Unclear T stages classified as T1–2		Unclear T stages classified as T3–4	
	HR (95% CI)	P value	HR (95% CI)	P value
Group, F5–6 (vs. F0–4)	1.131 (1.032–1.240)	0.009	1.131 (1.032–1.240)	0.009
Age, >63 (vs. ≤63)	1.366 (1.244–1.499)	<0.001	1.365 (1.243–1.498)	<0.001
Sex, female (vs. male)				
AJCC T, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., T3–4 (vs. T1–2)	1.799 (1.510–2.143)	<0.001	1.769 (1.487–2.105)	<0.001
AJCC N, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., N1 (vs. N0)				
AJCC M, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., M1 (vs. M0)	3.498 (2.744–4.460)	<0.001	3.397 (2.659–4.341)	<0.001
Tumor size, ≤1 cm (vs. >1 cm)	2.574 (2.143–3.091)	<0.001	2.428 (2.025–2.912)	<0.001
Vascular invasion, minor (vs. absent)	1.203 (1.001–1.446)	0.049	1.201 (0.999–1.443)	0.052
Vascular invasion, major (vs. absent)	2.321 (1.886–2.858)	<0.001	2.364 (1.924–2.904)	<0.001
AFP, negative (vs. positive/elevated)	0.661 (0.586–0.746)	<0.001	0.661 (0.586–0.746)	<0.001

OS, overall survival; PSM, propensity score matching; AJCC, American Joint Cancer Committee; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; AFP, alpha-fetoprotein.

**Table S6** Multivariate analysis of factors predicting patient OS, after PSM and adjustment of AJCC M staging

Variables	Unclear M stages classified as M0		Unclear M stages classified as M1	
	HR (95% CI)	P value	HR (95% CI)	P value
Group, F5–6 (vs. F0–4)	1.131 (1.032–1.240)	0.009	1.131 (1.031–1.240)	0.009
Age, >63 (vs. ≤63)	1.369 (1.247–1.502)	<0.001	1.365 (1.244–1.499)	<0.001
Sex, female (vs. male)				
AJCC T, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., T3–4 (vs. T1–2)	1.847 (1.537–2.220)	<0.001	1.827 (1.532–2.179)	<0.001
AJCC N, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., N1 (vs. N0)				
AJCC M, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., M1 (vs. M0)	2.801 (2.156–3.640)	<0.001	3.241 (2.522–4.164)	<0.001
Tumor size, ≤1 cm (vs. >1 cm)	2.464 (2.051–2.959)	<0.001	2.671 (2.223–3.210)	<0.001
Vascular invasion, minor (vs. absent)	1.187 (0.987–1.427)	0.069	1.205 (1.003–1.449)	0.047
Vascular invasion, major (vs. absent)	2.370 (1.930–2.910)	<0.001	2.308 (1.875–2.841)	<0.001
AFP, negative (vs. positive/elevated)	0.664 (0.589–0.749)	<0.001	0.660 (0.586–0.745)	<0.001

OS, overall survival; PSM, propensity score matching; AJCC, American Joint Cancer Committee; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; AFP, alpha-fetoprotein.