

Letter to the Editor

Prognostic value of PUMA expression in patients with HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma

Dear Editor,

We have read the article by Peng et al on "Prognostic value of PUMA expression in patients with HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma"¹, with great interest about their innovative results on prognostic aspects on hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

HCC is one of the most common cancers and its incidence is growing also in particular settings of patients such as HIV-positive and elderly patients²⁻⁴.

HCC represents a typical example of multistep carcinogenesis process, that originates from liver cirrhosis (many causes are responsible of liver cirrhosis) that often flows into liver cancer.

To date we have a lot of information regarding the clinical prognostic factors and predictive response to oncologic approach in HCC patients.

Unlike other tumours few information are reported on cancer tissue making it difficult to find immunohistochemical data on this cancer.

The authors have reported their experience on the role of the expression of p53 upregulated modulator of apoptosis (PUMA) protein in HBV-related HCC patients, demonstrating the strong correlation between its expression and disease free and overall survival.

We also think that the study of other "categories" of HCC, as HCV-positive patients and non infections related cancers could better clarify the role of PUMA in all HCC tissue.

At our Institute we have treated many patients with hepatitis- and non hepatitis-infection related HCC, focusing our studies on particular settings of patients such as HIV-positive and elderly patients⁵⁻⁷.

We think that to report/analyze information on PUMA expression in all HCC patients could be very interesting to know better the clinico-pathological aspects on this cancer disease.

Moreover some information regarding the response to treatment, as chemotherapy, target therapy and/or loco-regional treatment are mandatory to better understand the role of PUMA expression in therapeutic strategy decision.

We hope that the authors, in the next future, will be able to extend their research at all categories of HCC disease, with the aim to render more efficacy the available treatment.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that there are no conflict of interests.

References

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