

Anti-angiogenesis in hepatocellular carcinoma treatment: Current evidence and future perspectives

Martin-Walter Welker, Joerg Trojan

Martin-Walter Welker, Joerg Trojan, Medizinische Klinik 1, Klinikum der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Theodor-Stern-Kai 7, 60590 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Author contributions: Welker MW and Trojan J designed and wrote the paper.

Correspondence to: Dr. Joerg Trojan, Professor of Medicine, Medizinische Klinik 1, Klinikum der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität 60590 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. trojan@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Telephone: +49-69-63017860 Fax: +49-69-630183776

Received: December 16, 2010 Revised: December 28, 2010

Accepted: January 4, 2011

Published online: July 14, 2011

Abstract

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is among the most common cancer diseases worldwide. Arterial hypervascularisation is an essential step for HCC tumorigenesis and can be targeted by transarterial chemoembolization (TACE). This interventional method is the standard treatment for patients with intermediate stage HCC, but is also applied as "bridging" therapy for patients awaiting liver transplantation in many centers worldwide. Usually the devascularization effect induced by TACE is transient, consequently resulting in repeated cycles of TACE every 4-8 wk. Despite documented survival benefits, TACE can also induce the up-regulation of proangiogenic and growth factors, which might contribute to accelerated progression in patients with incomplete response. In 2007, sorafenib, a multi-tyrosine kinase and angiogenesis inhibitor, was approved as the first systemic treatment for advanced stage HCC. Other active targeted compounds, either inhibitors of angiogenesis and/or growth factors, are currently being investigated in numerous clinical trials. To overcome revascularisation or tumor progression under TACE treatment it seems therefore attractive to combine TACE with systemic targeted agents, which might theoretically block the effects of proangiogenic and growth factors. Over the last 12 mo, several retrospec-

tive or prospective cohort studies combining TACE and sorafenib have been published. Nevertheless, robust results of the efficacy and tolerability of such combination strategies as proven by randomized, controlled trials are awaited in the next two years.

© 2011 Baishideng. All rights reserved.

Key words: Hepatocellular carcinoma; Sorafenib; Anti-angiogenesis; Transarterial chemoembolization

Peer reviewer: Dr. Paolo Del Poggio, Department of Internal Medicine, Hepatology Unit, Treviglio Hospital, Treviglio, 24047, Italy

Welker MW, Trojan J. Anti-angiogenesis in hepatocellular carcinoma treatment: Current evidence and future perspectives. *World J Gastroenterol* 2011; 17(26): 3075-3081 Available from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v17/i26/3075.htm> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v17.i26.3075>

INTRODUCTION

The incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is rising with a world-wide annual incidence above 600 000^[1]. Treatment of HCC is challenging because HCC mainly occurs within liver cirrhosis^[1], and therapy options and prognosis are determined by tumor biology as well as impaired liver function. Several clinical staging systems have been proposed^[2]. However, the most commonly used in Western countries is the Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer (BCLC) system^[3,4]. According to this algorithm, treatment is stratified according to tumor stage, liver function, and performance status. Intermediate stage HCC (BCLC stage B) without options for surgical treatment or ablation is treated by transarterial chemoembolization (TACE). TACE has been shown to expand median survival from 16 to 19-20 mo^[5,6]. In patients with advanced (BCLC stage C) and especially end-stage HCC (BCLC stage D), survival depends not only on progression of

tumor disease but depends incremental on accompanying liver dysfunction, also. Without intervention, survival of patients with advanced HCC rarely exceeds 6 mo, and median survival in patients with end-stage HCC (BCLC stage D, Okuda stage III, performance status 3-4) is commonly below 3-4 mo^[4,7-9]. According to the modified BCLC system, the dual kinase inhibitor sorafenib is considered the standard of care for patients with advanced HCC^[10]. However, the survival benefit is limited to approximately 3 mo, whereas disease stabilization can be achieved in 27%-78% as shown in prospective trials^[11-14].

Typically, HCC is a hypervascularized tumor with characteristic early arterial enhancement during dynamic imaging, which is the rationale for TACE. By TACE, however, mainly central vessels of a tumor nodule are occluded, while progression may occur via neovascularization in the tumor periphery. In theory, this might be prevented or at least attenuated by concomitant systemic treatment with anti-angiogenic agents (Figure 1).

ANGIOGENESIS IN PATHOGENESIS OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

Chronic hepatitis and hepatic fibrogenesis are closely connected to angiogenesis^[15]. Different cytokines, growth factors, and metalloproteinases are involved in these processes. Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) was shown to be crucially involved in angiogenesis as well as fibrogenesis^[15]. Despite other factors, hepatic tissue hypoxia seems to be a relevant trigger for angiogenesis in necroinflammatory liver disease, especially by induction of VEGF, resulting in increasing arterial contribution to hepatic perfusion^[16,17]. At this stage, the majority of neo-vessels originate from the portal vein, supporting short-circuits between the portal vein system and the hepatic veins^[16,18]. Despite the predominant occurrence of HCC in liver cirrhosis rather than in non-cirrhotic liver disease^[1], it is still unknown whether HCC arises from hepatic stem cells or from hepatocytes *via* malignant transformation. The latter concept is supported by the observation that development of HCC from dysplastic nodules has been described^[19,20]. Arterial hypervascularization seems to be pathognomonic for established HCC, and HCC nodules larger than 2 cm regularly show arterial enhancement^[21,22]. Therefore, neovascularization seems to be crucial for HCC tumorigenesis.

Consistently, increased expression of angiopoietin-1/-2 mRNA in tumor tissue was reported, suggesting a critical role of neo-vascularisation for HCC pathogenesis^[23]. Moreover, augmented expression of VEGF was found in HCC, and higher serum VEGF levels were associated with poor prognosis of patients with HCC^[24-29]. In contrast, a recent study showed that neither VEGF-A nor VEGFR were up-regulated in HCC tissue, and angiogenesis-1/-2 expression were only modestly changed^[30]. Of note, sinusoidal capillarization suggesting vascular remodeling was observed within the same study^[30]. These inconsistent data further highlight that tumor an-

giogenesis is a complex process and most likely heterogeneous. The angiopoietin/VEGF system seems to play an important role in angiogenesis of HCC, but other, yet incompletely understood pathways may also be involved.

THERAPEUTIC INHIBITION OF ANGIOGENESIS IN HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

Inhibition of angiogenesis is an established and successful treatment strategy in a variety of malignant diseases. The liver is predominantly supplied by the portal venous system, whereas HCC nodules are characterized by typical arterial hypervascularization. This accounts for the rationale for use of hypervascularization as a diagnostic criterion as well as development of angiogenesis inhibition treatment strategies. In the absence of targeted agents, embolization of arterial tumor vessels was established in the 1980s. Currently, TACE is commonly used in patients with HCC BCLC stage 0/A as bridging therapy until liver transplantation and as non-curative therapy in patients with HCC BCLC stage B and C^[6].

Indeed, TACE may lead to reduction of tumor vascularization and viable tumor volume^[6]. Recently, this has also been confirmed for a modified TACE technique using doxorubicin eluting beads (DEB)^[31]. Furthermore, VEGF levels as a surrogate marker for angiogenesis were shown to correlate with therapeutic outcome after TACE. Pretreatment VEGF levels were significantly higher in patients not responding to TACE compared to patients with disease stabilization. Moreover, pretreatment VEGF serum levels > 240 pg/mL were an independent prognostic factor for survival^[32].

It has been suggested that tumor progression after TACE may be caused by activation of angiogenesis due to TACE-induced hypoxemia^[33]. Plasma VEGF levels were shown to increase shortly after TACE, reaching a peak value one day after TACE^[34-37]. Additionally, increase of plasma VEGF levels after TACE was correlated with the development of metastasis and a reduced progression free survival^[35,37]. Unfortunately, reliable biomarkers predicting response to TACE are missing. Nevertheless, a median survival of 35 mo has been reported in patients with complete tumor response^[38]. In this study low VEGF levels were associated with a longer survival, while higher VEGF levels were detectable in patients without tumor response. Of note, prior TACE was reported to induce angiogenesis in surgical specimens, whereas patients who underwent surgery without prior TACE had no induction of angiogenesis^[39]. Whether the use of DEB-TACE, which can induce higher rates of tumor response, also leads to upregulation of proangiogenic factors is under debate^[40,41].

Sorafenib, the first systemically agent approved for HCC, is a multikinase inhibitor with activity against VEGFR2, PDGFR, c-Kit receptors, b-RAF, and p38^[42], signal transduction pathways which seem to be involved in pathogenesis of HCC^[43]. However, there are limita-

Table 1 Efficacy of systemic targeted monotherapy in hepatocellular carcinoma according to current phase I-III studies

Author	Year	Phase	Investigational drug	n	RR	DS	PFS/TTP	PFS-6m	OS
O'Neil <i>et al</i> ^[59]	2009	II	AZD 6244	16	0	37.5	NR	NR	NR
Malka <i>et al</i> ^[60]	2007	II	Bevacizumab	30	12.5	54	3.5/NR	17	NR
Schwartz <i>et al</i> ^[61]	2006	II	Bevacizumab	30	6.7	57	NR/6.4	NR	NR
Siegel <i>et al</i> ^[58]	2008	II	Bevacizumab	46	13	NR	6.9/NR	NR	12.4
Raoul <i>et al</i> ^[62]	2009	II	Brivanib	55	11	10	NR/2.8	NR	10
Gruenwald <i>et al</i> ^[63]	2007	II	Cetuximab	27	0	44	2.0/1.9	22.2	NR
Zhu <i>et al</i> ^[64]	2007	II	Cetuximab	30	0	17	1.4/NR	NR	9.6
Philip <i>et al</i> ^[65]	2005	II	Erlotinib	38	9	50	3.2/NR	32	13
Thomas <i>et al</i> ^[66]	2007	II	Erlotinib	40	0	43	3.1/NR	NR	6.25 (10.75) ²
Blazskowsky <i>et al</i> ^[67]	2010	III	Everolimus	25	4	44	3.8/3.9	8%	8.4
O'Dwyer <i>et al</i> ^[68]	2006	II	Gefitinib	31	3	22.5	2.8/NR	NR	6.5
Lin <i>et al</i> ^[69]	2008	II	Imatinib	15	0	13.3	NR/NR	NR	NR
Ramanathan <i>et al</i> ^[70]	2006	II	Lapatinib	37	5	35	2.3/NR	2.3	6.2
Rizell <i>et al</i> ^[71]	2008	II	Sirolimus	21	4.8	23.8	NR/NR	NR	6.5
Abou-Alfa <i>et al</i> ^[12]	2006	II	Sorafenib	137	2.2	33.6	NR/4.2	NR	9.2
Cheng <i>et al</i> ^[72]	2009	III	Sorafenib	226 (150 treated)	3.3	54	NR/2.8	NR	6.5
Furuse <i>et al</i> ^[13]	2008	I	Sorafenib	27	4	83	NR/4.9	46.2	15.6
Llovet <i>et al</i> ^[11]	2008	III	Sorafenib	602 (299 treated)	2	71	NR/5.5	NR	10.7
Yau <i>et al</i> ^[14]	2009	II	Sorafenib	51	8	18	3.0/NR	NR	5
Zhu <i>et al</i> ^[73]	2009	II	Sunitinib	34	2.9	47	3.9/4.1	NR	9.8
Faivre <i>et al</i> ^[74]	2009	II	Sunitinib	37	2.7	35	3.7/5.3	NR	8
Hoda <i>et al</i> ^[75]	2008	II	Sunitinib	23	6	35	NR/NR	NR	NR
Koeberle <i>et al</i> ^[54]	2010	II	Sunitinib	45	2	40	2.8/2.8	NR	9.3
Kanai <i>et al</i> ^[57]	2010	I / II	TSU-68	35	8.6	42.8	NR/2.1	NR	13.1

¹Trial stopped; ²Recorded from therapy start (recorded from diagnosis). DS: Disease stabilization (%); NR: Not reported; OS: Overall survival (mo); PFS/TTP: Progression free survival/time to progression (mo); PFS-6m: Progression free survival rate at 6 mo (%); RR: Response rate [complete + partial response (%)].

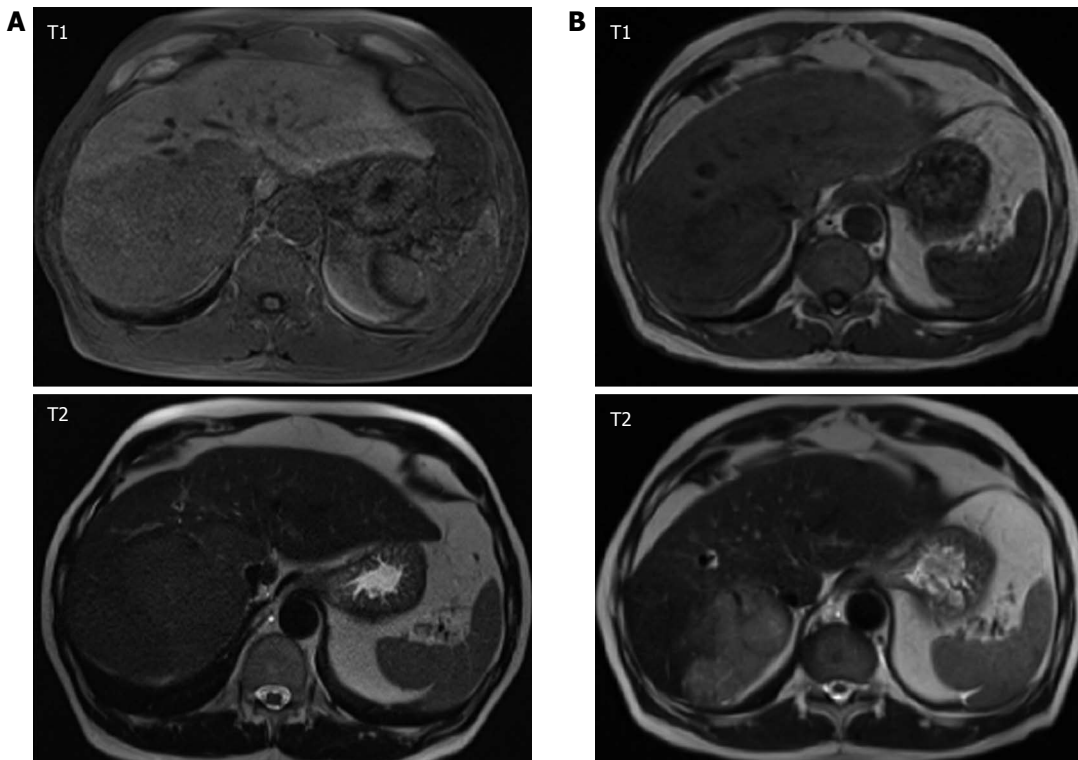


Figure 1 Dynamic gadolinium-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI; T1, T2 weighting), in a 67 year old patient with hepatocellular carcinoma evolved from liver cirrhosis due to hemochromatosis (A) before initiation of anti-angiogenic therapy and (B) after 70 d or three cycles of transarterial chemoembolization and continuous administration of sorafenib, respectively. Patient showed partial response according to RECIST criteria. Serum alpha-fetoprotein level decreased from 276 to 115 ng/mL.

tions on the therapy with sorafenib, founded on restricted efficacy and potential side effects, mainly fatigue,

diarrhea and hand-food syndrome. In comparison to TACE valid predictive biomarkers are missing, also^[11].

Table 2 Efficacy of combination therapy with systemic acting agents and targeted therapy in hepatocellular carcinoma according to current phase I - II studies

Author	Year	Phase	Investigational drug	n	RR	DS	PFS/TTP	PFS-6m (%)	OS
Sun <i>et al</i> ^[76]	2007	II	Bevacizumab/CapOx	30	11	78	4.5/NR	40	NR
Thomas <i>et al</i> ^[55]	2009	II	Bevacizumab/erlotinib	40	25	42.5	9.0/NR	NR	15.7
Hsu <i>et al</i> ^[77]	2008	II	Bevacizumab/capecitabine	45	9	42	4.1/NR	NR	10.7
Zhu <i>et al</i> ^[78]	2006	II	Bevacizumab/GemOX	33	20	27	5.3/NR	NR	9.6
Berlin <i>et al</i> ^[79]	2008	II	Bortezomib/doxorubicin	39	2.3	25.6	2.4/NR	NR	5.7
Asnacios <i>et al</i> ^[80]	2008	II	Cetuximab/GemOx	45	20	40	4.7/NR	NR	9.5
Louafi <i>et al</i> ^[81]	2007	II	Cetuximab/GemOx	35	24	4.5	NR/NR	40	9.2
Knox <i>et al</i> ^[82]	2008	II	G3139/doxorubicin	17	0	35	NR/1.8	17.2	5.4
Abou-Alfa <i>et al</i> ^[83]	2010	II	Sorafenib/doxorubicin	96	4	77	6.9/8.6	2.7	13.7
Richly <i>et al</i> ^[84]	2009	I	Sorafenib/doxorubicin	18	6.3	69	4.0 ¹ /NR	NR	NR

¹Overlap of patient cohorts cannot be excluded from information provided in the abstracts; ²Trial stopped due to lack of efficacy; ³Trial stopped due to superiority of sorafenib; ⁴Calculated from a median duration of disease control rate (combined endpoint for complete and partial response as well as stable disease) of 17.4 wk. CapOx: Capecitabine and oxaliplatin; DS: Disease stabilization (%); GemOx: Gemcitabine and oxaliplatin; NR: Not reported; OS: Overall survival (mo); PFS/TTP: Progression free survival/time to progression (mo); PFS-6m: Progression free survival rate at 6 mo (%); RR: Response rate [complete + partial response (%)].

Table 3 Efficacy of sorafenib and transarterial chemoembolization in hepatocellular carcinoma (sequential therapy not included) according to current phase I - II studies

Author	Year	Phase	Investigational drug	n	RR	DS	PFS/TTP	OS
Chow <i>et al</i> ^[45]	2010	II	Sorafenib + SIRT	35	31.4	77.1	NR/NR	10.8
Chung <i>et al</i> ^[47]	2010	II	Sorafenib + TACE	50	NR ²	96	NR/NR	NR
Dufour <i>et al</i> ^[48]	2010	I	Sorafenib + TACE	14	NR ³	NR ³	NR ³	NR ³
Erhardt <i>et al</i> ^[46]	2009	II	Sorafenib + TACE	44	NR ⁴	63.6	8.0/16.1	11.7
Reyes <i>et al</i> ^[49]	2009	II	Sorafenib + DEB-TACE	50	NR ⁵	NR	NR/NR	NR

¹Interim analysis; ²20/50 patients received 2 cycles of transarterial chemoembolization (TACE), only, and 18 of these 20 patients achieved complete response compared to 2 patients with progressive disease. 30/50 patients received more than 2 cycles of TACE and achieved partial response or stable disease; ³Primary objective of this prospective trial was evaluation of safety and tolerability of a continuous regimen of sorafenib combined with TACE; ⁴According to 31 patients who received at least 1 cycle of TACE, 2/31 (6.5%) showed complete response, 15/31 (48.4%) showed partial response, and 11/31 (35.5%) showed stable disease. PFS, TTP, and OS are given for all 44 patients enrolled at time point of interim analysis; ⁵Patients who completed DEB-TACE showed 100% objective tumor response and 100% partial response or stable disease according to EASL or RECIST criteria, respectively. DEB-TACE: (Drug eluting beads)-transarterial chemoembolization; NR: Not reported; DS: Disease stabilization (%); OS: Overall survival (mo); PFS/TTP: Progression free survival/time to progression (mo); PFS-6m: Progression free survival rate at 6 mo (%); RR: Response rate [complete + partial response (%)]; SIRT: Selective internal radio therapy.

STRATEGIES FOR COMBINATION OF TACE AND TARGETED AGENTS IN HCC

Combination of local and systemic inhibition of angiogenesis seems to be a consequential step to improve outcome in intermediate and advanced stage HCC^[44]. Tolerability of combination therapy with sorafenib and conventional TACE as well as DEB-TACE was shown within different trials^[45-49]. Currently, the combination of conventional TACE and sorafenib as well as combination of sorafenib and DEB-TACE (SPACE trial) is being evaluated in phase II and III trials^[50]. Moreover, sorafenib was combined with selective internal radiation therapy within a multicenter phase II study showing good efficacy in patients with advanced HCC but without extra-hepatic metastasis^[45]. So far, no increased toxicity has been reported. The combination of brivanib, a dual VEGFR and fibroblast growth factor inhibitor^[51], and TACE is currently evaluated within the multicenter phase III BRISK TA Study.

Another interesting approach could be the inhibition of VEGF driven angiogenesis by targeting VEGF with siRNA as shown in a proof-of-concept study recently^[52].

Furthermore, promising results were reported for other agents alone or in combination with TACE, e.g. tegafur/uracil, the multi-tyrosine kinase inhibitor TSU-68, sunitinib, erlotinib, and the VEGF antibody bevacizumab^[53-57]. However, none of these agents is approved for HCC. Of these, bevacizumab is the currently most commonly clinical used VEGF inhibitor in a variety of malignant entities. However, despite encouraging results in earlier trials, even as single agent treatment, bleeding complications were reported in up to 11% of patients treated with bevacizumab^[58]. For the combination of bevacizumab with TACE, severe bleeding and septic complications have been reported in 25% of patients, and the AVATACE-1 trial investigating TACE in combination with bevacizumab has been terminated due to safety concerns in the treatment arm, which does not justify a further clinical development of bevacizumab in this indication. This highlights that large phase III trials are required for new agents in HCC, which seems challenging given the increasing number of phase I and II studies addressing HCC in the last years (Tables 1-3).

In summary, inhibition of angiogenesis in HCC seems a very promising approach for future treatment

of HCC. Multimodal approaches with combination of local and systemic therapy may further improve survival in intermediate and advanced stage HCC.

REFERENCES

- 1 El-Serag HB, Rudolph KL. Hepatocellular carcinoma: epidemiology and molecular carcinogenesis. *Gastroenterology* 2007; **132**: 2557-2576
- 2 Meier V, Ramadori G. Clinical staging of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Dig Dis* 2009; **27**: 131-141
- 3 Llovet JM, Burroughs A, Bruix J. Hepatocellular carcinoma. *Lancet* 2003; **362**: 1907-1917
- 4 Llovet JM, Brú C, Bruix J. Prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma: the BCLC staging classification. *Semin Liver Dis* 1999; **19**: 329-338
- 5 Llovet JM, Bruix J. Systematic review of randomized trials for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: Chemoembolization improves survival. *Hepatology* 2003; **37**: 429-442
- 6 Vogl TJ, Naguib NN, Nour-Eldin NE, Rao P, Emami AH, Zangos S, Nabil M, Abdelkader A. Review on transarterial chemoembolization in hepatocellular carcinoma: palliative, combined, neoadjuvant, bridging, and symptomatic indications. *Eur J Radiol* 2009; **72**: 505-516
- 7 Oken MM, Creech RH, Tormey DC, Horton J, Davis TE, McFadden ET, Carbone PP. Toxicity and response criteria of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group. *Am J Clin Oncol* 1982; **5**: 649-655
- 8 Llovet JM, Bruix J. Novel advancements in the management of hepatocellular carcinoma in 2008. *J Hepatol* 2008; **48** Suppl 1: S20-S37
- 9 Okuda K, Ohtsuki T, Obata H, Tomimatsu M, Okazaki N, Hasegawa H, Nakajima Y, Ohnishi K. Natural history of hepatocellular carcinoma and prognosis in relation to treatment. Study of 850 patients. *Cancer* 1985; **56**: 918-928
- 10 Llovet JM, Di Bisceglie AM, Bruix J, Kramer BS, Lencioni R, Zhu AX, Sherman M, Schwartz M, Lotze M, Talwalkar J, Gores GJ. Design and endpoints of clinical trials in hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2008; **100**: 698-711
- 11 Llovet JM, Ricci S, Mazzaferro V, Hilgard P, Gane E, Blanc JF, de Oliveira AC, Santoro A, Raoul JL, Forner A, Schwartz M, Porta C, Zeuzem S, Bolondi L, Greten TF, Galle PR, Seitz JF, Borbath I, Häussinger D, Giannaris T, Shan M, Moscovici M, Voliotis D, Bruix J. Sorafenib in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *N Engl J Med* 2008; **359**: 378-390
- 12 Abou-Alfa GK, Schwartz L, Ricci S, Amadori D, Santoro A, Figer A, De Greve J, Douillard JY, Lathia C, Schwartz B, Taylor I, Moscovici M, Saltz LB. Phase II study of sorafenib in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2006; **24**: 4293-4300
- 13 Furuse J, Ishii H, Nakachi K, Suzuki E, Shimizu S, Nakajima K. Phase I study of sorafenib in Japanese patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *Cancer Sci* 2008; **99**: 159-165
- 14 Yau T, Chan P, Ng KK, Chok SH, Cheung TT, Fan ST, Poon RT. Phase 2 open-label study of single-agent sorafenib in treating advanced hepatocellular carcinoma in a hepatitis B-endemic Asian population: presence of lung metastasis predicts poor response. *Cancer* 2009; **115**: 428-436
- 15 Fernández M, Semela D, Bruix J, Colle I, Pinzani M, Bosch J. Angiogenesis in liver disease. *J Hepatol* 2009; **50**: 604-620
- 16 Hoofring A, Boitnott J, Torbenson M. Three-dimensional reconstruction of hepatic bridging fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C viral infection. *J Hepatol* 2003; **39**: 738-741
- 17 Ross MA, Sander CM, Kleeb TB, Watkins SC, Stolz DB. Spatiotemporal expression of angiogenesis growth factor receptors during the revascularization of regenerating rat liver. *Hepatology* 2001; **34**: 1135-1148
- 18 Onori P, Morini S, Franchitto A, Sferra R, Alvaro D, Gaudio E. Hepatic microvascular features in experimental cirrhosis: a structural and morphometrical study in CCl4-treated rats. *J Hepatol* 2000; **33**: 555-563
- 19 Takayama T, Makuuchi M, Hirohashi S, Sakamoto M, Okazaki N, Takayasu K, Kosuge T, Motoo Y, Yamazaki S, Hasegawa H. Malignant transformation of adenomatous hyperplasia to hepatocellular carcinoma. *Lancet* 1990; **336**: 1150-1153
- 20 Borzio M, Fargion S, Borzio F, Fracanzani AL, Croce AM, Stroffolini T, Oldani S, Cotichini R, Roncalli M. Impact of large regenerative, low grade and high grade dysplastic nodules in hepatocellular carcinoma development. *J Hepatol* 2003; **39**: 208-214
- 21 Forner A, Vilana R, Ayuso C, Bianchi L, Solé M, Ayuso JR, Boix L, Sala M, Varela M, Llovet JM, Brú C, Bruix J. Diagnosis of hepatic nodules 20 mm or smaller in cirrhosis: Prospective validation of the noninvasive diagnostic criteria for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology* 2008; **47**: 97-104
- 22 Bruix J, Sherman M. Management of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology* 2005; **42**: 1208-1236
- 23 Torimura T, Ueno T, Kin M, Harada R, Taniguchi E, Nakamura T, Sakata R, Hashimoto O, Sakamoto M, Kumashiro R, Sata M, Nakashima O, Yano H, Kojiro M. Overexpression of angiopoietin-1 and angiopoietin-2 in hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Hepatol* 2004; **40**: 799-807
- 24 Miura H, Miyazaki T, Kuroda M, Oka T, Machinami R, Kodama T, Shibuya M, Makuuchi M, Yazaki Y, Ohnishi S. Increased expression of vascular endothelial growth factor in human hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Hepatol* 1997; **27**: 854-861
- 25 Moon WS, Rhyu KH, Kang MJ, Lee DG, Yu HC, Yeum JH, Koh GY, Tarnawski AS. Overexpression of VEGF and angiopoietin 2: a key to high vascularity of hepatocellular carcinoma? *Mod Pathol* 2003; **16**: 552-557
- 26 Yamaguchi R, Yano H, Iemura A, Ogasawara S, Haramaki M, Kojiro M. Expression of vascular endothelial growth factor in human hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology* 1998; **28**: 68-77
- 27 Chao Y, Li CP, Chau GY, Chen CP, King KL, Lui WY, Yen SH, Chang FY, Chan WK, Lee SD. Prognostic significance of vascular endothelial growth factor, basic fibroblast growth factor, and angiogenin in patients with resectable hepatocellular carcinoma after surgery. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2003; **10**: 355-362
- 28 Poon RT, Lau CP, Ho JW, Yu WC, Fan ST, Wong J. Tissue factor expression correlates with tumor angiogenesis and invasiveness in human hepatocellular carcinoma. *Clin Cancer Res* 2003; **9**: 5339-5345
- 29 Poon RT, Ho JW, Tong CS, Lau C, Ng IO, Fan ST. Prognostic significance of serum vascular endothelial growth factor and endostatin in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *Br J Surg* 2004; **91**: 1354-1360
- 30 Zeng W, Gouw AS, van den Heuvel MC, Zwiers PJ, Zondervan PE, Poppema S, Zhang N, Platteel I, de Jong KP, Molema G. The angiogenic makeup of human hepatocellular carcinoma does not favor vascular endothelial growth factor/angiopoietin-driven sprouting neovascularization. *Hepatology* 2008; **48**: 1517-1527
- 31 Sadick M, Haas S, Loehr M, Elshwi M, Singer MV, Brade J, Schoenberg SO, Diehl SJ. Application of DC beads in hepatocellular carcinoma: clinical and radiological results of a drug delivery device for transcatheter superselective arterial embolization. *Onkologie* 2010; **33**: 31-37
- 32 Poon RT, Lau C, Yu WC, Fan ST, Wong J. High serum levels of vascular endothelial growth factor predict poor response to transarterial chemoembolization in hepatocellular carcinoma: a prospective study. *Oncol Rep* 2004; **11**: 1077-1084
- 33 Seki T, Tamai T, Ikeda K, Imamura M, Nishimura A, Yamashiki N, Nakagawa T, Inoue K. Rapid progression of hepatocellular carcinoma after transcatheter arterial chemoembolization and percutaneous radiofrequency ablation in the primary tumour region. *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2001; **13**: 291-294
- 34 Li X, Feng GS, Zheng CS, Zhuo CK, Liu X. Expression of

- plasma vascular endothelial growth factor in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma and effect of transcatheter arterial chemoembolization therapy on plasma vascular endothelial growth factor level. *World J Gastroenterol* 2004; **10**: 2878-2882
- 35 **Shim JH**, Park JW, Kim JH, An M, Kong SY, Nam BH, Choi JI, Kim HB, Lee WJ, Kim CM. Association between increment of serum VEGF level and prognosis after transcatheter arterial chemoembolization in hepatocellular carcinoma patients. *Cancer Sci* 2008; **99**: 2037-2044
- 36 **Leelawat K**, Laisupasin P, Kiatdilokrut A, Pongtongpool T, Narong S, Samkhumphim N, Ket-Horm S. The effect of doxorubicin on the changes of serum vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma after transcatheter arterial chemoembolization (TACE). *J Med Assoc Thai* 2008; **91**: 1539-1543
- 37 **Xiong ZP**, Yang SR, Liang ZY, Xiao EH, Yu XP, Zhou SK, Zhang ZS. Association between vascular endothelial growth factor and metastasis after transcatheter arterial chemoembolization in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatobiliary Pancreat Dis Int* 2004; **3**: 386-390
- 38 **Sergio A**, Cristofori C, Cardin R, Pivetta G, Ragazzi R, Baldan A, Girardi L, Cillo U, Burra P, Giacomini A, Farinati F. Transcatheter arterial chemoembolization (TACE) in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC): the role of angiogenesis and invasiveness. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2008; **103**: 914-921
- 39 **Xiao EH**, Guo D, Bian DJ. Effect of preoperative transcatheter arterial chemoembolization on angiogenesis of hepatocellular carcinoma cells. *World J Gastroenterol* 2009; **15**: 4582-4586
- 40 **Dhanasekaran R**, Kooby DA, Staley CA, Kauh JS, Kim HS. Drug eluting beads versus conventional TACE for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: Survival benefits and safety. *J Clin Oncol* 2009; **27** (suppl 15s): A4524
- 41 **Farris AB**, Dhanasekaran R, Dursun N, Coban EB, McIntosh EB, Adsay V, Kim HS. Tumoral and angiogenesis factors in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) after drug eluting bead (DEB) transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) with doxorubicin. *J Clin Oncol* 2010; **28** (suppl 15s): A4162
- 42 **Wilhelm S**, Carter C, Lynch M, Lowinger T, Dumas J, Smith RA, Schwartz B, Simantov R, Kelley S. Discovery and development of sorafenib: a multikinase inhibitor for treating cancer. *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 2006; **5**: 835-844
- 43 **Avila MA**, Berasain C, Sangro B, Prieto J. New therapies for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Oncogene* 2006; **25**: 3866-3884
- 44 **Strebel BM**, Dufour JF. Combined approach to hepatocellular carcinoma: a new treatment concept for nonresectable disease. *Expert Rev Anticancer Ther* 2008; **8**: 1743-1749
- 45 **Chow PK**, Poon D, Win KM, Singh H, Han HS, Goh A, Choo S, Lo RH, Tan SB, Soo KC. Multicenter phase II study of SIR-sphere plus sorafenib as first-line treatment in patients with nonresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: The Asia-Pacific Hepatocellular Carcinoma Trials Group Protocol 05 (AHCC05). *J Clin Oncol* 2010; **28** (suppl 15s): A4072
- 46 **Erhardt A**, Kolligs FT, Dollinger M, Schott E, Lohse A, Bitzer M, Gog C, Rädle J, Schuchmann M, Walter C, Blondin D, Ohmann C, Häussinger D. First-in-men demonstration of sorafenib plus TACE for the treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma - interim analysis of the SOCRATES trial. *Hepatology* 2009; **50**[S4] (suppl 1080A): A1675
- 47 **Chung Y**, Kim B, Chen C, Wang J, Chu H, Yoon J, Seetzalarom K, Bae S, Chao Y, Li C, Lee T. Study in Asia of the combination of transcatheter arterial chemoembolization (TACE) with sorafenib in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) trial (START): Second interim safety and efficacy analysis. *J Clin Oncol* 2010; **28** (suppl 15S): A4026
- 48 **Dufour JF**, Hoppe H, Heim MH, Helbling B, Maurhofer O, Szucs-Farkas Z, Kickuth R, Borner M, Candinas D, Saar B. Continuous administration of sorafenib in combination with transarterial chemoembolization in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma: results of a phase I study. *Oncologist* 2010; **15**: 1198-1204
- 49 **Reyes DK**, Azad N, Kamel IR, Koteish AA, Hamilton JP, Pawlik TM, Choti MA, Geschwind JFH. Phase II Trial of Sorafenib Combined with Doxorubicin Eluting Bead-Transarterial Chemoembolization (Deb-Tace) for Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma (Hcc): Interim Safety and Efficacy Analysis. *Hepatology* 2009; **50**: 6A-7A
- 50 **Hoffmann K**, Glimm H, Radeleff B, Richter G, Heining C, Schenkel I, Zahlten-Hinguranage A, Schirrmacher P, Schmidt J, Büchler MW, Jaeger D, von Kalle C, Schemmer P. Prospective, randomized, double-blind, multi-center, Phase III clinical study on transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) combined with Sorafenib versus TACE plus placebo in patients with hepatocellular cancer before liver transplantation - HeiLivCa [ISRCTN24081794]. *BMC Cancer* 2008; **8**: 349
- 51 **Dempke WC**, Zippel R. Brivanib, a novel dual VEGF-R2/bFGF-R inhibitor. *Anticancer Res* 2010; **30**: 4477-4483
- 52 **Raskopf E**, Vogt A, Sauerbruch T, Schmitz V. siRNA targeting VEGF inhibits hepatocellular carcinoma growth and tumor angiogenesis in vivo. *J Hepatol* 2008; **49**: 977-984
- 53 **Ueda H**, Tanaka H, Kida Y, Fukuchi H, Ichinose M. Adjuvant chemotherapy with tegafur/uracil administration after transcatheter arterial chemoembolization for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *Oncol Rep* 2008; **19**: 1355-1361
- 54 **Koerberle D**, Montemurro M, Samaras P, Majno P, Simcock M, Limacher A, Lerch S, Kovács K, Inauen R, Hess V, Saletti P, Borner M, Roth A, Bodoky G. Continuous Sunitinib treatment in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: a Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) and Swiss Association for the Study of the Liver (SASL) multicenter phase II trial (SAKK 77/06). *Oncologist* 2010; **15**: 285-292
- 55 **Thomas MB**, Morris JS, Chadha R, Iwasaki M, Kaur H, Lin E, Kaseb A, Glover K, Davila M, Abbruzzese J. Phase II trial of the combination of bevacizumab and erlotinib in patients who have advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2009; **27**: 843-850
- 56 **Arai Y**, Inaba Y, Yamamoto T, Kanai F, Aramaki T, Tanaka T, Yamakado K, Kudo M, Kanedo S, Imanaka K. A randomized phase II study of TSU-68 in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) treated by transarterial chemoembolization (TACE). *J Clin Oncol* 2010; **28** (suppl 15s): A4030
- 57 **Kanai F**, Yoshida H, Tateishi R, Sato S, Kawabe T, Obi S, Kondo Y, Taniguchi M, Tagawa K, Ikeda M, Morizane C, Okusaka T, Arioka H, Shiina S, Omata M. A phase I/II trial of the oral antiangiogenic agent TSU-68 in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* 2011; **67**: 315-324
- 58 **Siegel AB**, Cohen EI, Ocean A, Lehrer D, Goldenberg A, Knox JJ, Chen H, Clark-Garvey S, Weinberg A, Mandeli J, Christos P, Mazumdar M, Popa E, Brown RS Jr, Rafii S, Schwartz JD. Phase II trial evaluating the clinical and biologic effects of bevacizumab in unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2008; **26**: 2992-2998
- 59 **O'Neil BH**, Williams-Goff LW, Kauh J, Bekaii-Saab T, Strosberg JR, Lee R, Deal AM, Sullivan D, Sebt SM. A phase II study of AZD6244 in advanced or metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2009; **27** (suppl): Ae15574
- 60 **Malka D**, Dromain C, Farace F, Horn S, Pignon J, Ducreux M, Boige V. Bevacizumab in patients (pts) with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC): Preliminary results of a phase II study with circulating endothelial cell (CEC) monitoring. *J Clin Oncol* 2007; **25** [18S]: 4570
- 61 **Schwartz JD**, Schwartz M, Sung M, Lehrer D, Cohen E, Kinkhabwala M., Holloway SB, Siegel A, Ocean A, Wadler S. Bevacizumab in unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) for patients without metastasis and without invasion of the portal vein. *Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium* 2006; A210
- 62 **Raoul JL**, Finn RS, Kang YK, Park JW, Harris R, Coric V, Donica M, Walters I. An open-label phase II study of first- and second-line treatment with brivanib in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). *J Clin Oncol* 2009; **27** (suppl

- 15S): A4577
- 63 **Gruenwald V**, Wilkens LGM, Greten TF, Kubicka S, Ganser A, Manns MP, Malek NP. A phase II open-label study of cetuximab in unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: Final results. *J Clin Oncol* 2007; **25** [18S], 4598
- 64 **Zhu AX**, Stuart K, Blaszkowsky LS, Muzikansky A, Reitberg DP, Clark JW, Enzinger PC, Bhargava P, Meyerhardt JA, Horgan K, Fuchs CS, Ryan DP. Phase 2 study of cetuximab in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *Cancer* 2007; **110**: 581-589
- 65 **Philip PA**, Mahoney MR, Allmer C, Thomas J, Pitot HC, Kim G, Donehower RC, Fitch T, Picus J, Erlichman C. Phase II study of Erlotinib (OSI-774) in patients with advanced hepatocellular cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2005; **23**: 6657-6663
- 66 **Thomas MB**, Chadha R, Glover K, Wang X, Morris J, Brown T, Rashid A, Dancey J, Abbruzzese JL. Phase 2 study of erlotinib in patients with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *Cancer* 2007; **110**: 1059-1067
- 67 **Blaszkowsky LS**, Abrams TA, Miksad RA, Zheng H, Meyerhardt JA, Schrag D, Kwak EL, Fuchs C, Ryan DP, Zhu AX. Phase I/II study of everolimus in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). *J Clin Oncol* 2010; **28** (suppl 15S): Ae14542
- 68 **O'Dwyer PJ**, Giantonio BJ, Levy DE, Fitzgerald DB, Benson AB. Gefitinib in advanced unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma: Results from the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group's Study E1203. *J Clin Oncol* 2006; **24** (suppl 18S): 4143
- 69 **Lin AY**, Fisher GA, So S, Tang C, Levitt L. Phase II study of imatinib in unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2008; **31**: 84-88
- 70 **Ramanathan RK**, Belani CP, Singh DA, Tanaka M, Lenz HJ, Yen Y, Kindler HL, Iqbal S, Longmate J, Gandara DR. Phase II study of lapatinib, a dual inhibitor of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) tyrosine kinase 1 and 2 (Her2/Neu) in patients (pts) with advanced biliary tree cancer (BTC) or hepatocellular cancer (HCC). A California Consortium (CCC-P) Trial. *J Clin Oncol* 2006; **24** (suppl 18S): A4010
- 71 **Rizell M**, Andersson M, Cahlin C, Hafström L, Olausson M, Lindner P. Effects of the mTOR inhibitor sirolimus in patients with hepatocellular and cholangiocellular cancer. *Int J Clin Oncol* 2008; **13**: 66-70
- 72 **Cheng AL**, Kang YK, Chen Z, Tsao CJ, Qin S, Kim JS, Luo R, Feng J, Ye S, Yang TS, Xu J, Sun Y, Liang H, Liu J, Wang J, Tak WY, Pan H, Burock K, Zou J, Voliotis D, Guan Z. Efficacy and safety of sorafenib in patients in the Asia-Pacific region with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: a phase III randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet Oncol* 2009; **10**: 25-34
- 73 **Zhu AX**, Sahani DV, Duda DG, di Tomaso E, Ancukiewicz M, Catalano OA, Sindhvani V, Blaszkowsky LS, Yoon SS, Lahdenranta J, Bhargava P, Meyerhardt J, Clark JW, Kwak EL, Hezel AF, Miksad R, Abrams TA, Enzinger PC, Fuchs CS, Ryan DP, Jain RK. Efficacy, safety, and potential biomarkers of sunitinib monotherapy in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: a phase II study. *J Clin Oncol* 2009; **27**: 3027-3035
- 74 **Faivre S**, Raymond E, Boucher E, Douillard J, Lim HY, Kim JS, Zappa M, Lanzalone S, Lin X, Deprimo S, Harmon C, Ruiz-Garcia A, Lechuga MJ, Cheng AL. Safety and efficacy of sunitinib in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: an open-label, multicentre, phase II study. *Lancet Oncol* 2009; **10**: 794-800
- 75 **Hoda D**, Catherine C, Strosberg J, Valone T, Jump H, Campos T, Halina G, Wood G, Hoffe S, Garrett CR. Phase II study of sunitinib malate in adult pts (pts) with metastatic or surgically unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). 2008 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, A267
- 76 **Sun W**, Haller DG, Mykulowycz K, Rosen M, Soulen M, Capparo M, Faust T, Giantonia B, Olthoff K. Combination of capecitabine, oxaliplatin with bevacizumab in treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: a phase II study. *J Clin Oncol* 2007; **25** (suppl 18S): A4574
- 77 **Hsu C**, Yang T, Hsu C, Toh H, Epstein R, Hsiao L, Cheng A. Phase II study of bevacizumab (A) plus capecitabine (X) in patients (pts) with advanced/metastatic hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC): Final report. *J Clin Oncol* 2008; **26** (suppl 15S): A4603
- 78 **Zhu AX**, Blaszkowsky LS, Ryan DP, Clark JW, Muzikansky A, Horgan K, Sheehan S, Hale KE, Enzinger PC, Bhargava P, Stuart K. Phase II study of gemcitabine and oxaliplatin in combination with bevacizumab in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2006; **24**: 1898-1903
- 79 **Berlin JD**, Powell ME, Su Y, Horton L, Short S, Richmond A, Kauth JS, Staley CA, Mulchay M, Benson AB. Bortezomib (B) and doxorubicin (dox) in patients (pts) with hepatocellular cancer (HCC): A phase II trial of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG 6202) with laboratory correlates. *J Clin Oncol* 2008; **26** (suppl 20S): A4592
- 80 **Asnacios A**, Fartoux L, Romano O, Tesmoingt C, Louafi S S, Mansoubakht T, Artru P, Poynard T, Rosmorduc O, Hebbar M, Taieb J. Gemcitabine plus oxaliplatin (GEMOX) combined with cetuximab in patients with progressive advanced stage hepatocellular carcinoma: results of a multicenter phase 2 study. *Cancer* 2008; **112**: 2733-2739
- 81 **Louafi S**, Boige V, Ducreux M, Bonyhay L, Mansoubakht T, de Baere T, Asnacios A, Hannoun L, Poynard T, Taïeb J. Gemcitabine plus oxaliplatin (GEMOX) in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC): results of a phase II study. *Cancer* 2007; **109**: 1384-1390
- 82 **Knox JJ**, Chen XE, Feld R, Nematollahi M, Cheiken R, Pond G, Zwiebel JA, Gill S, Moore M. A phase I-II study of oblimersen sodium (G3139, Genasense) in combination with doxorubicin in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (NCI # 5798). *Invest New Drugs* 2008; **26**: 193-194
- 83 **Abou-Alfa GK**, Johnson P, Knox JJ, Capanu M, Davidenko I, Lacava J, Leung T, Gansukh B, Saltz LB. Doxorubicin plus sorafenib vs doxorubicin alone in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: a randomized trial. *JAMA* 2010; **304**: 2154-2160
- 84 **Richly H**, Schultheis B, Adamietz IA, Kupsch P, Grubert M, Hilger RA, Ludwig M, Brendel E, Christensen O, Strumberg D. Combination of sorafenib and doxorubicin in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: results from a phase I extension trial. *Eur J Cancer* 2009; **45**: 579-587

S- Editor Tian L L- Editor O'Neill M E- Editor Ma WH

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS I Acknowledgments to reviewers of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

APPENDIX I Meetings
I-VI Instructions to authors

ABOUT COVER Rizzo A, Pallone F, Monteleone G, Fantini MC. Intestinal inflammation and colorectal cancer: A double-edged sword?
World J Gastroenterol 2011; 17(26): 3092-3100
<http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v17/i26/3092.htm>

AIM AND SCOPE *World Journal of Gastroenterology* (*World J Gastroenterol*, *WJG*, print ISSN 1007-9327, DOI: 10.3748) is a weekly, open-access, peer-reviewed journal supported by an editorial board of 1144 experts in gastroenterology and hepatology from 60 countries.
The major task of *WJG* is to report rapidly the most recent results in basic and clinical research on esophageal, gastrointestinal, liver, pancreas and biliary tract diseases, *Helicobacter pylori*, endoscopy and gastrointestinal surgery, including: gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastrointestinal bleeding, infection and tumors; gastric and duodenal disorders; intestinal inflammation, microflora and immunity; celiac disease, dyspepsia and nutrition; viral hepatitis, portal hypertension, liver fibrosis, liver cirrhosis, liver transplantation, and metabolic liver disease; molecular and cell biology; geriatric and pediatric gastroenterology; diagnosis and screening, imaging and advanced technology.

FLYLEAF I-VII Editorial Board

EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Responsible Assistant Editor: *Xiao-Fang Liu*
Responsible Electronic Editor: *Wen-Hua Ma*
Proofing Editor-in-Chief: *Lian-Sheng Ma*

Responsible Science Editor: *Lin Tian*
Proofing Editorial Office Director: *Jian-Xia Cheng*

NAME OF JOURNAL
World Journal of Gastroenterology

LAUNCH DATE
October 1, 1995

RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION
Department of Science and Technology of Shanxi Province

SPONSOR
Taiyuan Research and Treatment Center for Digestive Diseases, 77 Shuangta Xijie, Taiyuan 030001, Shanxi Province, China

EDITING
Editorial Board of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*
Room 903, Building D, Ocean International Center, No. 62 Dongsihuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100025, China
Telephone: +86-10-5908-0039
Fax: +86-10-8538-1893
E-mail: wjg@wjgnet.com
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

PUBLISHING
Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited
Room 1701, 17/F, Henan Building, No.90 Jaffe Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, China
Fax: +852-3115-8812
Telephone: +852-5804-2046
E-mail: baishideng@wjgnet.com
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

SUBSCRIPTION
Beijing Baishideng BioMed Scientific Co., Ltd.
Room 903, Building D, Ocean International Center, No. 62 Dongsihuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100025, China
Telephone: +86-10-8538-1892
Fax: +86-10-8538-1893
E-mail: baishideng@wjgnet.com
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

PRINT SUBSCRIPTION
RMB 245 Yuan for each issue, RMB 11760 Yuan for one year.

PUBLICATION DATE
July 14, 2011

ISSN AND EISSN
ISSN 1007-9327 (print)
ISSN 2219-2840 (online)

HONORARY EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
James L. Boyer, *New Haven*
Ke-Ji Chen, *Beijing*
Martin H Floch, *New Haven*
Geng-Tao Liu, *Beijing*
Emmet B Keeffe, *Palo Alto*
Lein-Ray Mo, *Tainan*
Eamonn M Quigley, *Cork*
Rafiq A Sheikh, *Sacramento*
Nicholas J Talley, *Rochester*
Ming-Lung Yu, *Kaohsiung*

PRESIDENT AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Lian-Sheng Ma, *Beijing*

ACADEMIC EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Tauseef Ali, *Oklahoma*
Mauro Bortolotti, *Bologna*
Tarkan Karakan, *Ankara*
Weekitt Kittisupamongkol, *Bangkok*
Anastasios Koulaouzidis, *Edinburgh*
Gerd A Kullak-Ublick, *Zürich*
Bo-Rong Pan, *Xi'an*
Sylvia LF Pender, *Southampton*
Max S Petrov, *Auckland*
George Y Wu, *Farmington*

STRATEGY ASSOCIATE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Peter Draganov, *Florida*
Hugh J Freeman, *Vancouver*
Maria Concepción Gutiérrez-Ruiz, *México*
Kazuhiro Hanazaki, *Kochi*
Akio Inui, *Kagoshima*

Kalpesh Jani, *Baroda*
Javier S Martin, *Punta del Este*
Natalia A Osna, *Omaha*
Wei Tang, *Tokyo*
Alan BR Thomson, *Edmonton*
Harry HX Xia, *Hanover*

ASSOCIATE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
You-Yong Lu, *Beijing*
John M Luk, *Pokfulam*
Hiroshi Shimada, *Yokohama*

EDITORIAL OFFICE
Jian-Xia Cheng, Director
World Journal of Gastroenterology
Room 903, Building D, Ocean International Center, No. 62 Dongsihuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100025, China
Telephone: +86-10-5908-0039
Fax: +86-10-8538-1893
E-mail: wjg@wjgnet.com
<http://www.wjgnet.com>

COPYRIGHT
© 2011 Baishideng. Articles published by this Open-Access journal are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial License, which permits use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non commercial and is otherwise in compliance with the license.

SPECIAL STATEMENT
All articles published in this journal represent the viewpoints of the authors except where indicated otherwise.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS
Full instructions are available online at http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/g_info_20100315215714.htm.

ONLINE SUBMISSION
<http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/office>