



BioMed Research International

Special Issue on

Innovative Therapeutic Strategies in HCC

CALL FOR PAPERS

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the sixth most common cancer worldwide with increasing diffusion in Europe and the United States. The management of this cancer represents a unique challenge for physicians in the absence of definitively curative treatments, but there are many therapeutic opportunities in the context of a multidisciplinary approach. Surgical options include resection, transplantation, and ablation. In this scenario an evolving area of research is represented by the modern concept of preoperative management, the role of laparoscopic and robotic surgery, the intraoperative use of 3D models and augmented reality, the potential application of perioperative fluorescence, and the postoperative management of the surgical patient. Indeed, the role of bridge therapy prior to orthotopic liver transplantation offers a chance to diminish dropout from the waiting list because of tumor progression for patients with HCC who are expected to wait more than 6 months. New radiation modalities represent another intriguing area of research. Furthermore, Sorafenib, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, is currently the only target therapy to have demonstrated clinical efficacy in patients with HCC. Many clinical trials evaluating TKIs for HCC, including those tested in combination with or compared to Sorafenib, have failed in their objective. Therefore, angiogenic pathways and the cytokine cascade remain possible targets in HCC, and better knowledge of the epigenetic and genetic processes involved in HCC carcinogenesis, including the tumor microenvironment, could open the way towards new drugs and combination strategies. Lastly, a new area of interest is represented by the availability of new second generation direct acting antivirals. Their role in HCC patients is an intriguing area of research.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Liver transplantation
- ▶ Bridge therapy
- ▶ New surgical approaches
- ▶ Locoregional therapies
- ▶ Radiation modalities
- ▶ Systemic therapies beyond Sorafenib
- ▶ New second generation direct acting antivirals in HCC

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