

Table 1: Baseline features of the studied population

Variable	All patients (N=645)
Age, mean±SD (years)	61.53±8.71
Gender, male/female, n (%)	488/157 (75.66/24.34)
Residence, urban/rural, n (%)	119/526 (18.45/81.55)
Smoking, n (%)	193 (29.92)
Hypertension, n (%)	170 (26.36)
Diabetes Mellitus, n (%)	177 (27.44)
Aetiology of cirrhosis, n (%)	
HCV/HBV/Negative/HBV and HCV coinfection	575/24/24/22 (89.15/3.72/3.72/3.41)
Jaundice, n (%)	198 (30.7)
Hepatic encephalopathy, n (%)	201 (31.16)
Varices, n (%)	203 (31.47)
Direct-acting antivirals (N=597), n (%)	424 (71.02)
Imaging data	
Splenomegaly, n (%)	401 (62.17)
Ascites, n (%)	
No	343 (53.18)
Mild	69 (10.7)
Moderate to marked	233 (36.12)
Site of HFL, n (%)	
Right	365 (56.59)
Left	121 (18.76)
Bilateral	159 (24.65)
Number of HFLs, n (%)	
Single	390 (60.47)
Two	80 (12.4)
Three	20 (3.1)
More than three	155 (24.03)
Size of HFL (cm)	
Mean±SD	5.46±3.23
Median (range)	4.5 (1:18)
Portal vein thrombosis, n (%)	169 (26.2)
Extrahepatic spread, n (%)	32 (4.96)
Laboratory parameters	
AFP (ng/ml), median (IQR)	258.22 (28:923)
ALT (U/l), median (IQR)	44 (25:75.5)
AST (U/l), median (IQR)	57 (34:90.5)
Total bilirubin (mg/dl), median (IQR)	1.6 (1:3.5)
Albumin (g/dl), mean±SD	2.97±0.8
INR, mean±SD	1.32±0.33
Creatinine (mg/dl), mean±SD	1.25±0.81
Platelets (10 ³ /μl), mean±SD	150.54±79.31
HCC treatment, n (%)	
SR	21 (3.26)
RFA	174 (26.98)
TACE	155 (24.03)
Sorafenib	64 (9.92)
BSC	231 (35.81)
Overall mortality, n (%)	489 (75.81)
Overall survival, months (95%CI)	12 (11.49:12.52)
Duration of follow-up (months)	
Mean±SD	12.45±8.45
Median (range)	12 (1:24)

HBV: hepatitis B virus; HCV: hepatitis C virus; HFL: hepatic focal lesion; AFP: alpha-fetoprotein; IQR: interquartile range; ALT: alanine aminotransferase; AST: aspartate aminotransferase; INR: international normalized ratio; HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma; SR: surgical resection; RFA: radiofrequency ablation; TACE: transarterial chemoembolization; BSC: best supportive care; CI: confidence interval.

Table 2 Distribution of patients with HCC according to the studied staging systems

Variable	All patients (N=645)
Child score, mean±SD	8.2±2.72
Child class, n (%)	
A	246 (38.14)
B	187 (28.99)
C	212 (32.87)
MELD score, mean±SD	14.15±6.86
MELD grade, n (%)	
Grade 1	184 (28.53)
Grade 2	224 (34.73)
Grade 3	237 (36.74)
ALBI score, mean ± SD	-1.53±0.85
ALBI grade, n (%)	
Grade 1	69 (10.7)
Grade 2	305 (47.29)
Grade 3	271 (42.02)
PALBI score, mean±SD	-1.83±0.57
PALBI grade, n (%)	
Grade 1	76 (11.78)
Grade 2	153 (23.72)
Grade 3	416 (64.5)
BCLC stage, n (%)	
0	6 (0.93)
A	169 (26.2)
B	166 (25.74)
C	92 (14.26)
D	212 (32.87)

MELD: Model for End-Stage Liver Disease; ALBI: albumin-bilirubin; PALBI: platelet-albumin-bilirubin; BCLC: Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer

Table 3: Multivariate Cox regression analysis to identify risk factors associated with overall survival.

Variable	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P-value
Smoking	0.971 (0.794:1.188)	0.777
HFL size (cm)	1.023 (0.994:1.054)	0.123
Number of HFL		
Single	Ref.	
Two	0.911 (0.675:1.23)	0.544
Three	0.96 (0.587:1.568)	0.87
More than three	1.263 (1.012:1.576)	0.039
PVT/Extrahepatic spread	1.168 (0.888:1.538)	0.267
Child class		
A	Ref.	
B	1.378 (0.99:1.917)	0.057
C	0.319 (0.038:2.718)	0.296
MELD grade		
Grade 1	Ref.	
Grade 2	0.959 (0.72:1.276)	0.772
Grade 3	1.463 (1.052:2.034)	0.024
ALBI grade		
Grade 1	Ref.	
Grade 2	1.158 (0.676:1.985)	0.592
Grade 3	1.65 (0.891:3.056)	0.111
PALBI grade		
Grade 1	Ref.	
Grade 2	1.676 (0.971:2.892)	0.064
Grade 3	2.381 (1.345:4.216)	0.003
BCLC stage		
0/ A	Ref.	
B	2.953 (1.982:4.399)	<0.0001
C	3.831 (2.341:6.27)	<0.0001
D	13.196 (1.557:111.827)	0.018
HCC treatment		
Curative *	Ref.	
Palliative †	1.137 (0.813:1.589)	0.454
BSC	2.043 (1.44:2.899)	<0.0001

* Resection or ablation, † TACE or sorafenib.

CI: confidence interval; HFL: hepatic focal lesion; PVT: portal vein thrombosis; MELD: Model for End-Stage Liver Disease; ALBI: albumin-bilirubin; PALBI: platelet-albumin-bilirubin; BCLC: Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer; HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma; BSC: best supportive care.