

中文題目：低正常血清胎兒蛋白值的肝細胞癌患者之預後及其影響因子

英文題目：The outcomes and prognostic factors of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma and with low-normal serum alpha fetoprotein levels

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Backgrounds & Aims: Alpha fetoprotein (AFP) is the most widely used tumor marker for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Serum AFP level > 20ng/mL is considered abnormal according to the current international guidelines. Nevertheless, few studies have investigated the prognostic factors of HCC patients with low-normal serum AFP levels (≤ 7 ng/mL).

Methods: We retrospectively enrolled 1,385 patients with HCC and low-normal serum AFP levels from 2008 to 2020. Overall survival (OS) rates were calculated by the Kaplan-Meier method, and analyses of the prognostic factors were performed using a Cox proportional hazard model.

Results: After a median follow-up of 32 months, 527 patients died, and the 5-year OS rate was 57.4%. A multivariate analysis showed the independent prognostic factors of poor OS were alkaline phosphatase > 100U/L (hazard ratio HR 1.375, 95% confidence interval CI 1.065-1.774, $p < 0.001$); higher albumin-bilirubin (ALBI) grades (grade 1 as reference, grade 2: HR: 1.610, 95% confidence interval CI: 1.242-2.087, $p < 0.001$; grade 3: HR: 4.270, 95% CI: 2.921-6.241, $p < 0.001$); the presence of vascular invasion (HR: 2.732, 95% CI: 2.144-3.480, $p < 0.001$), tumor size ≥ 5 cm (HR: 1.791, 95% CI: 1.408-2.279, $p < 0.001$), and non-curative treatment modalities (HR: 3.960, 95% CI: 3.087-5.081, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: For patients with HCC and with low-normal AFP levels, liver functional reserve, tumor factors and treatment modalities were the independent factors predictive of prognoses.