

## Reply to: Comment on: 'Long-term impact of liver function on curative therapy for hepatocellular carcinoma: application of the ALBI grade'

Philip Johnson<sup>\*1,2</sup>, Paul BS Lai<sup>3</sup> and Hidenori Toyoda<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Molecular and Clinical Cancer Medicine, The Duncan Building, Daulby Street, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3GA, UK; <sup>2</sup>The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Road, Bebington, Wirral CH63 4JY, UK; <sup>3</sup>Department of Surgery, Prince of Wales Hospital, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China and <sup>4</sup>Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Ogaki Municipal Hospital, 4-86 Minaminokawa-cho, Ogaki, Gifu 503-8052, Japan

Sir,

We are grateful to Cucchetti *et al* for their interest in our work, and pleased that they are in strong agreement, in principle, with our suggestion that transplantation may be the most appropriate therapy for HCC patients classified as ALBI grade-2 (Toyoda *et al*, 2016). Furthermore, we agree that it would be of interest to compare the utility of ALBI with the current standard for transplant prioritisation, the Model for End-stage Liver Disease score. Indeed, we are currently undertaking such a comparison and hope to publish this work shortly.

However, we also agree with Cucchetti *et al* that we should have been more cautious in suggesting ablation as an alternative option to resection for ALBI grade-2 patients. Indeed, our data does not directly support this contention.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

### REFERENCES

Toyoda H, Lai PB, O'Beirne J, Chong CC, Berhane S, Reeves H, Manas D, Fox RP, Yeo W, Mo F, Chan AW, Tada T, Iñarrairaegui M, Vogel A, Schweitzer N, Chan SL, Sangro B, Kumada T, Johnson PJ (2016) Long-term impact of liver function on curative therapy for hepatocellular carcinoma: application of the ALBI grade. *Br J Cancer* **114**: 744–750.

This work is published under the BJC's standard license to publish agreement. After 12 months the license terms will change to a Creative Commons AttributionNonCommercial-Share Alike 4.0 Unported License.

\*Correspondence: Professor P Johnson; E-mail: philip.johnson@liverpool.ac.uk

Published online 23 June 2016

© 2016 Cancer Research UK. All rights reserved 0007–0920/16