

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Neutrophil and platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio: new predictors of dropout and recurrence after liver transplantation for hepatocellular cancer?

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Dear Editor,

We read with interest the recent article 'Neutrophil and platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio as new predictors of dropout and recurrence after liver transplantation for hepatocellular cancer' by Lai *et al.* [1]. In their study, authors aimed to evaluate neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR) as potential risk factors for dropout before and for recurrence after liver transplantation (LT). Finally, they concluded that NLR is a good predictor for the risk of dropout, while PLR is a good predictor for the risk of post-LT recurrence. We would like to thank the authors for their contribution.

Platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR) has been recently suggested to be a marker of thrombotic and inflammatory condition, mainly in patients with malignancies [2,3]. NLR is a readily available and inexpensive laboratory marker, which is used to measure systemic inflammation. In the literature, it was shown that valvular heart diseases, acute coronary syndromes, diabetes mellitus, thyroid functional abnormalities, renal and/or hepatic failure, metabolic syndrome, essential hypertension, and many inflammatory diseases may potentially affect the NLR [4–7]. Thus, it would be more relevant if Lai *et al.* had mentioned these NLR-affecting factors while evaluating the predictive significance of the NLR for risk of dropout or post-LT tumor recurrence. Moreover, medication may alter NLR and/or PLR, so it would have been useful if the patients were described in greater detail in terms of antibiotic, steroid, antiviral agent, immunosuppressive drug use, and/or other medications. In addition, it would also have been better if the authors indicated the elapsed time between taking the blood samples and measuring NLR and PLR, since waiting period prior to analysis may affect these parameters.

We believe that the findings of Lai *et al.* [1] will lead to further studies concerning predictive role of NLR and PLR for dropout and post-LT tumor recurrence. But, it should be clearly kept in mind that NLR or PLR itself alone with-

out other variables may not secure true information about dropout and post-LT tumor recurrence. Finally, we concluded that these parameters should be evaluated with other variables as mentioned above.

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None.

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