**Table S1. Clinical characteristics of the 26 HCC patients**

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| **Patient characteristics** | **Value** |
| No. of patients | 26 |
| Age (years): median, range | 42, 28-70 |
| Gender: male/female | 23/3 |
| HBsAg: negative/positive | 5/21 |
| Cirrhosis: absent/present | 6/20 |
| AFP (ng/ml): ≤ 25/> 25 | 11/15 |
| Tumor multiplicity: solitary/multiple | 23/3 |
| Tumor size (cm): ≤5/＞5 | 4/22 |
| Vascular invasion: absent/present | 24/2 |
| TNM stage: I-II/III-IV | 15/11 |

Abbreviations: HBsAg, hepatitis B surface antigen; AFP, α-fetoprotein.