**Table S2. Clinical Characteristics of the 25 HBcAg(+) HCC and 25 matched HBcAg(+) HCC patients**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Clinical variables** | **HBcAG(+) HCC** | **HBcAg (-) HCC** | ***P* value**a |
| **Patient No.** | 25 | 25 |  |
| **Gender** |  |  |  |
| **Male** | 20 | 20 | 1.0000 |
| **Female** | 5 | 5 |  |
| **Age (year)** | 51.8 | 51.4 | 0.568b |
| **(range)** | 31-74 | 27-71 |  |
| **Cirrhosis** |  |  |  |
|  **(+)** | 23 | 12 | **<0.001** |
|  **(-)** | 2 | 13 |  |
| **HCC grading**c |  |  |  |
| **I** | 1 | 0 | **combined as a reference group** |
| **II** | 9 | 4 |
| **III** | 14 | 17 | 0.227 |
| **IV** | 1 | 4 | 0.145 |
| **Tumor size**  |  |  |  |
| **≦2 cm** | 9 | 2 | **0.039** |
| **＞2 cm** | 16 | 23 |  |
| **Pathology Stage**d |  |  |  |
| **I** | 14 | 9 | **Reference group** |
| **II** | 9 | 7 | 0.242 |
| **III** | 2 | 8 | 0.125 |
| **IV** | 0 | 1 | 1.000 |
| **Disease Free Survival**e |  |  |  |
| **Recurred / censored** | 20/2 | 19/4 | 0.686 |
| **Median survival (95%CI)** | 21.2 months (12.2, 50.2) | 9.8 months (6.8, 35.7)  |  |
| **Overall Survival** |  |  | 0.793 |
| **Death/censored** | 15/10 | 18/7 |  |
| **Median survival (95%CI)** | 72.2 months (26.1, -- | 44.0 months (22.5, 102.6) |  |

a Exact test for association with matched pair data, except for the variable ‘age’.

b For age, paired t-test is used.

c Edmondson-Steiner grading

d According to the American Joint Committee on cancer (AJCC) staging system, 6th edition.

eFive patients had no disease free survival data, since the recurrent date were uncertain, but all died of tumor.