Supplementary table 1: The tumor-node-metastasis (TNM) staging for hepatocellular cancer, the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) 8th edition.

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| **Stage of cancer** | **T stage** | **Primary tumor** | **Lymph node metastasis** | **Distant metastasis** |
| Stage IA | T1a | Solitary tumor with or without vascular invasion. | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IB | T1b | Solitary tumor without vascular invasion. | N0 | M0 |
| Stage II | T2 | Solitary tumor >2 cm with vascular invasion *or* multifocal tumors (none >5 cm) | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIIA | T3 | Multifocal tumors (at least one of them >5 cm) | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IIIB | T4 | Single or multiple tumors of any size involving the major branch of hepatic or portal vein *or* adjacent visceral organs (other than gall bladder) *or* tumor(s) with perforation of visceral peritoneum. | N0 | M0 |
| Stage IVA | Any T |  | N1 | M0 |
| Stage IVB | Any T |  | Any N | M1 |

**Abbreviations:** *N0* no regional lymph node metastasis; *N1* regional lymph node metastasis; *M0* no distant metastasis; *M1* distant metastasis.