

## Supplementary materials

**Table S1** Baseline characteristics of cohort patients according to bilirubin level

|  | TBIL          |               |         | DBIL          |               |         | IBIL          |               |         |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------------|---------|
|  | Low           | High          | P value | Low           | High          | P       | Low           | High          | P value |
| Gender (%)                                 |               |               | 1.000   |               |               | 0.941   |               |               | 0.941   |
| Female                                     | 6 (50.0)      | 6 (50.0)      |         | 6 (50.0)      | 6 (50.0)      |         | 6 (50.0)      | 6 (50.0)      |         |
| Male                                       | 44 (50.0)     | 44 (50.0)     |         | 45 (51.1)     | 43 (48.9)     |         | 45 (51.1)     | 43 (48.9)     |         |
| Age (years, mean ± SD)                     | 50.22 ± 11.94 | 47.72 ± 12.08 | 0.300   | 48.67 ± 12.15 | 49.29 ± 11.99 | 0.798   | 52.63 ± 10.85 | 45.16 ± 12.08 | 0.002   |
| HBV (%)                                    | 49 (49.5)     | 50 (50.5)     | 1.000   | 50 (50.5)     | 49 (49.5)     | 1       | 50 (50.5)     | 49 (49.5)     | 1       |
| Alcohol drinkers (%)                       | 10 (55.6)     | 8 (44.4)      | 0.603   | 11 (61.1)     | 7 (38.9)      | 0.343   | 8 (44.4)      | 10 (55.6)     | 0.539   |
| Portal vein or inferior vena cava invasion | 24(44.4)      | 30(55.6)      | 0.229   | 24(44.4)      | 30(55.6)      | 0.229   | 24(44.4)      | 30(55.6)      | 0.229   |
| ELM* (%)                                   |               |               | 0.056   |               |               | 0.173   |               |               | 0.731   |
| 0  | 27 (43.5)     | 35 (56.5)     |         | 29(46.8)      | 33(53.2)      |         | 31 (50.0)     | 31 (50.0)     |         |
| 1  | 11 (55.0)     | 9 (45.0)      |         | 12(60.0)      | 8(40.0)       |         | 9 (45.0)      | 11 (55.0)     |         |
| 2  | 8 (88.9)      | 1 (11.1)      |         | 7(77.8)       | 2(22.2)       |         | 6 (66.7)      | 3 (33.3)      |         |
| 3  | 4 (44.4)      | 5 (55.6)      |         | 3(33.3)       | 6(66.7)       |         | 5 (55.6)      | 4 (44.4)      |         |
| Ascites (%)                                |               |               | 0.081   |               |               | 0.012   |               |               | 0.332   |
| None                                       | 36(59.0)      | 25(41.0)      |         | 39 (63.9)     | 22 (36.1)     |         | 35 (57.4)     | 26 (42.6)     |         |
| Small                                      | 8(34.8)       | 15(65.2)      |         | 7 (30.4)      | 16 (69.6)     |         | 9 (39.1)      | 14 (60.9)     |         |
| Moderate                                   | 3(27.3)       | 8(72.7)       |         | 3 (27.3)      | 8 (72.7)      |         | 4 (36.4)      | 7 (63.6)      |         |
| Large                                      | 3(60.0)       | 2(40)         |         | 2 (40.0)      | 3 (60.0)      |         | 3 (60.0)      | 2 (40.0)      |         |
| Smokers (%)                                |               |               | 0.305   |               |               | 0.438   |               |               | 0.715   |
| Child-Pugh (%)                             |               |               | < 0.001 |               |               | < 0.001 |               |               | 0.001   |
| A  | 35 (72.9)     | 13 (27.1)     |         | 38 (79.2)     | 10 (20.8)     |         | 32 (66.7)     | 16 (33.3)     |         |
| B  | 14 (33.3)     | 28 (66.7)     |         | 12 (28.6)     | 30 (71.4)     |         | 18 (42.9)     | 24 (57.1)     |         |
| C  | 1 (10.0)      | 9 (90.0)      |         | 1 (10.0)      | 9 (90.0)      |         | 1 (10.0)      | 9 (90.0)      |         |

**Table S1** Continued

|                             | TBIL         |                |          | DBIL         |                |           | IBIL         |              |         |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------|
|                             | Low          | High           | P value  | Low          | High           | P         | Low          | High         | P value |
| BCLC (%)                    |              |                | 0.478    |              |                | 0.487     |              |              | 0.309   |
| A                           | 0 (0)        | 1 (100)        | 0(0)     | 1 (100.0)    |                | 1 (100)   | 1 (100)      | 0(0)         |         |
| B                           | 16 (48.5)    | 17 (51.5)      | 17(51.5) | 16(48.5)     |                | 19(57.6)  | 14(42.4)     |              |         |
| C                           | 34 (51.5)    | 32 (48.5)      | 34(51.5) | 32(48.5)     |                | 31(47.0)  | 35(53.0)     |              |         |
| HCC (%)                     |              |                | 0.002    |              |                | 0.002     |              |              | 0.009   |
| Initial HCC                 | 48 (56.5)    | 37 (43.5)      | 49(57.6) | 36(42.4)     |                | 48 (56.5) | 37 (43.5)    |              |         |
| Recurrent HCC               | 2 (13.3)     | 13 (86.7)      | 2(13.3)  | 13(86.7)     |                | 3 (20.0)  | 12 (80.0)    |              |         |
| TBIL (μmol/L, median ± IQR) | 11.55 ± 5.20 | 47.40 ± 67.70  | < 0.001  | 11.60 ± 5.40 | 49.50 ± 67.50  | < 0.001   | 11.70 ± 5.80 | 44.0 ± 72.8  | < 0.001 |
| DBIL (μmol/L, median ± IQR) | 5.25 ± 2.7   | 27.10 ± 44.80  | < 0.001  | 5.20 ± 2.60  | 27.10 ± 46.7   | < 0.001   | 5.40 ± 4.80  | 23.80 ± 51.7 | < 0.001 |
| IBIL (μmol/L, median ± IQR) | 6.35 ± 3.0   | 19.10 ± 17.20  | < 0.001  | 6.7 ± 4.20   | 18.65 ± 19.0   | < 0.001   | 6.50 ± 3.30  | 20.2 ± 16.80 | < 0.001 |
| AFP (ng/mL, median ± IQR)   | 392 ± 7669   | 773.50 ± 22464 | 0.325    | 609.8 ± 9312 | 487.52 ± 16773 | 0.743     | 241 ± 2781   | 1201 ± 38840 | 0.004   |
| ALT (median ± IQR)          | 33.50 ± 32.0 | 76 ± 72        | 0.001    | 34 ± 35      | 76 ± 66        | 0.001     | 35.0 ± 35    | 76 ± 63      | 0.002   |
| AST (median ± IQR)          | 48.50 ± 48   | 179 ± 208      | < 0.001  | 45 ± 52      | 165.5 ± 181    | < 0.001   | 52.5 ± 51    | 179 ± 208    | < 0.001 |

**Table S2** Statistical analysis of serum bilirubin levels

|      | <i>n</i> | Minimum | Maximum | Mean  | Median | IR   |
|------|----------|---------|---------|-------|--------|------|
| TBIL | 100      | 5       | 300.4   | 42.27 | 19.95  | 35.9 |
| DBIL | 100      | 1.8     | 173.6   | 25    | 9.8    | 21.3 |
| IBIL | 100      | 1.2     | 133.1   | 17.19 | 10.2   | 13.4 |

**Table S3** Cox regression analysis of characteristics associated with overall survival time

| Baseline covariate   | Univariate model |              | <i>P</i> value | Multivariate model |             | <i>P</i> value |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
|                      | HR               | 95%CI        |                | HR                 | 95%CI       |                |
| Smoking (yes vs. no) | 2.349            | 1.412–3.908  | 0.001          | 2.648              | 1.571–4.461 | < 0.001        |
| Ascites (yes vs. no) | 3.079            | 1.820–5.212  | < 0.001        | 2.286              | 1.304–4.009 | 0.004          |
| Child Pugh (B vs. A) | 1.883            | 1.097–3.232  | 0.022          |                    |             |                |
| Child Pugh (C vs. A) | 3.036            | 1.401–6.577  | 0.005          |                    |             |                |
| BCLC (C vs. B)       | 2.47             | 1.373–4.445  | 0.003          |                    |             |                |
| EM (yes vs. no)      | 1.702            | 1.023–2.834  | 0.041          | 1.693              | 1.012–2.835 | 0.045          |
| TBIL                 | 1.01             | 1.006–1.014  | < 0.001        | 1.008              | 1.004–1.013 | < 0.001        |
| DBIL                 | 1.014            | 1.008–1.020  | < 0.001        |                    |             |                |
| IBIL                 | 1.023            | 1.013–1.033  | < 0.002        |                    |             |                |
| AST                  | 1.001            | 1.0002–1.002 | 0.016          |                    |             |                |