

**Supporting Table S1: Characteristics of tumors**

<b>Author Year</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Diameter, (cm)</b>	<b>Number, (%)</b>	<b>Capsule, (%)</b>	<b>Differentiation, (%)</b>	<b>AFP, (ng/mL)</b>
Wang H	PA-TACE	3.84 ± 1.27	Multiple: 44(100.0)	31 (70.5)	NR	357.00±444.12
2018	HA	3.83 ± 1.09	Multiple: 84(100.0)	50 (59.5)	NR	367.45±474.58
Ye JZ	PA-TACE	> 5: 45 (52.3%)	Single: 73(84.9)	51 (59.3)	Edmondson 1-2: 49 (57)	> 400: 37 (43.0)
2017	HA	> 5: 98 (56.3%)	Single: 137(78.7)	105 (60.3)	Edmondson 1-2: 91(52.3)	> 400: 85 (48.9)
Sun JJ	PA-TACE	6.511 ± 0.2682	Single: 126(92.0)	11 (8.0)	Edmondson 1-2: 13(9.5)	> 400: 58 (42.3)
2016	HA	6.993 ± 0.2898	Single: 168(90.8)	17 (9.2)	Edmondson 1-2: 10(5.4)	> 400: 91 (49.2)
Li KW	PA-TACE	> 5: 21(60%)	Single: 25 (71.4)	25(71.4)	Edmondson 1-2: 24(68.6)	≥ 400: 25 (71.4)
2012	HA	> 5: 26(63.4%)	Single: 29 (70.7)	28(68.3)	Edmondson 1-2: 30(73.2)	≥ 400: 27(65.9)
Wei W	PA-TACE	> 10: 34 (29.3%)	NR	NR	NR	≥ 25: 79 (68.1)
2018	HA	> 10: 21 (17.8%)	NR	NR	NR	≥ 25: 82 (69.5)
Qi YP	PA-TACE	> 5: 71(88%)	Single: 68 (74.7)	59(64.8)	NR	≥ 400: 44(48.4)
2018	HA	> 5: 75(68.8%)	Single: 84 (77.1)	61(56.0)	NR	≥ 400: 50(45.9)
Wang YY	PA-TACE	6	Single: 46 (81)	NR	Edmondson 1-2: 41 (72)	≥ 200: 25 (44)
2018	HA	6	Single: 46 (81)	NR	Edmondson 1-2: 41 (72)	≥ 200: 23 (40)
Wang LM	PA-TACE	6.15 ± 3.65	Single: 38 (90.5)	NR	Edmondson 1-2: 25(59.5)	≥ 400: 17(40.5)
2017	HA	5.71 ± 2.60	Single: 46 (92)	NR	Edmondson 1-2: 32(64.0)	≥ 400: 18(36)

Abbreviations: AFP: Alpha Fetal Protein, PA-TACE: postoperative adjuvant transarterial chemoembolization, HA: hepatectomy alone, NR: not reported



**Supporting Table S3: Risk of bias assessment using Cochrane Collaboration's tool in the randomized clinical trial study included in the meta-analysis: Wei W (2018)**

<b>Bias types</b>	<b>Bias explanations</b>	<b>Assessment results</b>
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	The eligible patients were randomly assigned (at a 1:1 ratio) to receive either 1–2 cycles of adjuvant TACE (Hepatectomy-TACE group) or routine follow-up without adjuvant treatment (Hepatectomy Alone group). Randomization was performed using a sealed envelope system according to a predesigned random number.	Low risk of bias
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	The authors regarded that lack of allocation concealment had no influence on the results of the study.	Low risk of bias
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	The authors regarded that lack of blinding of participants and personnel had no influence on the results of the study.	Low risk of bias
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	The authors regarded that lack of blinding of outcome assessment had no influence on the results of the study.	Low risk of bias
Incomplete outcome data addressed (attrition bias)	The withdrawal rates (4.0% vs. 3.2%) or follow-up loss rates (3.2% vs. 2.4%) were minimal and balanced between the two comparison groups.	Low risk of bias
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	All of the study's outcomes that are of interest in the review have been reported in the pre-specified manner. The study was registered in ClinicalTrials.gov ( <a href="http://ClinicalTrials.gov">http://ClinicalTrials.gov</a> , trial number NCT02788526) on March 23, 2016	Low risk of bias

**Supporting Table S4: Begg's and Egger's P values of the survival data**

	Begg's P value	Egger's P value
1-year recurrence rate	0.711	0.303
3-year recurrence rate	0.711	0.893
5-year recurrence rate	0.462	0.811
1-year survival rate	0.711	0.631
3-year survival rate	0.711	0.958
5-year survival rate	1.000	0.894

The software used for statistical analysis: Stata (Version 14.0, Stata Corp LP, College Station, TX)

**Supporting Table S5: Most common side effect of TACE**

Author Year	Nausea and vomiting	Fever	Pain	Pulmonary complication	Other side effect
Wang H 2018	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Ye JZ 2017	46 (29.11)	35 (22.2)	49 (31.0)	2 (1.3)	Alopecia 5 (3.2)
Sun JJ 2016	130, 94.9 %	NR	32, 23.4 %	NR	Increase in ALT/ AST: 77, 56.2 %
Li KW 2012	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wei W 2018	nausea/vomiting	Fever	NR	NR	Neutropenia, liver dysfunction
Qi YP 2018	NR	4, 4.4%	9, 9.9%	NR	Increase ALT and AST: 26, 28.6%
Wang YY 2018	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wang LM 2017	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

NR: not reported

**Supporting Figure legend:**

Supporting Fig. 1. Funnel plots of the survival analysis. a: 1-year DFS, b: 3-year DFS, c: 5-year DFS, d: 1-year OS, e: 3-year OS, f: 5-year OS. DFS: Disease free survival, OS: Overall survival.

**Detail retrieval methods:**

(((((hepatectomy OR (hepatic resection) OR (liver resection)))) AND ((transcatheter arterial chemoembolization) OR tace)) AND ((microvascular invasion) OR MVI OR mivi OR (microscopic venous invasion)))) AND (HCC OR (hepatocellular carcinoma))