

Review of: "Cost-Effectiveness Analysis: Ultrasound with Alpha-Fetoprotein versus Ultrasound Alone for At-Risk Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients with and without Cirrhosis Progression: A Systematic Review"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The review article conducts an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of using ultrasound in conjunction with a tumour marker - Alpha-Fetoprotein (AFP) vs. using ultrasound alone for early detection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in at-risk individuals.

The topic is relevant given the global health burden of HCC, especially in the Philippines.

The study design is suited to address the clinical question. The authors have conducted a comprehensive review and analysis of relevant studies and economic evaluations to determine the most cost-effective screening strategy for high-risk populations.

The authors have reported the added clinical utility in combining AFP with liver USS to enhance the sensitivity and specificity for early detection of HCC, especially in those with cirrhosis/advanced fibrosis.

The review doesn't, however, discuss the limitations of AFP as a tumour marker.

Overall, the report adds to the current literature and highlights the potential strategy for future research on the early identification of HCC.