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This article has been retracted: please see Elsevier Policy on Article Withdrawal (http://www.elsevier.com/locate/withdrawalpolicy).

The authors of this article have decided to retract after they identified various mistakes in the data. These concern the numbers of partial response (PR) and stable disease (SD) patients as measured by the EASL criteria. As a consequence the data in Tables 1, 2, and 3, as well as Supplementary Table 1 are no longer accurate. Also Fig. 1a and various parts of the text would require updating. Though these mistakes are not the result of misconduct, the changes are extensive enough that in consultation with the editors a retraction was decided upon.