**Table S1. Statistical analysis of clinical characteristics of the cohort**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristics** | **HCC (n = 30)** | **LC (n = 17)** | **HC (n = 25)** |
| **Age (y)** | 55.77 ± 7.55 | 54.88 ± 15.54 | 55.08 ± 4.57 |
| **Gender** |  |  |  |
| Male | 26 | 13 | 17 |
| Female | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| **Stage at initial diagnosis** |  |  |  |
| I | 22 | NA | NA |
| II | 7 | NA | NA |
| III | 1 | NA | NA |
| **ALT (IU/L)** | 128.89±243.92\*\*\* | 25.79±16.00 | 23.75±13.97 |
| **AST (IU/L)** | 92.96±114.79\*\*\* | 35.48±18.59\*\*\* | 18.324±6.21 |
| **AFP (ng/mL)** | 4718.89 ± 15 511.58\*\*\* | 3.24 ± 2.17 | 2.6 ± 1.17 |
| **Hemoglobin (g/L)** | 131.87 ± 15.98\*\* | 103.94 ± 19.26\*\*\* | 146.21 ± 16.12 |
| **Erythrocytes (1012/L)** | 4.19 ± 0.52\*\*\* | 3.55 ± 0.67\*\*\* | 4.76 ± 0.49 |
| **Leukocytes (109/L)** | 8.34 ± 4.81 | 5.91 ± 7.09\* | 5.71 ± 1.38 |
| **Platelets (109/L)** | 127.47 ± 48.89\*\*\* | 105.30 ± 72.02\*\*\* | 192.84 ± 48.74 |

Note: Statistics were analyzed using the Wilcoxon rank-sum test. Significant differences between LC or HCC and HC were set as \*\*\*, *P* < 0.001; \*\*, *P* < 0.01, \*, *P* < 0.05.