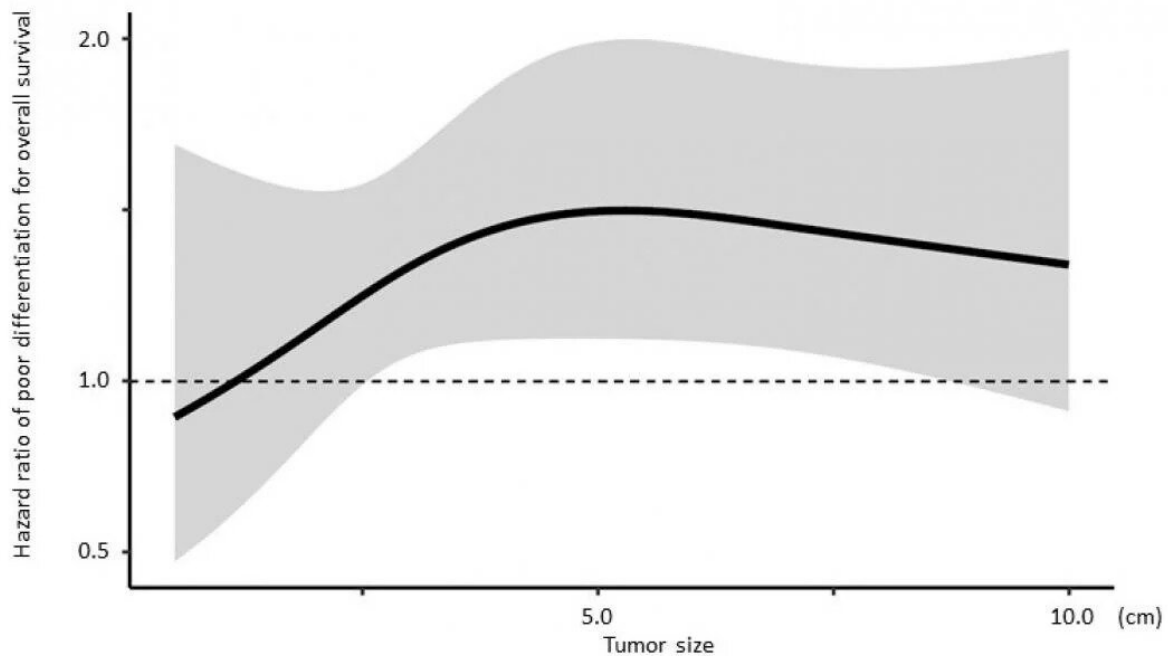


# 30 years of data reveals risk of poor prognosis increases with tumor size in liver cancer

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The horizontal axis shows tumor size, and the vertical axis shows the risk of poor prognosis. The risk of poor prognosis increases sharply for poorly differentiated hepatocellular carcinoma tumors  $\geq 5$  cm in size. Credit: Hiroji Shinkawa

Researchers at the Department of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery,

Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine have shown that the prognostic impact of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), the most common type of liver cancer, is dependent on tumor size.

The study findings, recently published in the journal *Liver Cancer*, fills in the need for an investigation into whether different sizes of poorly differentiated tumors affect rates of HCC early recurrence and prognosis.

"Poor differentiation (Por) speaks of the degree to which a cell stops looking and acting like a normal cell i.e. becomes a [cancer](#) cell" said first author of the study Dr. Hiroji Shinkawa. "In HCC, Por tumors refers to a cancer [cells](#) that are increasingly more disorganized under the microscope and grow and spread faster than other [cancer cells](#)." By establishing a prognostic connection between Por tumors and overall survival, Dr. Shinkawa and his research team hope to improve medical intervention of HCC patients.

Using information dating back 30 years, Dr. Shinkawa and his team organized [clinical data](#) from 1,107 resected cases of HCC into 3 groups: tumors

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