Recent Advances in Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)

Professor Emeritus, Kurume University  
President, Int Institute for Liver Research, Kurume  
K. Tanikawa, M.D., Ph.D.

1. Characteristic features of HCC, different from other malignancies  
2. Some differences between HBV- and HCV-associated HCC  
3. Diagnosis  
   1) Early stage of HCC  
   2) Follow up of risky patients with chronic viral liver diseases for early detection  
   3) Contrast harmonic imaging  
   4) PIVKA-II (Des-gamma-carboxy prothrombin) as a tumor marker for early detection of HCC and follow-up after the treatment  
4. Treatment  
   1) IFN as a therapeutic agent for HCC  
   2) Liver transplantation  
   3) Treatment of background chronic liver injuries  
   4) Molecular biological approaches  
5. Prevention  
   1) Prevention of primary lesions by IFN, antiinflammatory agents and iron depletion therapy  
   2) Prevention of recurrence (including the second primary lesion) after the treatment by IFN, retinoid, vitamin K₂ and adoptive immunotherapy  
6. Conclusion