Supplementary Material 1. Clinical features of the 18 HCC patients who underwent TACE as an initial treatment and their survival of > 6months and subsequent TACE or TAI for twice or more.

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| Clinical features | Patients without subsequent sorafenib administration | Patients with subsequent sorafenib administration | p-value |
| Age (years) | 73 (63-88) | 70 (64-78) | NSa |
| Sex (male/female) | 7/3 | 6/2 | NS |
| Etiology (hepatitis B/hepatitis C/nonB, nonC) | 3/6/1 | 0/8/0 | NS |
| Alanine aminotransferase (U/l) | 43 (32-101) | 58 (17-98) | NS |
| Total.Bilirubin (mg/dl) | 0.8 (0.5-1.9) | 0.8 (0.6-1.5) | NS |
| Albumin (g/dl) | 3.6 (3.1-4.1) | 3.9 (3.6-4.9) | NS |
| Prothrombin time (%) | 80 (61-93) | 90 (61-104) | NS |
| Child-Pugh classification (A/B/C) | 8/2/0 | 7/1/0 | NS |
| Number of tumor (30-59/≥60) | 9/1 | 6/2 | NS |
| Maximum diameter of tumor (mm) | 25 (15-40) | 23 (13-45) | NS |
| Alpha-fetoprotein (ng/ml) | 90 (<5-5879) | 36 (4-230) | NS |
| Des-gamma-carboxy prothrombin (mAu/ml) | 156 (<30-5130) | 72 (<30-885) | NS |

**a** NS, not significant

Statistical analysis was performed using the Fisher’s exact tests or the Mann-Whitney U-test.