

## Letters to the Editor

cirrhosis, will continue to be encouraged by the international hepatology community.

### Conflict of interest

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## Is the pathway of energy metabolism modified in advanced cirrhosis?

To the Editor:

The role of metabolic alterations and adaptations is becoming increasingly evident in the pathogenesis of cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) [1–4]. Using a rat model of cirrhosis, Nishikawa *et al.* [5] demonstrate that early stage cirrhotic hepatocytes switch to glycolysis to meet their energy requirements as a result of a decline in oxidative phosphorylation, but that this mechanism fails in late cirrhosis. Since HCC typically arises in the background of liver cirrhosis [6] and also encompasses a glycolytic phenotype [7], it would be important to determine how this is related to the altered metabolism of cirrhotic hepatocytes. Since early cirrhotic cells are more glycolytic than advanced or failing cirrhotic cells, it remains unclear as to whether the progression of HCC is facilitated by metabolically active early cirrhotic cells or represents an escape mechanism of late cirrhotic hepatocytes which are unable to sustain their energy demands.

### Conflict of interest

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