| Characteristics                        | Case number | %   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| **Sex**                               |             |     |
| Female                                | 18          | 33.9%|
| Male                                  | 35          | 66.1%|
| **Age (years)**                       |             |     |
| ≤ 55                                  | 10          | 18.9%|
| > 55                                  | 43          | 81.1%|
| **Preoperative serum AFP (ng/mL)**    |             |     |
| ≤ 20                                  | 18          | 33.9%|
| > 20                                  | 35          | 66.1%|
| **HBsAg**                             |             |     |
| Negative                              | 22          | 41.5%|
| Positive                              | 31          | 58.5%|
| **Liver cirrhosis**                   |             |     |
| No                                    | 33          | 62.2%|
| Yes                                   | 20          | 37.8%|
| **Tumor size**                        |             |     |
| ≤ 5cm                                 | 37          | 69.8%|
| > 5cm                                 | 16          | 30.2%|
| **Tumor number**                      |             |     |
| Single                                | 47          | 88.6%|
| Multiple                              | 6           | 11.4%|
| **Tumor encapsulation**               |             |     |
| None                                  | 13          | 24.5%|
| Complete                              | 40          | 75.5%|
| **Vascular invasion**                 |             |     |
| No                                    | 23          | 43.4%|
| Yes                                   | 30          | 56.6%|
| Primers | Sequences (5’-3’) |
|---------|------------------|
| IL-8    | F-CTCCAGCCACACTCCAACAGA  
|         | R-CACCCCTAACACAAAAACACGAT |
| IL-6    | F-CCACGGCCTCCCTACTTC  
|         | R-CTGGGGGAGTGGTACCTCTGT |
| IL-1β   | F-CTAAAGTATGGGCTGGACTG  
|         | R-AGCTTCAATGAAAGACCTCA |
| COX2    | F-GAGAAAACCTGCTCAACACCG  
|         | R-GCATACTCTGTGTGTTCCC |