Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of the need for routine clinical testing of PALB2 c.1592delT mutation in BRCA negative Northern Finnish breast cancer families

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Reviewer: Maria A Caligo

Reviewer’s report:

This paper does not report new findings but it confirms the role of the PALB2 c.1592delT founder mutation in Finnish familial breast cancer patients tested negative for BRCA1/2 mutations. The mutation detection rate was slightly higher respect to what previously reported but this is due to more stringent selection criteria.

The risk for developing breast cancer by age 70 for PALB2 carriers is comparable to the BRCA2 ones and the responsiveness of PALB2 patients to PARP inhibitor drugs makes this paper interesting as contribute to work in its specific field. The introduction and the discussion are clear and fluent.

The cohort analyzed is limited but it is still large enough to give useful indications.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests