Reviewer's report

Title: Prediction of melanoma metastasis by the Shields index based on lymphatic vessel density

Version: 1 Date: 12 January 2010

Reviewer: Harriette Kahn

Reviewer's report:

This is a very good paper which poses a well defined question. The methods are appropriate, the results are sound and the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and supported by the data.

Minor essential revisions:
1. Figure 5. The title should include "....epi-tumoral lymphatic vessel density.lymphovascular invasion......"
2. The authors should indicate whether lymphatic invasion was also identified in the peritumoral tissue and was this of any significance?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.