Author's response to reviews

Title: An 8-gene qRT-PCR-based gene expression score that has prognostic value in early breast cancer.

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Version: 3 Date: 4 December 2009

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Dear sir:

Gene profiles with prognostic value will become important in the near future to guide adjuvant therapy in breast cancer. Two of these profiles, MammaPrint™ and OncoType™, are already being used for this purpose in some centres. These tools, however, are expensive and besides samples must be sent to central laboratories for processing. In the present study, we describe an 8-gene score that can be used in paraffin-embedded samples using commercially available probes. It is intended for tumours with positive hormonal receptors, but the modular nature of this platform will be practical if future studies reveal gene profiles useful in other groups of tumours. On the other hand, this technique can be standardized to be used in local laboratories. Although we did not perform a prospective validation of the score, it proved to be useful in four independent series with data available online. For these reasons, we think the study may be of interest for readers of “BMC Cancer”.

All authors of this research paper have directly participated in the planning, execution, or analysis of the study and all have approved the final version of the paper. The study is not being considered elsewhere for publication. It has not been previously published, although preliminary results were presented as a
poster at the ASCO Breast Cancer Symposium (Washington, September 2008). The contents of this manuscript will not be submitted or published elsewhere while acceptance by your journal is under consideration.

In the case you require any additional data, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Enrique Espinosa