Reviewer’s report

Title: Decreased Hsp90 expression in the continuum of breast lobular lesions.

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Reviewer: Wolfgang J Köstler

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In their manuscript, Zagouri et al expand their previous observation (Zagouri F et al BMC Cancer. 2008 Oct 28;8:312) on decreased expression of Hsp90 in non-invasive lobular neoplasias of the breast to a somewhat larger cohort. Moreover, unlike their previous paper, the current report also includes invasive lobular carcinomas. The authors demonstrate a modest, but progressive decrease of Hsp90 expression en route to malignancy. Their findings form a relevant basis for analyzing the clinical efficacy of Hsp90 inhibitors according to histological subtype.

Major compulsory revisions: Due to universal ER expression in non-invasive lesions the authors did not observe any interaction between ER and Hsp90 expression in their last report. I would be most interesting to know correlation between Hsp90 expression and ERalpha and HER2 status - at least in the subset of patients with ILC.

Minor essential revisions: In tables 1&2, LN samples should be divided into ALH and LCIS cases and comparisons made accordingly.

Discretionary revisions: On page 3, consider adding a citation to your previous work.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'