Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: Matthew H Herynk

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MS: 1230626441324535
Decreased Hsp90 expression in the continuum of breast lobular lesions.
Flora Zagouri, Theodoros N. Sergentanis, Afrodite Nonni, Christos A. Papadimitriou, Anastasia Pazaiti, Nikolaos V. Michalopoulos, Panagiotis Safioleas, Andreas Lazaris, George Theodoropoulos, Effstratios C. Patsouris and George Zografos

In this revised manuscript the authors have adequately answered the points raised with the exception of Major compulsory revisions #1 and #2.

1) In vitro mechanistic studies have not been done and the authors have revised the manuscript to report "in vitro mechanistic studies seem indispensable for definitive conclusions." If these studies are "indispensable" as the authors report they need to be done. Additionally the authors state "the inability to perform such studies in the clinical setting..." An inability to perform in vitro mechanistic studies (western blotting as suggested by the authors would be a confirmation of their findings and not be a mechanistic study) in their current clinical setting would require a collaborative effort and significantly increase the importance of this manuscript and is more important in light of #2 (see below).

2) The authors are correct that the total sample size has been increased from 44 to 97. However the samples are divided into LN and ILC sets. Forty-four of the 65 LN samples have been previously reported and a 50% increase in LN samples does not warrant republication of the data. The LN sample size should be significantly increased allowing the authors to draw definitive conclusions or withdrawn from this manuscript as the small increase in LN sample size does not elevate scientific knowledge. The 32 ILC case are new data and do warrant publication.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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