Reviewer's report

Title: Triple Negativity and Young Age as Prognostic Factors in Lymph Node-negative Invasive Ductal Carcinoma of 1 cm or Less

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Reviewer: Rupert Bartsch

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Triple negativity and young age as prognostic factors in lymph node-negative invasive ductal carcinoma of 1 cm or less

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This is a well written manuscript. Authors present outcomes of 775 patients with small and very small early breast cancer. Prognosis in this population was excellent, still an increased risk of recurrence was observed in young patients and patients with triple-negative disease. This adds to the growing knowledge that triple-negative disease is a high-risk subtype even in small primary tumours. The relatively large sample size as well as the Asian perspective renders this manuscript interesting.

I have some questions and remarks:

1. Abstract: Please clarify the term “in Korea”. This suggests – at least for me -that all Korean patients between 2000 and 2006 were included into this analysis which is obviously not the case.

2. Results: Was Her2-status in Tmic determined from DCIS or really from the micro-invasive parts of the tumour? In case it was from DCIS, this would explain the extremely high Her2-positivity rate in this group. It would furthermore explain why Her2-status had no influence on recurrence risk. This aspect should be discussed.

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