Reviewer's report

Title: Separate and combined analysis of successive dependent outcomes after breast-conservation surgery: recurrence, metastases, second cancer and death

Version: 2 Date: 9 July 2010

Reviewer: Adri C Voogd

Reviewer's report:

The authors have very adequately addressed the questions raised by me and the other reviewer. Especially their clarification on the advantages of using a shared frailty model, as compared to the standard methods such as Cox regression analysis, and the suggestion to use a joint frailty model with a hazard function for each type of event are useful. The paper has been reread and edited by a native English speaker, which has greatly improved the readability. Tables and figures are informative. I have no suggestions for further improvement.

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.