Reviewer’s report

Title: Ten-years breast cancer overall survival as an indicator of brca mutation in a caucasian population with high probability to be hereditary

Version: 1 Date: 16 July 2009

Reviewer: andrea veronesi

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Major Compulsory Revisions.
1. I think the main problem with the article is that BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations, which are different in nature and in their prognostic significance, are lumped together as BRCA carrier. I would suggest to limit the analysis to the BRCA1 population (80 patients) in order to have "cleaner" results. BRCA2 findings might be the subject of a further paper or they might be kept in this paper, which however would probably become too heavy.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The English is throughout a bit cumbersome and the paper is difficult to read, particularly in the Results section. A better paragraph organization would help. If not done, I would suggest revision by a person of English mother language or equivalent.
2. The abbreviations H and IS should be explained when they first appear in the text and not in the Abstract only.

Discretionary Revisions
1. The authors evaluate survival and disease free survival in sporadic, intermediate risk and high risk patients and in BRCA mutated vs wild type patients. They also do the reverse, i.e. they look at the features of 10-year survivors. This appears to me to be tautologic and I am not sure it is necessary.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'