Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of modern chemotherapy on the survival of women presenting with de novo metastatic breast cancer

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Reviewer: Kathleen Pritchard

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This is a nice paper that examines in a cohort, in a single center, the impact of specifically modern chemotherapy on the survival of women presenting with de novo metastatic breast cancer.

The study has the limitations of being an observational study and of being a single institution study but is well conducted and clearly written up.

The study is also limited to women who presented with de novo metastatic breast cancer which as the authors clearly discuss, may be a different "animal" than recurrent metastatic breast cancer. The authors do discuss the implications of this clearly as well however.

The authors interesting results would suggest that hormonal therapy and herceptin and the having of estrogen receptor are the most influential things in how patients survive, are sobering. Also, the fact that the receipt of bisphosphonates in particular, Zoledronic acid, is as influential as the receipt of "newer" (Group B) chemotherapeutic agents is quite interesting.

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:

No financial conflicts of interest