Reviewer’s report

Title: Serum soluble ST2 is associated with ER-positive breast cancer

Version: 3 Date: 10 January 2014

Reviewer: Jürgen Radons

Reviewer’s report:

In this newly revised manuscript the authors responded adequately to the reviewer’s criticisms by adding additional data and modifying the text. Although the data presented in this paper are now worth publishing, the text needs additional editing of the English and should be proofread by a native English speaker. In particular the discussion should be carefully rephrased, because it harbours several grammatical and syntax errors as well as stylistic deficiencies. For example, the text needs the inclusion of more definite and indefinite articles to improve the quality of writing.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Background:

According to the actual nomenclature, gene names should be written in Italics (2nd paragraph, line 2: ST2).

Results:

1st paragraph (“[…] was not significantly different […].”) needs grammatical correction.

2nd paragraph, p.8, line 1: “[…] significantly different than those […] needs grammatical correction.

Subchapters “Correlations of serum levels of sST2/IL-33 and VEGF” and “Serum levels of IL-33, sST2, and VEGF […]” should be combined because the former harbours one sentence only.

Discussion:

The authors were asked to discuss their findings in the context of the actual literature. Unfortunately, a most recent study on the association of serum IL-33 and sST2 levels with the overall survival in HCC patients (Bergis et al. 2013, Transl. Oncology 6, 311-18) has not been cited and should be included in the manuscript.

p. 12, 2nd sentence “Our study found sST2 […]” needs grammatical correction.

p. 12, 3rd sentence: “We held same reason for limiting cases […].” should be rephrased.
p. 12, 2nd paragraph: “While Heer K et al. […]” should be rephrased.

p. 13, 3rd paragraph, last sentence “There is a need to conduct more researches […]”: use singular here.

p. 14, 2nd sentence: “Secondly, relatively […]” should be rephrased.

p. 14, line 3: “Thirdly, short follow-up […]” needs grammatical correction.

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

**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.