Reviewer's report

Title: Systematic assessment of prognostic gene signatures for breast cancer shows distinct influence of time and ER status

Version: 4 Date: 2 November 2013

Reviewer: Anita Grigoriadis

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Zhao and coworkers describe their meta-analysis of prognostic signatures for breast cancer. In this study the authors validate the already well known finding of a strong influence of hormone receptor status on the performance of the gene signatures. However, given that an extensive and new analysis of follow-up times is proposed, and since the authors have addressed all the previously raised points, this work merits to be published. Maybe to stress their survival analysis, we would suggest to change the conclusion accordingly.

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.