Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Decreased expression of key tumour suppressor microRNAs is associated with lymph node metastases in triple negative breast cancer.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 27 October 2013

**Reviewer:** John Martens

**Reviewer’s report:**

Major compulsory revision:
I have one major concern with the paper. In my view if healthy tissue between patients with and without lymph node metastasis and their primary tumors are identical, I find it surprising the authors find significant differences for patients with and without lymph nodes when their healthy tissue is compared with the corresponding primary tumors. I believe this could be a matter of sampling error. Have the authors tried to switch the labels of the samples (random assignment lable lymph node involvement yes/no) to show that the effect is specific and not due to sampling. The differences between primary tumors and healthy tissue are large thus the change of finding differences by chance is significant. Alternatively, conformation in an independent cohort would be required (possibly exploiting public data, if available).

No other major or minor remarks.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests