Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of molecular and immunocytochemical methods for detection of disseminated tumor cells in bone marrow from early breast cancer patients

Version: 1  Date: 2 May 2014

Reviewer: Michal Mego

Reviewer's report:

To: Dr. Marija Balic
BMC Cancer

Dear Dr. Balic,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review the manuscript entitled „Comparison of molecular and immunocytochemical methods for detection of disseminated tumor cells in bone marrow from early breast cancer patients“.

Authors discuss important topic related to comparison two methods for detection of disseminated tumor cells in bone marrow of primary breast cancer patients. Manuscript is clearly and concisely written and could be published in BMC Cancer.

Major Compulsory Revisions

None

Minor essential revisions:

Authors should discuss higher detection rate in samples BM3 and 4, compared to BM1 and 2.

Discretionary Revisions:

One the main limitation of data presented is absence of correlation with clinical outcome. Last patient was accrued to the SATT study in May 2008, therefore it seems, that the data might be mature for assessment relapse-free survival. Without this information, it is hard to discuss which of utilized method and/or biomarker is more appropriate for DTC detection. If these data are available, or could be collected in timely manner, they should be presented.

Kind regards

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Head of Translational Research Unit
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Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.