Author's response to reviews

Title: Immunohistochemical detection improves the prognostic value of lymphatic and blood vessel invasion in primary ductal breast cancer

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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BioMed Central Editorial,

Dear Dr Britta Weigelt,

MS: 2099120226114527 - Immunohistochemical detection improves the prognostic value of lymphatic and blood vessel invasion in primary ductal breast cancer.

Thank you for your e-mail on 08 July. We acknowledge the comments of the editor and would be grateful if you would reconsider this revised paper. We have considered carefully the Editor's comments and these have improved the manuscript. There follows our response;

1. ER and PR status should be determined according to the American Society of Clinical Oncology and College of American Pathologists (ASCO/CAP) guidelines (i.e. 1% positive tumor nuclei; Hammond et al, J Clin Oncol 2010).

ER and PR status, using tissue microarrays, were assessed according to the recent American Society of Clinical Oncology and College of American Pathologists guidelines with cut-off value of 1% positive tumour nuclei (Hammond et al., 2010). This did indeed reduce the numbers of patients with ER negative tumours. The text and data analysis have been amended in the method, results, figures and tables.

We trust that the manuscript is now in a publishable form and look forward to your reply in due course.

Yours sincerely
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