Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Stromal, rather than epithelial cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) expression is associated with overall survival of breast cancer patients - an immunohistochemical comparative study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 28 July 2014

**Reviewer:** Fatima Baltazar

**Reviewer’s report:**

**General comments:**
The manuscript compares the expression COX-2 in a series of breast cancer cases in epithelial and stromal counterparts, using different antibodies and scoring algorithms.

The study is clear, well conducted and the results support the conclusions.

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**
1. Methods. The inclusion of sub-headings would help the reading of the text. Also, a table containing the different IHC conditions and materials would help to find this information in the manuscript.
2. Methods, page 7, line 158. Why do the authors say that strong staining is seen as “dark blue or black” since they have used DAB as chromogen (brown staining)?
3. Methods. The data of Table 1 are already results. Why is it not included in the Results section?
4. Results. A figure with photos showing COX-2 staining with the different antibodies in both epithelial and stroma compartments should be included.
5. Discussion. The role of COX-2 in both the tumour and stromal compartment should be discussed.
6. The manuscript should be seen by an English expert.

**Minor Essential Revisions**
1. Abstract. The second sentence of the results is a repetition of the Methods section.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.