Reviewer’s report

Title: Estrogen Receptor, Progesterone receptor, Interleukin-6 and Interleukin-8 are Variable in Breast Cancer and Benign Stem/Progenitor Cell populations

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Reviewer: Bernd Groner

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The manuscript describes the measurement of estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor, interleukin 6 and interleukin 8 in breast cancer stem/progenitor cell (BCSC) populations. The authors find that variable levels of hormone receptors and cytokines are expressed by BSCS subpopulations and suggest that these observations are related to the course of the disease in individual patients and their treatment response. The methods used are technically demanding and the paper is properly written. Their statement, however, that “BSCS testing in breast cancer diagnostic analyses would provide valuable information for assessing prognosis and determining appropriate treatment protocols” seems somewhat premature. The observed patterns of hormone receptor and cytokine gene expression should be correlated with clinical data.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'