Reviewer's report

Title: DMBT1 expression is down-regulated in breast cancer

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2004

Reviewer: Jacqueline Shaw

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The authors do not consider reasons for downregulation of DMBT1. Mollenhauer et al. 2004 have shown that mutational activation is unlikely to be a major mechanism.

The authors should consider other possible mechanisms in their discussion.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Page 7 and Table 2 IHC positivity score categories do not agree (1-4 in Methods, and 0-3 in Table). Please correct.

Page 9. Double staining, the authors do not present the full data. How many cases were analysed?

Page 9. Ki67 data is only given a cursory mention, this should be described or removed from the manuscript.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

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

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None