Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical management of women with metastatic breast cancer: a descriptive study according to age group.

Version: 3 Date: 14 May 2006

Reviewer: Manoj Pandey

Reviewer's report:

General

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

1. However, more research is needed the statement in conclusions should also be added to conclusions of abstract.
2. Table showing proportion of patients receiving radiotherapy, chemotherapy and hormone therapy according to age and co-morbidity be added or provided as additional file. All % from this table to be deleted and data presented in absolute numbers only (i.e. no. receiving treatment/no. in group)
3. As no information is available on hormone receptors all discussions on table 3b are redundant. The fact of absence of information in this respect should be mentioned in results page 8.
4. To my knowledge Fishers exact test is a test for independence in a 2x2 table, I agree that it is most useful when the total sample size and the expected values are small. How this has been applied to tumor size which is 5x3 table is beyond me? (see authors explanation to my previous comment no 2). Similarly how it has been applied to table 1 all sites (until death) and co-morbid conditions which are 2x3. Authors if wish to use statistics in this table can use chi square with correction. I am not a statistical expert and hence will suggest that manuscript needs statistical review.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'