Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic Significance of Urokinase Plasminogen Activator and Plasminogen Activator Inhibitor-1 mRNA Expression in Lymph Node- and Hormone Receptor-Positive Breast Cancer

Version: 2 Date: 10 July 2006

Reviewer: Dan Tong

Reviewer's report:

General
The impact of the manuscript is substantially increased in the revision.
The authors clearly demonstrated the background of the study: the early identification of the hormone receptor positive patients who have poor prognosis. The results also properly addressed the question.

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

and

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. Based on the new structure of the manuscript, the presentation of the microarray data is no more relevant. As the authors stated in the cover letter that they would submit a technical report concerning the comparison of microarray, RT-PCR, and ELISA, I suggest the authors to cancel the results with microarray data.

2. By the definition of cut-off for u-PA and PAI-1 expression, the expression which equal to the median is not defined (p12). The same with menopause and lymph node status (Table 3 and 4).

3. The most important information of the univariate and multivariate test is the hazard ratio, which was not shown in Table 3 and 4 for univariate analysis.

4. The information regarding the hazard ratio in multivariate test was presented in the tables and in the text. Please delete those in the text.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. clinico (either clinic or clinical) in page 2 and 11;

2. p2, last sentence: “low uPA... neither with longerâ€¦ no with longerâ€¦â€” please delete low, longer, and longer: when no association exists, everything is clear already!

3. p5, â€œor RT-PCR, that needâ€¦â€” to â€œthat needsâ€…

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.