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 August 2006

Reviewer: Maxime Look

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)
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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)

Anova is a parametric method. Kruskal Wallis would be the non-parametric method.

This study should be published in combination with the paper comparing ELISA and NASBA for determination of uPA and PAI-1 levels.

The division is on age 50 years, which could be considered to coincide with menopausal status, not the other way around. Please refer to these categories as age categories, and not as menopausal status in text and tables. Also add this age-category to table 1.

Statistical analyses: two sided p-values
Please also include the results from the proportional hazards model using continuous uPA and PAI-1.

Tumor size as pT categories is not a continuous variable, only when the true size in mm or cm is used (table 2).

Is number of lymph nodes used as continuous or categorized variable (table 2)?

Figure 1 is strictly speaking a scatter plot, the spearman correlation has been calculated.

I find the stars used for the explanation of tests a bit confusing and messy, the variables could be marked instead (table 2).

Please use the greater than or equal sign in descriptions of categories as well or change the numbers accordingly (see for example table 4 age and nodes).

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
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My english surely is not good enough. But as I read to the detriment of immunohistochemical methods (page 14) I thought that it was the opposite of what the authors intend to say.

page 15 insert than before that of uPA.

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests