Reviewer's report

Title: Eukaryotic Initiation Factor 4E (eIF4E) and Angiogenesis: Prognostic Markers for Breast Cancer

Version: 1 Date: 29 August 2006

Reviewer: Tapio Visakorpi

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting study demonstrating that the expression of eIF4E is associated with angiogenesis and prognosis in breast cancer.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. Almost half of the tumors were Her-2/neu positive. In general, it has been reported that 20-30% of breast cancers are Her-2/neu positive. Why was the frequency so high? Is it due to patient selection? Or due to methodological aspects? I believe Her-2/neu status was defined by immunohistochemistry. Direct analysis of gene amplification by FISH or CISH would be more specific.
2. It is odd that the expression of eIF4E was associated with prognosis but not with many of the well defined prognostic markers, such as nodal status, ER, PR stainings and Her-2/neu status. Can authors explain, why this was the case?
3. ER, PR and Her-2/neu were not included in the multivariate analysis (Table 5 and 6). They should be.
4. The English requires some corrections.

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. The titles of Table 5 and 6 should indicate that the data in the tables are from multivariate analyses.
2. The English language requires some corrections.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No

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