Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of estrogen receptor beta in the breast cancer cells of BRCA1 mutation carriers

Version: 2 Date: 5 February 2008

Reviewer: Abeer Shaaban

Reviewer's report:

The authors addressed most of the comments adequately. A few minor comments:

Title: please use "breast tumours or breast carcinoma" instead of "breast cells" (as the study was performed on whole sections and not on cytological material).

Typos: p5, line 2 of Results: gene not gen

Figure legends: paraffin not paraffine

Original, not original

Ductal carcinoma reported in the study: do authors mean the most common type (invasive ductal carcinoma, no special type) or does this include other types of invasive ductal carcinoma (e.g. tubular, cribriform, mucinous...etc). Please clarify in the text and tables.

P9 last paragraph, please remove "statistically" as statistical analysis was not presented earlier to compare expression of both estrogen receptors.

The photo of ERbeta expression is less clear than the one provided for ERalpha. Although the staining has worked the tumour appears suboptimally fixed and shows prominent retraction artefact. A better picture should be provided. Please refer to figures 1 and 2 in the Results section. There is no need to provide the catalogue number of the antibody in the figure legend. It will be of more interest to describe the pattern of staining.

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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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