Reviewer's report

Title: Bioelectrical impedance phase angle as a prognostic indicator in breast cancer

Version: 2 Date: 25 June 2008

Reviewer: Aluisio J D Barros

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Most of the comments presented were either accepted, or a fair justification for not doing so were presented. I still believe that using standardized values for phase angle would improve the results of the Kaplan-Meier survival analysis, but I accept the authors’ decision. There is however one outstanding issue, described below.

Major compulsory revisions
1. The question about non-linearity of phase angle effect was not addressed in the authors’ reply. It is unlikely that phase angle has a linear relationship with mortality hazard as one may well think that a unit change in the low end of values has a larger effect than in the higher end of the spectrum. So, this needs to be tested by either including a squared phase angle term in the Cox regression, or alternatively, a log transformation could be explored.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests