Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of menopause and hysterectomy on systemic Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor in women undergoing surgery for breast cancer.

Version: 1 Date: 12 July 2008

Reviewer: ugur coskun

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:

1- The study is interesting but the presentation of the data is not good. The tables are not clearly showed the results. The groups must be more clearly defined and presented as control-premenopausal, control postmenopausal with intact uterus, control postmenopausal with n numbers (same for patients).

2- In the beginning of the paper, the authors mention that the uterus is the major source of VEGF. However, they found that the controls with intact uterus have higher VEGF levels compared to the ones with histerectomy. The authors had tried to explain this unexpected results but it is not enough for someone to accept the results in scientific manner. Moreover, there are too much paper investigating VEGF in breast cancer as some of them are below. These paper must be discussed in the discussion.


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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.