Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 15 September 2008

Reviewer: N Bundred

Reviewer’s report:

In general, the authors have dealt with the criticisms made by the reviewers.

The one issue I would perhaps take matters further with is that patients cannot be established as post-menopausal purely by their ovarian steroid hormone levels. The LH and FSH need to be elevated, as well as the low serum hormone level. Low oestradiol levels are seen in the follicular phase of the cycle in pre-menopausal women when they would normally have a low LH and FSH as well. Thus, statement by the authors that patients were post-menopausal as established from the ovarian steroid hormone levels is, therefore, not strictly correct.

I think in general, however, they have addressed the referees' comments appropriately