Reviewer’s report

Title: Heat shock protein90 in lobular neoplasia of the breast

Version: 3 Date: 27 May 2008

Reviewer: Harriet Kluger

Reviewer’s report:

The reviewers have addressed the majority of my concerns; however some of them remain unaddressed, as detailed below:

1) After the introduction of the definition of LN (lobular neoplasia) to the paper, I happy with the current title. I was not aware of this WHO definition.

2) The biggest concern is the very small cohort - only 44 cases of LCIS were included. Given the small number of cases, the validity of the statistical results remains questionable. Particularly when the result is counter-intuitive, one would like to see validation in a second cohort or examination of a larger cohort.

3) No invasive lobular cases were included. To definitively say that HSP90 is or is not important in lobular carcinogenesis, one needs to see whether it is expressed in invasive lobular carcinomas.

4) The therapeutic implications of this study are unclear - page 4, paragraph 2, the authors still mention that HSP90 targeting therapies are in clinical trials, but for a lesion that is considered a hallmark of future malignancy, these drugs are only important if one is considering using them for chemoprevention. The discussion regarding this issue should be further clarified.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests to declare.