Reviewer's report

Title: Coexpression of VEGF-C and cyclooxygenase-2 and its Association With Lymphangiogenesis in Human Breast Cancer

Version: 2 Date: 5 February 2007
Reviewer: Fernando Schmitt

Reviewer's report:

This is a descriptive study of co-expression of VEGF-C and cyclooxygenase-2 in breast cancer and their association with lymphangiogenesis. The paper raises an interesting hypothesis that COX-2 could be related to lymphangiogenesis via VEGF-C. This putative link should be explored in terms of the study of other markers, as suggested by the authors in discussion. Moreover, the authors overestimated their results without more “functional” assays. The mere immunohistochemical expression of lymphatic markers did not mean lymphangiogenesis. The use of a proliferation marker, e.g., Ki-67 could help the authors to ascertain this phenomenon. Other points:

1) The authors have classified their cases as “breast cancer”. This is not acceptable because breast cancer is presently a broad denomination. There are several histological breast cancer phenotypes which express different markers. It is essentially to clarify this point in order to avoid errors of interpretation and biases.
2) English and typing should be extensively revised.
3) Figures 1a and 1b are of poor quality and need to be improved.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.