Reviewer's report

**Title:** Primary breast lymphoma: patient profile, outcome and prognostic factors. A multicentre Rare Cancer Network study

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 17 October 2007

**Reviewer:** Agustin Aviles

**Reviewer's report:**

General. The paper is an excellent review of this rare presentation of malignant lymphoma.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

I understand that retrospective analysis are very difficult to draw definitive conclusions, because the authors in most cases did not take the original decisions.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Some questions:

1. Why some patients surgery was the unique treatment. Personal decision?, concomitant diseases?, poor performance status?, patient refuse further treatment?

2. Why it is mentioned that some patient(s) received only 1 cycle of chemotherapy, toxicity, lossed?, patient refuse?.

3. Is possible reclassified the patient according to the WHO pathological classification, to treat to compare with recent papers that employed these classification ?.

4. Retrospectively the patients can be classified according to the IPI ?.

5. The patients with CNS relapse were advanced stage and have high levels of LDH, because these factors has been considered the most important to predict CNS relapse.

6. Can the authors explain why different techniques for RT: medical decision?, patient decision?, different RT equipment ?.

7. Recently, We published an paper in Haematologica (august 2007), of patients treated with dose dense chemotherapy and rituximab with no benefit with the addition of the monoclonal antibody.
8. In general I recommend that the paper will be published with the minor revisions suggested.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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 declare that I have not competing interest