Reviewer's report

**Title:** Immunostaining with D2-40 improves evaluation of lymphovascular invasion, but may not predict sentinel lymph node status in early breast cancer

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 14 October 2008

**Reviewer:** Helenice Gobbi

**Reviewer's report:**

Comments: The question posed by the authors is well defined. The methods are appropriately described and use the current guidelines proposed in the literature. The discussion and are well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The title and abstract accurately convey to what has been found. The written is acceptable.

Minor essential revisions:

Abstract, last line: The expression "SL invasion" should be replaced by "SL metastasis"

Background, 3rd line: Correct the expression that refers to stage- "with T1 to 3a" to "with T1 to 3A".

Methods, 1st paragraph, 7th line: The expression "Nottingham modification" is preferred to "Elston-Ellis modification"

Methods, item "Microdensity and vascular invasion assessment"- the author should cite the reference of the definition of tumoral lymphatic vessel invasion. Is the criteria of Yamauchi et al (ref. 22 ?).

Results: Although the authors observed a correlation between LVI invasion and menopausal status, a statement was not included in the abstract and was not addressed in the discussion. Table 2 can be excluded. If the authors prefer to keep Table 2, the expression "menopausal" should be replaced by "post-menopausal", and the percentages lacking should be completed in all columns.

References: Ref#24 must be completed. There is a capital letter B at the end of title of ref# 33 that must be deleted.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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 no competing interests"