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: 3 Date: 5 January 2009

Reviewer: Gabor Cserni

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript has been improved on the basis of the reviewers’ comments. Only a few minor things remain to be remedied, most of them are of typographical nature.

Minor compulsory revisions:

There is no category T3a defined for breast cancer in the 6th edition of the TNM. This has escaped my attention in the original submission, but Reviewer No3 has highlighted this by referring to “stage ... T3A”. [Disease stages (at least in this respect) are defined on the basis of the T, N and M categories, and the categories are labeled by numbers and further divided to subcategories labeled with lower case letters; in contrast, stages are subcategorized with capital letters.] However, the current TNM includes no T3a category. This should be simply T3.

The authors have complied with the demand of Referee No3, but also reproduced his/her typographic error. Nottingham and not Nottinghan (although personally I was equally happy to see the more eponymous form directly citing CW Elston and IO Ellis).

Methods of SLN biopsy: vital blue V (?) Shouldn’t this be Patent blue V?

State greater than 2 mm for macrometastasis. By adhering to the definitions, 2 mm is still a micrometastasis.

Methods of immunohistochemistry: “h” missing from immunohistochemistry in the middle of the section.

Methods of statistical analyses: micro density should be microvessel density

Methods (and later Results): kappa is not a measure of correlation, but is rather a value (theoretically ranging from -1 [complete disagreement] or practically from 0 [agreement by chance] to 1 [perfect agreement] ) reflecting inter-rater agreement. The word correlation is not suitable here.

Results: When you give details on grade, the 3rd category should be III and not repeatedly II.

Results, Page 7: MVD and not MDV
Somewhere in the discussion: axillary (double l, not single)

Table 1. Correlation (double r, not triple); exact Fisher’s test is not very conventional, Fisher’s exact test (also rest of the tables).

Table 3. Negative or <4 positive (OR instead of AND)

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.