Reviewer's report

Title: Confocal Microscopy of Unfixed Breast Needle Core Biopsies: A Comparison to Fixed and Stained Sections

Version: 2 Date: 14 January 2009

Reviewer: helena marieke M verkooijen

Reviewer's report:

This interesting paper (which I reviewed already a couple of years ago) describes a relatively new and promising technique for rapid assessment of needle biopsy specimens.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Overall, the paper is too lengthy. The authors should shorten the introduction and methods sections substantially.

In addition, it lacks structure. The results section contains information about the 'second compatibility study', of which the methodology has not been described in the methods section. Also, the authors incorporate paragraphs regarding the impact of treatment for CSLM on quality of biopsy samples anywhere throughout the manuscript. I believe that the paper would benefit from a more structured approach, including: a) the compatibility study and b) the study on correlation between CSLM versus conventional histology results.

Minor essential revisions:

The authors state that all biopsies were performed using 11 or 14 G vacuum assisted biopsy (mammotome). However, Table 1 indicates that the majority of biopsies were either taken by Bard or Tru-Cut biopsy guns.

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.