Reviewer's report

Title: The Prevalence of BRCA Mutations Among Young Women with Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Version: 2 Date: 7 July 2008

Reviewer: Jen-Hwei Sng

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. The results that are presented in the Results and Discussion section are somewhat confusing and should be rewritten to be clearer. This is especially so when describing the number and percentages of women (white, others or total) diagnosed between age 31-40 and below the age of 35 with BRCA1 mutations. Could this be better presented in an additional table.

2. The title of the paper is in conflict with the purpose of the study presented in the Discussion (third paragraph). The title gives the impression that both BRCA1 and 2 were screened when only all of the BRCA1 coding region, exons 10 and 11 of BRCA2 and the BRCA1 exon 13 6 kb duplication were screened in this study. Do the authors intend to investigate for all other BRCA rearrangements and the rest of BRCA2?

3. Introduction, line 24 ("....proportion of BRCA1-associated cancers that are ER-negative..diminishes with age-of-onset") is a little ambiguous. Perhaps 'increasing age-of-onset' would better clarify the statement.

Minor essential revisions:
1. References should be edited again with reference to PubMed.
   a) Minor differences in refs. 1, 2
   b) Listing of authors are inconsistent in refs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 18
   c) Year of publication wrong in ref. 7
   d) No reference to articles 19 and 20 in the main text body

2. Table 1: 5832insC (as opposed to 5832InsC)

3. Were the samples used for genetic analysis from tumours or blood? The first 2 kb at the beginning and end of exon 11 were included in the DGGE analysis. Did this apply BRCA2?

4. The manuscript should be reviewed again by the authors for language corrections.

Discretionary revisions:
1. Small size of the patient cohort examine.
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 I have no competing interests.