**Reviewer’s report**

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

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 14 July 2008

**Reviewer:** Jenny Chang

**Reviewer’s report:**

- Major Compulsory Revisions

  1) The authors of this article pose a question that presents clinical management implications: Should all women with early-onset triple negative breast cancer be candidates for genetic testing, even in the absence of a family history of breast or ovarian cancer? Essential factors that are used to determine which breast cancer patients are candidates for genetic testing are highlighted. They accurately mention age-of-onset and family history of breast or ovarian cancer and comment on the availability of mathematical computer models such as BRCAPRO and BOADICEA to estimate the probability of having a mutation. One major factor that is not alluded to by the authors is the presence of a limited family structure which may be interpreted as a negative family history. A patient with a limited family structure in which the family has few if any female family members, especially paternal, may not have enough mutation carriers to manifest breast and/or ovarian cancer. These patients would have a higher risk of developing breast cancer than a patient with truly a negative family history (Iverson ES Jr et al. JAMA 2007). It would be important for the authors to state, if available, the family structure of the 5 patients who tested positive for a deleterious BRCA1 mutation and if available the BRCAPRO and BOADICEA estimate. This information would help clarify whether their data suggest that all women with early-onset triple negative breast cancer be tested for genetic mutation regardless of family history or whether women with early-onset triple negative breast cancer without family history be considered for testing and those with limited family structure be the more definitive candidates for testing. Limiting testing to those candidates that would have a higher probability would be more cost-effective.

- Minor Essential Revisions

  None

- Discretionary Revisions

  None

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests