Reviewer's report

Title: Evolution of Breast Cancer Management over the Last Decade

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Reviewer: Anees B Chagpar

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This manuscript describes changes in the management of breast cancer patients at a tertiary referral Breast Cancer Center in Ireland between 1995/1996 and 2005/2006, and measures these against the European Society for Surgical Oncology Guidelines. Not surprisingly, the authors found a move to less invasive diagnostic techniques (with core needle biopsy), increased sentinel node biopsy, increased use of adjuvant radiation therapy and systemic therapy, and the introduction of immediate reconstruction into clinical practice. I have two comments/questions for the authors, that would fall into the "Discretionary Revisions" category:

1. You found no change with respect to tumor size, and the mean tumor size remained ~2.5 cm. By American standards, this is quite large. Why do you think the tumor size in your study was so large, and that it did not change over time? What are the implications this finding has for screening mammography in your population?

2. Furthermore, you found a greater proportion of patients who presented with distant metastatic disease. You attribute this to "improvements in diagnostic radiology". Do you routinely get a metastatic workup on every patient? If not, this could represent a later stage at presentation which may have implications for patient education, early screening and diagnosis.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.