Reviewer’s report

Title: A Population-Based Study of Kurdish Breast Cancer in Northern Iraq: Hormone Receptor and HER2 Status and a Comparison with Arabic Women

Version: 1 Date: 11 July 2011

Reviewer: Alexandru Eniu

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Background, paragraph 2: the authors should describe better the clinically relevant, IHC determined, breast cancer classification into subtypes, emphasizing also that ER+ tumors, can also be Her2 positive

2. Background, paragraph 3: the authors stated “Her2 status is predictive of a better response to anthracycline or taxane-based compared to cyclophosphamide” however there is no clear evidence so this remains controversial. Please rephrase.

3. Background, paragraph 3: the authors stated incorrectly that trastuzumab improves survival when used in the neoadjuvant setting. Please rephrase.

4. Results, paragraph 2; check “encysted”

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: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'