Reviewer’s report

Title: Triple negative breast cancer in Moroccan women: clinicopathological and therapeutic study at the National Institute of Oncology

Version: 1 Date: 15 August 2012

Reviewer: Vincenzo Adamo

Reviewer’s report:

After having reviewed the manuscript, I believe it can be accepted after major and minor essential revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make). In assessing the work I have considered the following points:

1) The question posed by the authors is well-defined
2) Methods are not appropriate and should be better understood and analyzed in detail.
3) The manuscript meets the requirements for communication and data storage but should be thorough
4) Are the data sound? In my opinion this article is not sound
5) The discussion and the conclusion are not adequately supported by literature date.
6) There are many limitations in work and in particular the heterogeneity.
7) The authors do not clearly recognize any published work.
8) In the title and in the abstract convey what has been found
9) The writing is acceptable

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1) should be specified the definition of triple negative breast cancer, this is imperative and inserted the metastatic sites involved.
2) In the Background correctly define the different subtypes of breast cancer
3) Define the difference between triple negative and basal-like
4) In the discussion and in the conclusion should be revised to better work the Liedtke and correct the following assertion “Liedtke and al demonstrates in a previous report that patients with TNBC have increased pathologic complete response (pCR) rates compared with non-TNBC, and also have excellent survival” because in this subtype is not correct to speak of excellent survival; should be specified better the role of the anti-angiogenic therapy and in particular of bevacizumab in this subtype correlating it with the literature data both in the neoadjuvant, adjuvant and in the metastatic setting; when referring to PARP inhibitors, but would speak only dell’Olaparib also mentioned the studies with Iniparib and Veliparib; also should be mentioned also other studies that have evaluated the addition of cetuximab in this subtypes.
5) In the results clarify the following sentence “Overall survival at 5 years for all patients was 76.5%” since in the previous section it is emphasized that Patients with stage IV disease at diagnosis were excluded from the statistical evaluation of DFS and OS

6) Being a retrospective study would be interesting to perform the determination of CK5-6 in order to understand if the study population was TN or basal-like.

Minor Essential Revisions
1) In the results specify the different histological types
2) add to the TNM classification, the number of patients in stage IV.

**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'