Reviewer’s report

Title: Cytologic Features of Nipple Aspirate Fluid Using an Automated Non-Invasive Collection Device: A Prospective Observational Study

Version: 2 Date: 23 June 2005

Reviewer: Carol Fabian

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The manuscript has been considerably improved, however, I would suggest some additional modifications.

1) Page 4. Delete last sentence, paragraph 2. Ductal lavage aims to collect epithelial cells not NAF fluid.


3) Page 15 Discussion. First and second sentences should be changed to Wrensch and colleagues have observed in a prospective trial that NAF production and NAF atypia in a screening population are associated with an increased risk for breast cancer. Further, NAF production/cytology may modestly improve the discriminatory accuracy of the Gail risk model [Tice CEBP 2005] in a screening population. However, NAF collection requires time and experienced trained personnel. Change abnormal to atypical 7th line.

4) Delete phrase page 15, 2nd paragraph, 4th line . . . allows women to be objectively tested. Also change next sentence to . . . than other methods of sampling breast epithelium in asymptomatic women such as ductal lavage or fine needle aspiration (delete phrase about anesthesia).

5) Page 16 or 17. Need to include a statement about pain rating in Dooleys series and why it is apparently higher with the HALO system.

6) Page 17. Last paragraph is awkward. What do the authors mean by negative results? Does this mean no NAF or no atypical cells? Last sentence should be changed to something like . . . NAF production and cytomorphic assessment may be used in conjunction with the Gail model for risk prediction and the automated HALO system may facilitate NAF collection in the office setting. (Leave out comments about clinical exam and mammography which relate to early detection unless you want to refer to mammographic density as a risk biomarker.)
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**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