Reviewer's report

Title: Breast Cancer Risk associated with different HRT formulations. A register-based case-control study.

Version: 1 Date: 8 May 2006

Reviewer: Andrea Riccardo Genazzani

Reviewer's report:

The paper submitted is articulated, well done and very interesting. Authors face a pivotal aspect of hormone replacement therapy: different formulations, route and duration of HRT and breast cancer risk. The numbers of the study do not permit to reach final conclusions. However, this work focus on important issues and support a more accurate prescription of HRT in women.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached) none

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

1) Information provided in the abstract is a little elusive. Authors do not provide a real conclusion of the study. Readers only understand the major part of data are not statistically significant. Abstract should be re-written focusing on the conclusions of this good work.

2) In the Discussion section of the paper, authors assert: "BC risk did not vary markedly among different HRT formulation". This is just partially correct analyzing the data. As authors still refer in the Discussion, "the numbers were too small for some the progestins categories". This is an important point of the debate on HRT administration and no-significant data cannot provide differences among different HRT formulation. Authors should clarify this issue.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes