Reviewer’s report

Title: Triple-negative breast cancer is associated with EGFR, CK5/6 and c-KIT expression in Malaysian women

Version: 2 Date: 5 March 2012

Reviewer: Pierre-Jean Lamy

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Major revisions

1) The authors should precise the criteria for patients inclusion in their cohort.

2) The authors state that specimens were primarily handled for ER PR and HER2 testing. They should describe the methods and precise the cutoffs used.

3) The cohort of cases was obtained over a period of 2002 and 2006. Some technical variation could have occurred during this period that could impact on ER, PR and HER2 results. Was triple negativity of these cases re-established under standard conditions in the current study?

4) Did the authors include recent recommendations of using a 1% cutoff for ER and PR positivity?

5) A table with Non-TNBC patient’s characteristics including ER, PR, and HER2 status should be added

Breast cancer is a heterogeneous group of disease. With a data base of 340 patients, it will improve the value of the study to match EGFR, CK5/6 and c-KIT staining and Ki67 index of TNBC with more subgroups of BC as RH+/HER2+, RH+/HER2- and RH-/HER2+.

Minor comments

p10 the sentence and references "as the percentage of Ki-67-positive nuclear profiles in randomly and systematically selected fields as described previously [18-20]" should be in the material and methods.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'