Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 6 March 2012

Reviewer: sae-won han

Reviewer’s report:

Pillai et al. have studied TNBC in Malaysian women and have performed immunohistochemical analysis in subset of patients to evaluate basal-like markers. Although similar study may have not been done in Malaysian patients, the small number of patients included the IHC subset is a major shortcoming of the study. I also have following comments for improvement of the manuscript.

Previous Asian studies of triple-negative breast cancer including the one by Kim et al. (Hum Pathol 2006) should be included in the introduction and discussion.

It is unclear how HER2 negativity was defined. Had HER2 FISH been done in HER2 2+ cases?

Please clarify if pathologist who specializes in breast oncology reviewed the IHC results.

Please clarify if pathologist scoring IHC was blinded to other molecular profiles (triple negativity).

Please clarify how 36 patients for further IHC study were selected.

The Ki67 index values are higher than those in previous studies, were adequate positive or negative controls included in the analysis.

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.