Reviewer's report

Title: The relationship between lymphovascular invasion and angiogenesis, hormone receptors, cell proliferation and survival in patients with primary operable invasive ductal breast cancer.

Version: 2 Date: 29 November 2012

Reviewer: Harriette Kahn

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written paper that has very good potential.

1. Major compulsory revision:

The major issue with regard to this paper is the fact that lymphovascular invasion was only assessed on H&E. This method of assessment is subject to both false positive and false negative results. The tumor can obliterate the lumen and will thus not be identified on H&E, which is a false negative result. Retraction artefact surrounding the tumor cells on H&E sections can be interpreted as positive for lymphovascular invasion and is a false positive result. Thus it is essential to perform immunostaining with both vascular (eg CD34) and lymphatic (eg. podoplanin/D2-40) endothelial markers to definitively identify lymphovascular invasion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.