Reviewer's report

Title: aB-crystallin is a marker of aggressive biologic behavior in patients with breast cancer but not a prognostic or predictive marker for taxane based therapy: A combined analysis of two randomized studies

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Reviewer: Eugenio Maiorano

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper reporting on aB-Crystallin immunohistochemical expression in a rather large cohort of patients with breast cancer. The results of the study are quite interesting, although aB-Crystallin immunoeexpression does not seem to bear prognastic/predictive value in multivariate analysis.

In my view, this may be due to the large number of patients with high grade tumors metastatic lymph nodes. Also, the authors did not report on sub-classification by histotype of the so called "triple negative breast cancer" and it may well be that a subset of these tumors would be indeed indolent (e.g., adenoid cystic carcinoma) or extremely aggressive (tumors with extensive central necrosis/fibrosis). If this was the case, there would be a bias in the statistical analyses which needs to be corrected.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests