Reviewer's report

Title: alphaB-crystallin is a marker of aggressive breast cancer behavior but does not independently predict for patient outcome: A combined analysis of two randomized studies

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2014

Reviewer: Christopher Stevenson

Reviewer's report:

The details of this paper are outside my professional expertise, so I will confine my comments to the statistical analysis.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Overall the statistical analyses performed were appropriate for the data and hypotheses - provided that a non-parametric method is appropriate for these data. However, it is not clear why the authors chose to use non-parametric methods rather than parametric methods. I would like to see an explanation of why they chose these methods.

2. I would like to see tables summarizing the results of all the statistical analyses - including the univariate survival analysis - rather than just having a discussion in the text. In particular, I would like to see the test statistics and p values for each result rather than just being told that they 'not significant'. Also, where results are presented in figures, I would like to see a test statistic value and p value on the figure (eg figure 2).

3. I'm not sure if this is just the way my copy was printed, but the figure heading refers to figures 3A and 3B, but the figures themselves are labelled Figure 3 and Figure 4.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests