Reviewer’s report

Title: Accuracy Validation of Adjuvant! Online in Taiwanese Breast Cancer Patients - A 10-year Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 28 June 2012

Reviewer: William Jacot

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Can you please give some additional methodological information? For such a performance manuscript, they appear compulsory to me, in order to strengthen the conclusions of your work.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

To compare the performance of a predictive/prognostic tool, one must input the more accurate data in the software. Please clarify the questions below:

Page 9, you stated: “Ninety-three patients were excluded because of loss to follow-up or death from other causes.” However, Adjuvant! Online includes death of other causes in the calculation of the patients’ prognosis. You must keep this competitive risk cause of death in order to avoid biases in the results.

Have you imputed the comorbidity item in the Adjuvant! Online software? You did not mention this in the methods section.

Please provide data regarding the % and type of hormone therapy and chemotherapy prescribed in your population of patients (Tables 1 and 2). Please confirm that this information have been imputed for all patients in the software (unclear in the manuscript). The Adjuvant! Online estimate is regarding a complete adjuvant sequence delivery, if an adjuvant treatment option is selected in the software. What proportion of your patients received incomplete adjuvant treatment (i.e. less chemotherapeutic cycles than expected, less than 5 years of anti-hormone treatments)?

Have you tested the performance of the Adjuvant! Online software on regard of relapse-free survival, in addition of overall survival?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.