Reviewer's report

Title:Number of negative lymph nodes is associated with disease-free survival in patients with breast cancer

Version: 1  Date: 24 November 2014

Reviewer: Jessica Young

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
(1) There were a number of typos or grammatical errors in the manuscript, as listed below: (P=page number, L=line number)
P5 L13 - "axillary" is spelled incorrectly
P7 L4 - delete "where"
P7 L11 - add an "s" to the end of characteristic
P8 L16 - should be "from the axilla"
P9 L 13 - should be "in the present study"
P13 L19 - should be "studies"
P14 L6 - there is double repeat of the word "staining"
P15 L9 - should be "the present study"
P15 L10 - should be "was performed"
P15 L15 - should be "the local recurrence rate"
P16.10 - should be "our study indicates"

Discretionary Revisions
(1) Clarification on page 7, line 14-16 - the article seems to state that the definition of positive ER/PR receptors is 10% and 1% - do they mean intensity of staining?

(2) Page 11, line 5-6 - in group , the 5/10 year survival is lower than both groups 2 and 4, and there is no explanation given for this. The data for groups 2/3/4 are just combined and compared to group 1. I think it would be interesting to postulate why group 3 would be statistically significantly worse than groups 2 and 4.

(3) There is no analysis of patients who got axillary radiation versus those that did not, which we know would decrease local recurrence.

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
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.