Reviewer's report

Title: Tertiary lymphoid structures are associated with higher tumor grade in primary operable breast cancer patients.

Version: 4  Date: 15 December 2014

Reviewer: Markus Duechler

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Title: Tertiary lymphoid structures are associated with higher tumor grade in primary operable breast cancer patients.

Stine L. Figenschau et al. assessed the presence or absence of tertiary lymphoid structures (TLS) in a large number of breast tumors and tried to correlate it with a variety of clinical parameters. The strength of the study is the large number of patient samples allowing solid statistical analyses. The study question is well defined, the methods are appropriate. The figures are beautiful in the sense that they very clearly show TLS, and do not show any evidence of manipulation. The listed references cite relevant publications about similar findings and are sufficiently discussed. Title and abstract represent the major findings. The manuscript is written in good English language, some minor mistakes have to be corrected.

Major Compulsory Revisions

TLS are described as a special form of organized immune cell aggregates. Given that fact, the positive association between the presence of TLS and organized immune cell aggregates seems to be a rather trivial one. What then is this association presented as a major finding?

Minor Essential Revisions

page 4: 'Tumor infiltrating T lymphocyte populations are shown to have favourable clinical outcome, ...'

T lymphocyte populations do not have clinical outcome.

page 5: '...tumor infiltrating CD20+ B lymphocytes plays a role in anticancer immune responses...'

... play a role ...

page 9: 'CD8+ T lymphocytes were moderate dispersed within the T cell zone ...'.

moderately

Table legends: 'r#: phi'

- better phi coefficient (or mean square contingency coefficient)
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.