Reviewer's report

Title: Digital imaging in the immunohistochemical evaluation of the proliferation markers Ki67, MCM2 and Geminin, in early breast cancer and their prognostic value

Version: 2 Date: 17 April 2015

Reviewer: Fiona M Blows

Reviewer’s report:

Despite being of somewhat limited interest this is a well written and readable paper which seeks to answer two main questions in a relatively small number of FFPE samples. One question is whether digital microscopy images are as effective as slides viewed down a light microscope for scoring IHC stains. The other question concerns which of three proliferative markers has got the most value as an additional factor in prognostication.

Suggested discretionary revisions are.

1. The starting material is quite old and it is likely that there was an appreciable gap between the original embedding and arraying, this could be clarified (line 211)

2. It appears likely that the same researcher did both the light microscope scoring and the scoring using the digital platform but this is not absolutely clear (line 236)

3. Comparisons of scoring methods have been done on a case by case method but core by core might have been more appropriate (line 239).

Minor essential revisions

4. Line 235, assessment should read assessed.

5. Line 328, does not flow properly.

6. The conclusion section is rather short and although the conclusions appear well supported by the work, it is not clear whether this work adds much knowledge to the field.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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