Reviewer's report

Title: ER, PgR, Ki67, p27Kip1 and histological grade as predictors of pathological complete response in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy using taxanes followed by fluorouracil, epirubicin, and cyclophosphamide concomitant with trastuzumab

Version: 3
Date: 7 April 2015
Reviewer: Carla Fisher

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:
page 2 line 6: should be NAC, not NAT
page 3 line 9: delete most. Finish sentence after B-27(2). Start new sentence with "These studies have confirmed the..."
line 11: clinical trials of new (chemotherapeutic) agents.
page 6 line 1: grades should be size
page 7 line 2: I believe sentence should read "pCR was significantly predictive of between RFS if the tumors had high Ki67"
line 14: "recognized in patients with a pCR and pathologically"
line 15: delete "of this regimen"
line 27: to should be for
page 8 line 6: delete were
line 7: this kind of therapy because the carcinoma
line 10: In our translational research concerned with obtaining higher pCR rates,
page 9 line 10: be and not should be reversed

Discretionary revisions:
page 2 line 9: difference in prognosis should be between those with positive and negative lymph node metastasis, AFTER chemotherapy
line 18: in pCR group, those patients with remaining nodal disease had a worse OS
page 3 line 12: Delete on the other hand

Under results, what is the median f/u for this patient population? What is the difference in OS between patients with pCR and non-pCR? What is the difference in RFS between patients with nodal disease after chemo versus those with no nodal disease after chemo?

Any details about surgical procedures for these patients? What % underwent
mastectomy versus BCT? Did all patients undergo axillary lymph node dissection?

page 9 line 6+7: delete sentence starting with pCR prediction scores may be useful for deciding....I think this is a large assumption based on the study and should not be presumed.

**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