Reviewer's report

**Title:** Immunohistochemical subtypes predict the clinical outcome in high-risk node-negative breast cancer patients treated with adjuvant FEC regimen

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 31 March 2015

**Reviewer:** Claudia Bighin

**Reviewer's report:**

This retrospective study is interesting and it may add knowledge in the field of prognostic factors of early breast cancer.

This study has some strengths such as the number of patients (near 750), the median follow-up (near 8 years) and the adequacy of statistical analysis. But it presents also some weaknesses which among others the incomplete adherence to STROBE guidelines for reporting observational studies and the high number of cases non available for analysis of molecular subtypes (163 patients).

**MAJOR REVISION**

1) I suggest to the authors a better adherence to STROBE guidelines (von Elm et al, PLOS Medicine 2007) for reporting results of an observational study such as for example the introduction of a flow diagram with a clear indication of all patients excluded by analysis and relative reasons;

2) I suggest to the authors clearly state the limitations of study in the discussion such as the retrospective nature of the study, the high number of not available molecular subtypes and the lack of a central and ad hoc review of the biological variables.

**MINOR REVISIONS**

1) pag 3 line 9: epirubicin instead of epirubicine

**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