Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic Values of TGF-Beta Isoforms and Receptors mRNA levels in Breast Cancer

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Reviewer: wilma mesker

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript provides nice work relating the TGFB signalling pathway and its impact for clinical application.

Although the authors describe the different factors of the pathway accurately and dedicated they do not come with an overall suggestion to apply the markers in daily clinical use. Could a combination of the markers help substantially to select patients for additional or more intensified therapy?

Major Compulsory Revisions

Male breast cancer is considered as different to female breast cancer. These patients should have been excluded from the analysis.

The tumor microenvironment is very important in tumor progression. By selecting patients >50% tumor cells a selection is performed for "good prognosis" patients (see de Kruijff et al, Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2011 Feb;125(3):687-96.). There has thus been a selection bias on basis of patients with predominatly tumor cells and a good prognosis.

Why was the TGFB3 not correlated with Her2 to analyse the triple negative subgroup. Currently only information is available about the ER, PR. Her2 is available and could be applied?

What could a cut of value of 7 years mean for clinical management in case of TGFB1 mRNA expression?

Kaplan Meier curves could be less. It is not indicative to demonstrate the not-significant curves. This can be displayed in a short table or in the results section. Just give some informative images.

Though, the M status gives a beautiful curve!

Minor Essential Revisions

It is more indicative to have the P values also in the abstract.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests