Reviewer’s report

Title: Plasma HER2ECD a promising test for patient prognosis and prediction of response in HER2 positive breast cancer: Results of a randomized study - SAKK 22/99

Version: 0 Date: 06 Nov 2019

Reviewer: William Jacot

Reviewer's report:

An interesting manuscript dealing with prognostic value of HER2ECD in an ancillary study of a randomized controlled trial.

The princeps trial has been previously published 2 years ago and serve as reference

I have some minor comments in order to optimize the manuscript:

- In the abstract, the abbreviation TTP-TChemo has not been explained previously and need to be modified

- In the background, P4L8-10, HER2 is the target of MoAbs, but of TKIs too. I suggest to modify the sentence accordingly

- P4L54, the PD abbreviation has not been justified.

- Regarding the results section, a table resuming the main clinicopathological data and the correlations would be useful. In addition, was there a correlation between the number of metastatic sites (as a correlate of tumor burden) and HER2ECD values?

- In the monitoring HER2ECD section, in the results section, is it possible to evaluate the anticipation time for HER2ECD rising before disease progression? It would make this marker far more valuable. If not available, would be a good point of discussion for the perspectives
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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