Reviewer's report

Title: Partial mastectomy using manual blunt dissection in early breast cancer

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2015

Reviewer: Mark Trombetta

Reviewer's report:

Re: 'Partial mastectomy using manual blunt dissection in early breast cancer'
Shinichiro Kashiwagi, Naoyoshi Onoda, Yuka Asano, Kento Kurata, Tamami Morisaki, Satoru Noda, Hidemi Kawajiri, Tsutomu Takashima and Kosei Hirakawa

BMC Surgery

Review:

Major compulsory revisions

1. Lines 57-59. The author states that safer and faster techniques must be developed, but partial mastectomy is a quick and safe operation. [Perhaps among the safest]. I would agree with his call for improved cosmesis, but the other two characterizations should either be removed or clarified significantly.

2. Was this an IRB approved study in your institution? Please note in the paper.

3. Lines 120-124: I did not notice that the specimen was oriented for the pathologist. Was that performed?

4. Question #1: What were the marginal measurements? This needs to be defined as it is a critical point.

5. Question #2: How did you grade cosmesis? The paper is focused on cosmesis as a mainstay, yet there is no mention of this in the body of the paper. Did you use the “Harvard/NSABP/RTOG” system or something else? Who graded the cosmesis? This must be answered.

6. Did the use of the ink affect cosmesis? Were there longstanding effects of the ink used?

7. The references should have no more than three authors followed by “et al”.

Minor essential revisions

8. The figure explanations in the footnotes should be more concise. They are almost a rehash of the body of the paper.

9. Line 132: Place a “space” between the word “deviation” and the number “28”.


11. Line 84: Please add “the” in front of the word mammary.

Overall an interesting paper and an excellent focus [cosmesis], but much revision is required.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests