Reviewer's report

Title: A retrospective analysis of breast cancer subtype based on ER/PR and HER2 status in Ghanaian patients at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Ghana

Version: 3 Date: 9 February 2015

Reviewer: Annegien Broeks

Reviewer's report:

Dear Author,

In Summary, this study evaluates the occurrence of the various subtypes and their clinical and pathological behavior in the Ghanaian breast cancer population at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH). In a retrospective manner breast cancer patients were subtypes using ER, PR and Her 2 IHC outcome. They conclude that triple negative tumor is the most occurring subtype in the Ghanaian breast cancer Population.

In general this is an interesting statement however based on the data presented this conclusion cannot be drawn (yet)

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Please clarify the patient population, is this a random breast cancer population or a specific selection?

What kind of individuals are coming to this teaching hospital? Younger bc patients with hereditary breast cancer (explaining age at diagnosis and TN subtype) or is it the random screening population? The paper is based on 165 cases, as was stated these are all patients that completed treatment. How was this subset derived? How many individuals have been screened, and how many were diagnosed with breast cancer (and did not receive or completed treatment).

2. Is there a bias for BRCA1 or 2 carriers? Is there data available on hereditary breast cancer in the families?

3. How was the IHC staining performed (please provide protocols and Antibodies used). Who did the scoring? Was there pathological revision of the slides? Are the slides and blocks available?

4. How was the Her2 scoring interpreted (0, 1+, 2+, 3+) was there SISH performed on the HER2 2+ cases?

(approximately 30% of all HER2 ‘2+’ ICH turn out to be positive using SISH). This will influence the % of HER neg patients.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'