Reviewer’s report

Title: The trans-DATA study: Aims and Design of a Translational Breast Cancer Prognostic Marker Identification Study

Version: 1 Date: 05 Aug 2019

Reviewer: William Barlow

Reviewer's report:

The authors gave clear reasons for making the choices they did.

I do not require any changes in the manuscript.

I provide a few comments below:

1. For an adjuvant study it is probably fine to limit controls to those who do not have an event in the first six years. It can be biasing if the non-cancer mortality rate is high before six years since you are selecting younger, healthier individuals. One wants to mimic the full survival model if all covariates were known so bear this in mind for future studies.

2. Propensity score adjustment is an interesting choice. It may mask the effect of any new covariates that are correlated with the adjustment variables though. However, I often think propensity score adjustment works well in practice when dealing with well measured confounders.

3. I agree with the first reviewer to be careful about using "predictive" instead of "prognostic". In the new text "predictive" appeared again in a few places so please review to make sure it is consistently called "prognostic".

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