



August 17, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format.

**Title:** Emerging gene-based prognostic tools in early breast cancer: first steps to personalised medicine

**Author:** Umar Wazir, Kefah Mokbel

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*

**ESPS Manuscript no:** 12118

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. We are grateful for the support given by reviewer # 00504767. As suggested, we are adding a table comparing the tests discussed in the manuscript.
2. The issues listed by reviewer # 00069966 have been addressed.
  - i. The spelling of 'MammaPrint' has corrected as suggested.
  - ii. Furthermore, the paragraph regarding the development of the ROR score has been revised as follows:

*Parker et al. developed a risk of recurrence (ROR) score (also called Prosigna) which is applicable to all tumour types including those that are ER positive. The score is derived by analysing of the expression levels of a set of 50 genes using qRT-PCR and DNA microarrays. The ROR score was developed as a prognostic tool in a cohort of 761 patients [23]. The DNA microarray cluster partitioning and analysis was done using the partitioning around medoid or microarray (PAM) methodology [24]. In addition, a related test was developed primarily as an intrinsic sub-type classifier for breast cancer. This test was termed PAM50 (NanoString Technologies, Inc., WA, USA)[25].*

3. The critique preferred by reviewer # 02251390 has been carefully considered.
  - i. The title has been revised as suggested.
  - ii. The manuscript has been revised to improve the language. If any further errors are found, kindly inform.
  - iii. As stated above, a table has been added to better illustrate the distinctions between the assays being discussed.
  - iv. A detailed discussion regarding the genes included in these assays would be a worthwhile endeavor in its own right. However, such a discussion would be beyond the intended remit of our article, which aims to recount the current evidence regarding the use of these assays in clinical practice. Furthermore, such a discussion would be too extensive to be recounted here.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Umar Wazir', written in a cursive style.

Umar WAZIR, MBBS, MSc, MRCS  
London Breast Institute  
Princess Grace Hospital  
Northampton Place  
London  
UK  
Tel: +44-7583-500187  
E-mail: umar.wazir@rcsed.ac.uk