

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** High penetrances of BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations confirmed in a prospective series.

**Version:** 3 **Date:** 8 November 2009

**Reviewer:** Gareth Evans

### **Reviewer's report:**

The authors have addressed the great majority of points already. However, they are still avoiding the issue of explicitly stating how they arrived at entering their carriers. The following are four possibilities

1. All individuals included were unaffected at first screen and ALL were then fully tested for BRCA1/2 mutations
2. All individuals included were unaffected at first screen and ALL were tested for BRCA1/2 common mutations
3. All individuals included were unaffected at first screen but only the breast cancers were then fully tested for BRCA1/2 mutations
4. Individuals were only included from the point they were known to be a BRCA1/2 mutation carrier

Only points 1 and 4 are without ascertainment bias. Points 2/3 is only without ascertainment bias for common mutations

Why is it not possible just to say which of these is the correct one?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No COI