SUPPLEMENTARY METHODS

Statistical analysis.

Using the Singapore data-set, univariate and multivariate analyses were carried out using Cox proportional hazards regression. Available factors included: overall survival, event/censored status, age (years), gender (male/female), ethnic group (Chinese/non-Chinese), stage (I to IV), tumour size (mm), vascular, lymphatic and perineural invasion and AXL staining category (0, 1 = low, 2, 3 = high). Overall survival times were censored at 60 months follow-up. All factors within the Singapore data-set were tested if they met the proportional hazards assumption using Schoenfeld residuals. Non-proportional hazards factors were excluded from any further analyses. Continuous variables were tested for linearity using Martingale residuals. In the case of non-linearity, a cubic spline was fitted. Each factor was first assessed with respect to survival independently (univariate). A full model using all available factors was then developed (multivariate). A final model was determined by backward selection using Akaike’s information criterion (AIC), with the final fit determined by the Bayesian information criterion (BIC). Univariate, multivariate and final models were reported including hazard ratios, confidence intervals and p-values. The concordance index of the final model was also given. The concordance-index indicates the predictive fit of the model, with a value of 0.5 being no better than random, as the score increases towards 1, the better the model.