SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS AND METHODS

Aldefluor assay

To measure cells with ALDH activity, the Aldefluor assay was carried out as described previously (48) according to manufacturer's (Stemcell Technologies) guidelines. Data were acquired on a LSR II (BD) flow cytometer and analysed using FlowJo software.

SKBR3 cell line monolayer culture and treatment

The SKBR3 cell line was purchased from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). Cells were maintained in monolayer in McCoys 5A media with glutamine (Invitrogen) supplemented with 10% FCS and regularly tested for mycoplasma to verify their negative status.

Mammosphere assay: Experiments were set up as described for the MCF7/HER2-18 cell line in the Materials and Methods section. Single cells were plated at 400cells/cm^2 and the number of mammospheres formed counted after 5 days.