Supplementary Table 1: Results of multivariate analysis of independent prognostic factors in patients with breast cancer using Cox regression.

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| Factor Overall survival Disease free survival  |
|  Hazard ratio (95% CI) P value Hazard ratio (95% CI) P value |
| USP44+ CSCs subclones | 3.507 (1.692 to 7.272) | 0.001\* | 3.085 (1.723 to 5.524) | 0.0002\* |
| Lymph node (positive) | 3.593 (2.146 to 6.017) | 0.000001\* | 4.676 (2.839 to 7.701) | 1.37E-9\* |
| Her2 (positive)Age (<50 years)Tumor sizeAdvanced tumor stageHigh differentiation gradeER (positive)PR (positive)CA (positive)VM (positive) | 1.669 (1.154 to 2.414)0.568 (0.225 to 1.430)0.724 (0.348 to 1.503)1.076 (0.469 to 2.468)1.378 (0.732 to 2.592)1.421 (0.774 to 2.608)0.695 (0.384 to 1.260)1.259 (0.534 to 2.970)0.792 (0.313 to 2.006) | 0.007\*0.2300.3860.8630.3210.2570.2310.5980.623 | 1.049 (0.748 to 1.472)0.437 (0.230 to 0.832)0.899 (0.459 to 1.759)1.104 (0.522 to 2.335)1.091 (0.636 to 1.869)0.908 (0.537 to 1.536)1.164 (0.688 to 1.970)1.224 (0.566 to 2.643)1.494 (0.640 to 3.486) | 0.7800.012\*0.7550.7960.7520.7190.5710.6080.353 |

\*Statistically significant (P*<*0.05).