Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of organochlorines cancer on breast cancer risk and survival according to estrogen receptor status: a Danish cohort-nested case-control study

Authors:

Annette P Hoyer (aph@post8.tele.dk)
Torben Jorgensen (tojo@glostruphosp.kbhamt.dk)
Fritz Rank (rh02869@rh.dk)
Philippe A Grandjean (pgrand@health.sdu.dk)

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Reviewer: Dr Tongzhang Zheng

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after revision, which I do not need to see

A recent meta-analysis of a few thousands of cases and controls from five studies in the US convincingly demonstrates that there is no association between organochlorine compounds (including PCBs and organochlorine pesticides) and breast cancer risk. This study with a total of 161 breast cancer cases reported an association between dieldrin and breast cancer risk among women developed estrogen receptor negative tumors. However, they found no association between breast cancer and all other organochlorine compounds, including those having much higher estrogen activity and enzyme inducibility. Considering the large number of comparisons that were made, the likelihood that this one positive finding is by chance alone is high.

Competing interests:

None declared.