Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnicity and incidence of Hodgkin lymphoma in Canadian population

Version: 4 Date: 19 March 2009

Reviewer: Marie-Claude Rousseau

Reviewer's report:

General impression: The revised manuscript is much improved over the previous versions. There remain minor issues to be addressed.

Minor Essential Revisions

Explanation of matching strategy and use of conditional regression analysis
1- In response to our request for clarification of the matching strategy, the authors included some text in the results section. To have these explanations there is quite odd. I would suggest to move any explanation of the matching strategy to the Methods section and to specifically mention, as was done in the response to reviews, that frequency matching by five-year intervals and by geographical region was used, and that the conditional analysis uses strata defined on “cross-classifying 5-years age intervals and province of residence”. This is very important information which was not included in the manuscript but should be there.

Discretionary Revisions

2- Third line, p.13, I would avoid saying that some association is “significant” then mention “borderline”. Why not just say that “Incidence of HL was higher in Western European...”?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.