Reviewer's report

Title: Certified causes of death in patients with mesothelioma in South East England

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2008

Reviewer: Ki Moon Bang

Reviewer's report:

Comments to authors:

Abstract:
Objective: “To examine …… for mesothelioma incidence.”: Here “incidence” should be “death.” No new mesothelioma cases (as incidence) were included in this study.

Introduction:
Second paragraph: Mesothelioma deaths increased 12-fold in the period 1968 to 2001. Is there information on asbestos consumption associated with increase of mesothelioma deaths in England?

Methods:
1 More statistical analyses of data are needed: The mesothelioma deaths could be calculated as crude and age-adjusted death rates. Age-specific deaths rates also could be calculated. Using data for 2000-2004, trends in mesothelioma death rates (age-adjusted) could be done.

2. Third paragraph: The authors identified mesothelioma deaths mentioned as one of the causes of death. The authors could look at the mesothelioma death as an underlying cause of death on the death certificate. It would be good to compare the number of mesothelioma as underlying cause with those for contributing cause.

Results:
The table is needed to reformat with additional data such as age-adjusted rates and number of underlying cause.

Discussion:
1. Second paragraph could be moved to the method section or the introduction section.

2. Fourth paragraph: The authors stated that misclassification is likely to be small.

Is there any reference for this statement? The authors could indicate the quantity of good specificity and sensitivity for mesothelial phenotype cited from a
reference by Cury et al.

3. What is recommendation based on the findings in this study?

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.