Reviewer's report

**Title:** Trends in Dermatomyositis- and Polymyositis-Related Mortality in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1985-2007: Multiple Cause-of-Death Analysis

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 12 August 2010

**Reviewer:** Nicola Nicolotti

**Reviewer's report:**

Comments to the Authors

Your article is a trend analysis of dermatomyositis and polymyositis-related mortality in Brazil (Sao Paulo).

The gap in the literature and the specific research objective of the study are both well defined.

The data collection and analysis methods are quite appropriate to the research question and are well described.

The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.

Some discretionary revisions:

1. The limitations of the work are not clearly stated.

2. In order to test whether there is a statistically significant trend, I suggest you to perform the Chi-square test for linear trend (You may use EpiInfo) too. Using this test, I expect a not significant decrease in the standardised mortality rate for polymyositis in men. Do you have performed your regression analysis modelling the natural logarithm of the rates?

Best regards,

**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