Reviewer's report

Title: Auditory dysfunction associated with solvent exposure

Version: 3 Date: 28 December 2012

Reviewer: Fabriziomaria Gobba

Reviewer's report:

The topic of the research presented in the MS is relevant and up-to-date; the knowledge in this field is limited, and deserves further development.

The method applied in this study is interesting.

This revised version of the MS is largely improved (e.g. the Authors have excluded police officers and lab workers, clarified several points, etc.).

Accordingly, we recommend the publication.

Nevertheless, we still have a couple of Major Compulsory Revisions and some Minor Essential Revisions.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methods

1) Workplace Environment, (page 7) First para:
MEK, Toluene, xylene etc are the names of specific chemicals, and is possible to measure the concentration of the chemical in air, and there are occupational limits; "Varsol" is not a chemical, is a brand name for a commercial product composed of a mixture of different chemicals: the Authors 'd clarify in the text what Varsol is (as possibly not all readers are familiar with this product);
furthermore, what means "..... airborne concentrations for ....... varsol. ": the concentration of what specific component(s) as it is a mixture!
The same in Table 2: “111.91 mg/m3” is the concentration of what chemical?

2) Page 8 -10:
Were audiometer, headphones, etc. calibrated (e.g. according to ISO Standard)?

Minor Essential Revisions

3) Background
Page 3, line 16 (2nd para):
introduce the meaning of the abbreviation “SIHL”

4) References
Refs 28 and 42: title of the article not bold font;
Ref. 18: “Audiol Neurootol”: I suppose is Audiol Neurotol
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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