Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Quantifying the burden of disease due to premature mortality in Hong Kong using Standard Expected Years of Life Lost

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 24 April 2013

**Reviewer:** Hristina D Vlajinac

**Reviewer’s report:**

The paper is well written. There are only several suggestions (Minor Essential Revisions):

1. **Abstract:**
   In the last line of the Results section, after “group I conditions”, diseases/conditions which belong to this group I should be added in brackets.

2. **Results:**
   On page 6, paragraph 2 lines 4-7, in order to avoid misunderstanding, the third one of the three following sentences should be linked with the second.

   “For women, lower respiratory infections (529.1 SEYLL/100,00) were the leading cause, followed by ischaemic heart disease (484.6 SEYLL/100,00) and trachea, bronchus and lung cancers (480.1 SEYLL/100,00) (Figure 3). Women were further strongly affected by breast cancer (ranked 5th) and nephritis and nephrosis (ranked 9th). Neither of these entities were among the ten leading causes of SEYLL for men.” should read:

   “For women, lower respiratory infections (529.1 SEYLL/100,00) were the leading cause, followed by ischaemic heart disease (484.6 SEYLL/100,00) and trachea, bronchus and lung cancers (480.1 SEYLL/100,00) (Figure 3). Women were further strongly affected by breast cancer (ranked 5th) and nephritis and nephrosis (ranked 9th), but these entities were not among the ten leading causes of SEYLL for men.”

3. **Conclusion:**
   The part of the Conclusion section concerning PYLL (paragraph 1, lines 3-9) should be moved to the Discussion section. It does not belong to the Conclusion section.

4. **Tables and Figures:**
   Conditions of three broad groups (Group I, communicable, maternal, perinatal
and nutritional conditions; Group II, non-communicable conditions; Group III, injuries) should be presented under Tables 1 and 2, under Figures 1 and 2, and under Table in the additional file 1.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.