Reviewer's report

Title: Cancer among children of Turkish origin in Germany: a study at the German Childhood Cancer Registry.

Version: 2 Date: 29 January 2008

Reviewer: Otto Visser

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
This study presents PCIRs due to several limitations that cannot be modified by the authors. This is acceptable. However, several times in the article a suggestion is made that the data presented are more than PCIRs (e.g. by using the phrase “cancer risk”). The following changes would overcome this:

Title: include “patterns” (Cancer patterns among childrenâ¦..)

Background of the abstract, second sentence: replace “cancer incidence” with “cancer patterns”

Discussion, first sentence: This study does NOT provide insight in cancer risk. Consequently this sentence should be modified. For example into “Our study provides insight into the distribution of cancer among Turkish migrant children”.

Discussion, third paragraph, “The hypothesis that migrant children have increased riskâ¦. Again, it is suggested that this study gives an impression of cancer risk, which is not the case. Please modify.

In relation to this, I would prefer to make the paragraph on the limitations of the study (“Our study has several limitations â¦than in the comparison groupâ”), the second paragraph of the discussion.

Discretionary Revisions
As far as I am concerned the results according to sex (table 2b and 2c) do not really add to the understanding of the subject and may be omitted.

Is it possible to give some indication of the proportion of first generation and second generation among Turkish children? If not among the children with cancer than perhaps from the general Turkish population? For example, in the Netherlands, at present over 90% of Turkish children below the age of 15 are of the second generation. Is the situation Germany the same?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests