Author’s response to reviews

Title: Incidence of cancer among residents of high temperature geothermal areas in Iceland: A census based study 1981 to 2010

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the comments and suggestions and we have accepted your invitation to revise the manuscript. We have reworded the conclusions in Abstract, page2, and in Discussion, page 19. We are now omitting the word radon from these conclusions, however, still think it is important to include the indirect citation to previous studies. The section with the conclusion is thus:

More precise information on chemical and physical exposures are needed to draw firm conclusions from the findings. The significant excess risk of breast cancer and basal cell carcinoma of the skin and the suggested excess risk of other radiation sensitive cancers, calls for measurement of the content of the gas emissions and the hot water, which have been of concern in previous studies in volcanic areas. There are indications of an exposure-response relationship, as the risk was higher in comparison with the cold than with the warm reference area. Social status has been taken into account and data on reproductive factors and smoking habits show that these do not seem to explain the increased risk of cancers, however unknown confounding can not be excluded.

We hope these changes satisfy your and the reviewers requests.

Yours sincerely, Vilhjalmur Rafnsson