Reviewer's report

Title: Morbidity in children living in a highly polluted region of the city of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Version: 1 Date: 8 July 2013

Reviewer: Lisbeth E Knudsen

Reviewer's report:

The study report on a unique follow-up study of children exposed to air pollution from heavily exposed area in Czech Republic. The hypotheses of associations between childhood exposures and increased morbidity are verified and some mechanistic considerations are included - refering to other studies within the author group. I miss some discussion on the limitations of the follow-up not having any information about nutrirional and life style data of the children which may differ between the compared areas on top of the exposures to air pollution. The ethics should be included refering to not only refering to approvals but also medical follow-ups towards vulnerable children. It is recommended to diminish the numbers of tables and figures eg by merging some of the figures. Some of the figures are drawn as continous while the data is point estimates. Bars are recommended for the figures.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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