General

Report
Manuscript Title: Thyroid function in Danish greenhouse workers
Authors: Toft G., et al

Overall, the authors have put forward a technically sound well referenced manuscript. However, there are some concerns.

Page 4
Blood samples, 06.00 to 10.00 (Morning)
“competitive immunometric methods” Please cite reference and give added detail.

Page 5
“comprehensive questionnaire” Did you validate the questionnaire?
“ethical”?
“newly hired” How does this equate with low level exposure?

Page 6
Fungicides used in a higher level in spring? On what crops or plants? Roses, seed potatoes?

Page 7 “Carry, NC”?

Page 8 “4 persons the measurements were consistently out of the reference range”
Provide these data. These data might be indicative of disease. For example, what is the frequencies of subclinical hypothyroidism or clinical hypothyroidism in the age group and sex of the persons you studied? What does “only slightly “ mean?

Page 12 “Seasonal differences” other causes than pesticide exposure” Can you give a better explanation or hypothesis? For example, were agricultural/horticultural pesticides commonly used throughout the geographic region of concern and how were they applied? The high exposure group you provided is poorly defined. Do you have any measurements; analytical (ambient or other) in the greenhouse, duration of workers in the greenhouse per day and number of days per year in the greenhouse? These can provide some semi-quantitative estimate

Page 15
Table 1 Provide the number of persons in the low and high spray load groups and define

Page 17
Table 3 Account for differences in the number of subjects spring vs fall. Please use paired samples from the same subjects for spring- fall comparisons.

Table 4 same comments

Table 5 Use paired samples only
In all tables exclude all subjects (N=4) who were outside reference range both in spring and fall. Were subjects referred for medical follow-up whose hormone level results remained outside the reference range?

Finally there were numerous English grammatical and spelling errors

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Please address statistical issues cited above

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

________________________________________________________________________________________

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.