Reviewer's report

Title: Occupational Exposures and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: Canadian Case-Control Study

Version: 1 Date: 7 April 2008

Reviewer: Richard W. Clapp

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision - the authors explain their finding of increased risk in machinists (OR=2.07) on p. 8 by saying "machinists may be exposed to solvents or engine exhaust" yet their study shows no increased risk from solvents and a lesser increase in risk from diesel exhaust (OR=1.33). From their data, the increase in machinists seems not to be driven by either of the risk factors they highlight in the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions - there are numerous grammatical errors and mis-spellings in the text and references. for example, on p. 6, line 4 the word "principle" should be principal; on p. 6, line 6 of the Results section, the word "difference" should be differences; on p. 7, line 12 the word "include" should be includes; p. 9, line 1 the words "a seed" should just be seed, etc. There are many more such minor changes needed in the final version.

On p. 9, the authors say "The mechanism of cancer induction by radiation shown in our study. . ." when no mechanism was shown at all - it may be more appropriate to say "suggested in our study. . .".

In references 11 and 71, the word "nad" should be and; in reference 22, Adele Costantini's name is mis-spelled; in reference 33, Singleton is mis-spelled; in reference 54, "ration" should be radiation; in reference 64, Neil Maizlish's name is mis-spelled, etc.

The section called "Strength and Limitations," beginning on p. 11 is poorly written and should be incorporated into the Discussion. The statement that "Women were excluded from the study due to financial reasons" is misleading. A better way of stating it might be "Due to budget constraints, the study was restricted to males."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.