Reviewer's report

Title: Exposure to Benzene at Work and the Risk of Leukemia: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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Reviewer: Pier Alberto Bertazzi

Reviewer's report:

This is a relevant paper, clearly written and presented, which quantifies the risk entailed by exposure to benzene concentrations that used to be present in most industrialized countries and that may still be present today especially in countries undergoing rapid and sometimes tumultuous development.

Minor Essential Revisions
I found no specific reference in the text to Figure 1.
There are a couple of typos.

Discretionary Revisions
It might be useful to add some further argument for the exclusion of sources of heterogeneity other than the different levels of exposure.
I don’t think the data support a dose-response pattern, although only suggestive, for CLL (p.16 in the manuscript).
In “Conclusions” a reference, at least indicative, to the current occupational and environmental levels of exposure to benzene may help the reader appreciate the relevance of the risk estimates.

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'