Author's response to reviews

Title: Epidemiological patterns of asbestos exposure and spatial clusters of incident cases of malignant mesothelioma from the Italian national registry

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Dear Editor,

Following your request we made the following changes to our manuscript entitled “Epidemiological patterns of asbestos exposure and spatial clusters of incident cases of malignant mesothelioma from the Italian national registry” authors: Marisa Corfiati et al., (MS: 6796881831317133) to be submitted for publication on BMC Cancer:
1. Acknowledgements: A few statements were added in this section;

2. Ethics statement: Data about mesothelioma cases are centrally acquired and analysed anonymously by the Italian Malignant Mesothelioma Registry (ReNaM). In particular personally identifiable information is preliminarily encrypted. The personnel of the regional operational units routinely obtain informed consent to interview by cases or their relatives and is authorized to collect and store sensible data for a preventive scope following the Italian legislation, as recently clarified by the Italian Data Protection Authority (Authorisation No. 2/2013 Concerning - Processing of Data Suitable for Disclosing Health or Sex Life). The study design was shared and approved by all the regional operational centers. Our study did not need approval from an ethic committee because in Italy, according to national legislation and good clinical practice, only experimental clinical studies, specifically clinical trials on medicinal products, require to seek and obtain approval from institutional ethic committees (Legislative Decree no. 211 of 24 June 2003; Decree of the Ministry of Health of 15 July 1997). This issues are explicitly mentioned in different parts in the Methods section of the manuscript newly uploaded.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.