Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2
Date: 15 November 2014
Reviewer: Miguel Gallego

Reviewer's report:

1. - In the Introduction the authors must state in simple terms what the Bayesian analysis contributes to the study, taking into account that the authors have provided evidence of this same cohort in previous publications.
2. - The aim of the study is not clear enough, I think it should be rewritten
3. - Maps should be plotted depicting standardized incidence ratios, smoothed relative risk (RR) estimates, and the distribution of the posterior probability that RR>1. A map of entire Italy may be more understandable for non-Italian readers.
4. - “Incident malignant mesothelioma cases were assigned to the municipality of residence at the time of diagnosis”. How were handled the cases of persons working outside the area of residence?

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.