Reviewer’s report

Title: Maternal occupational exposure and oral clefts in offspring

Version: 1 Date: 12 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Ronan Garlantezec

Reviewer's report:

The authors of the manuscript mentioned above have respond to the majority of my comments. I agree with the modification done except for the statistical analysis. They authors in the methods indicate that they only variables associated significantly in univariate analysis. I persist that criteria to choose covariates to adjust for may be too restrictive and may lead to residual confounding especially for the new control group (cf Tables One). I suggest to include in the multivariate model all variable associated with a p value <0.2 in the univariate analysis (and then to add for the analyse with the non chromosomal malformed group smoking and alcohol during pregnancy and positive family history). At the opposite I am not sure that number of babies/foetus delivered or previous birth are covariates to consider since these covariates may be related to the exposures (I.E several concordant studies reported associations between solvents exposure and spontaneous abortion) and consequently are on the same pathway. Taking into account these last variables may overadjusted the estimates.

To finish in line with my previous comments, I feel much more confident in the analysis with second control group (which is for me better than chromosomal/genetic malformation group).

Minor comment : in the abstract First line of the results section : after non chromosomal it is possible to add 'malformed'.

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