Reviewer’s report

Title: Applying a cumulative risk framework to drinking water assessment: a commentary

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Reviewer: Manolis Kogevinas

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting article that provides estimates for cumulative cancer risk assessment of drinking water contaminants in California and identifies that risks are clustered. This is an important and novel contribution. The authors also provide a "Relative health Indicator" analysis that combines cancer and non-cancer causing contaminants using disability weights similar to those of the GBD.

Overall the article does not have a standard format of a results article nor of a commentary and, more than anything, it looks as a summary of a report. Although both parts, the cancer and the RHI analyses are interesting, overall this is a paper that is difficult to follow and is too long. It would have been preferable to either write this up as two articles or try to summarise it in one article but in a much more concise and integrated way.

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