Reviewer's report

Title: Asbestos exposure and malignant mesothelioma of the tunica vaginalis testis: a systematic review and the experience of the Apulia (Southern Italy) mesothelioma register.

Version: 0 Date: 20 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Cristobal Sevilla

Reviewer's report:

The authors of this article should be congratulated for the great review work carried out with the intention of highlighting the possible relationship between asbestos exposure and malignant mesothelioma of the testicular vaginal tunica.


The duration of asbestos exposure is only recorded in 43 articles of the 212 reviewed (20.28%), with a range of exposure from 3 to 42 years. I consider these data should be reflected in the discussion of the article.

In page 4 line 1 and 2 the sentence "Similarly, cases with doubtful primary tumour origin or with concomitant pleural or peritoneal disease were excluded." reflects a very correct approach to the study.

I consider it an interesting article to publish in this journal after review and correction of minor changes.
The corrections are detailed below.

* PAGE 2, line 27-28: I recommend to change "...will need to analyze the same with analytical epidemiological studies..." for "...it is necessary to analyze the same variables in the epidemiological studies..."

* PAGE 2, line 46 and 49: I suggest to change "...tunica vaginalis testis..." for "...testicular vaginal tunica..."

* PAGE 3, line 10: to change "...in Rankin..." for "...by Rankin..." and "...in Kossow..." for "...by Kossov..."

* PAGE 3, line 38: to change "...recorded in the literature might..." for "...reported might..."

* PAGE 3, line 50: to delete "...of which..." after "...the cut-off date..."

* PAGE 3, line 52: to add "...and were..." like this: "...2018, and were identified..."

* PAGE 4, line 36-38: subtle changes in the first two lines of the Results like this: "Since in 1943 a confusing nomenclature arose and in 1945 Golden and Ash (18) introduced the term "adenomatoid tumours", De Klerk and Nime (185) reported in 1975 from..."

* PAGE 4, line 49: to change "...in table 1 are..." for "...in table 1 were..."

* PAGE 5, line 14 and 18: lack to explain the characteristics of the staining

* PAGE 5, line 29: to change "...exposure was..." for "...exposure had..."

* PAGE 5, line 48: to change "...during foeta..." for "...during fetal..."

* PAGE 5, line 51: to change "...tract is of..." for "...tract has..."

* PAGE 5, paragraph from line 42 to 58: in this paragraph, the origin of the endothelium hypothesis must be explained.

* PAGE 7, line 1: I suggest to change: "...microvilli are long and slender in complex formation..." for "...the microvilli are elongated and develop complexes...

* PAGE 8, line 44: I recommend to delete "...that are radioincurable..."

* PAGE 9, line 9 and 16: to change the word "...familial..." for "...family..."

* PAGE 9, line 58: to delete "...for occupational-related compensation claim purposes..."

* PAGE 10, line 25: to add "...had asbestos exposure..." after "...(1943-2018)..." and before "...must be..."
* The references number 5, 7, 10, 19, 20, 21, 31 and 191 have to use lowercase letters except the first letter that is capital

* I can not find the title of the references number 28, 29 and 30

* Figure 1: to change "...Gross examination..." for "...Microscopic examination..."

* Figure 2-3: I suggest to delete 2-3 and write only figure 2 and figure 3 in each image and to explain the staining

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**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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