

Reviewer's report

Title: Modelling prevalence and incidence of fibrosis and pleural plaques in asbestos-exposed populations for screening and follow-up: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 19 May 2008

Reviewer: Muzaffer Metintas

Reviewer's report:

Abstract has to include other knowledge indicated below:

- Prevalance rate for different populations,
- Risk factors for diffuse pleural thickening,

In general:

1. The second paragraph of introduction section is not necessary for this topic.
2. References number ar not presented in order. Please insert number of references chronically.
3. The citation of publication in progress is not permissible. Please review.
4. At the end of third paragraph of introduction section, is [Baram, 2004#248] a reference or what ? There are some in the other parts of the text.
5. Authors can state and acknowledge the prevalance of disease according to different groups of patients. Such as urban and rural area, different types of occupations.
6. Comparison of symptoms can be stated as a paragraph for similar diseases such as mesothelioma, pleurisy tuberculosis.
7. "Clinical findings" is more suitable as a subtitle than "Symptomatology".
8. Radiological data can be given more clean comparing features related to the disease which are important for differential diagnosis.
9. Surgical therapy was recommended for special status based on reference 59. This reference is so old and it is validity may not be current.

References:

1. References 1 and 2; presentation of reference according to the rules of this journal.
2. References 6 does not include the authors' name.
3. Reference 11; book ? Journal ?
4. When reviewing the references cited it was found that all the reference were not current. Text requires more recent publications.

Tables:

1. Table 1 requires more clear title, please revise it.
2. The purpose of the Table 2 is not clear all the information must be used and presented throughout the article s text as opposed to a separate table sparingly. Repetition must be avoided.

Figures:

1. Title is missing for all the figures and confusion as to which figure represents each illness mention in the study.
2. However, the referee believes that inclusion of radiological findings caused by other diseases such as pleurisy tuberculosis, mesothelioma, sequele of parapneumonic pleurisy to show different features of findings of between all of these diseases.