

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** The association between low level exposures to ambient air pollution and term low birth weight: a retrospective cohort study

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 2 September 2005

**Reviewer:** Radim J Sram

### Reviewer's report:

#### General

The association between the ambient air pollution and low birth weight is a relatively new topic. Data on low level exposures are very important to understand the impact of air pollution to pregnancy outcome.

Methods are appropriate and well described.

The data are sound and well controlled.

The ms. adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.

The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the collected data.

The title and abstract convey what has been found.

The writing is acceptable.

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**Major Compulsory Revisions** (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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**Minor Essential Revisions** (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

p. 7 and others - units used should be the same, it means metric! ug/m<sup>3</sup> and not ppb.

add PAHs to the list of abbreviations.

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**Discretionary Revisions** (which the author can choose to ignore)

It is of interest that the first trimester exposures in the highest quartile for SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> were associated with increased risks of delivering a LBW infant. You should add to discussion how these concentrations correspond with results of other authors analyzing the impact of SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> to LBW and IUGR.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests.