

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:** 20 March 2008

Reviewer: Paul De Vuyst

Reviewer's report:

The authors responded to the main comments. The paper is now acceptable for publication and is much easier to read. The authors explain the limitations from a medical point of view of such a surveillance program.

Statistics are still hard to read. The equations at the bottom of the appendix are very complicated (and signs are missing), and it could be proposed to put the appendix under an electronically available form.

Some questions to be checked by a statistician. Page 7: what is the best fit for AIC: higher or lower values ? Page 9: odd or prevalence ?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.