

# Review of: "Correlates of Nicotine Dependence Among Current Cigarette Smokers in Nigeria"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The study addresses a valuable and meaningful objective that contributes to the scientific community. The introduction is well-structured and supported by solid references, although additional references could enhance the discussion, as suggested in the comments. The study's limitations are clearly outlined at the end of the discussion section.

## **\*\*Specific Comments:\*\***

- **\*\*Page 2, Line 4:\*\*** The authors should include a reference for the definition of tobacco use disorder. I recommend citing the following: Nat Rev Dis Primers 8, 19 (2022). [<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41572-022-00346-w>] (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41572-022-00346-w>).

- It would be interesting if the authors emphasized the decreasing age of onset of nicotine use disorder. Research shows that individuals who begin smoking before age 20 often struggle with addiction and cessation. For example, early smoking initiation in adolescence is associated with difficulties in quitting and an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

References supporting this notion include:

- European Heart Journal Open, Volume 4, Issue 1, January 2024, [<https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjopen/oead135>] (<https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjopen/oead135>)

- US Department of Health and Human Services | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | MMWR, November 3, 2023, Vol. 72, No. 44

- International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 19(10), 6152, [<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19106152>] (<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19106152>)

- MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 71(45), 1429–1435, [<https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7145a1>] (<https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7145a1>).

- **\*\*Page 3, Line 2:\*\*** The authors should specify what is meant by "internalizing and externalizing disorders." For a more detailed understanding, consider referencing JAMA Netw Open. 2023;6(1):e2249568, [<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.49568>] (<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.49568>) and J Abnorm Child Psychol 39, 109–123 (2011), [<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10802-010-9444-8>] (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10802-010-9444-8>).

- **\*\*Page 3, Line 3:\*\*** The statement "It stimulates dopamine release by nicotinic receptors" should be rephrased for clarity, elaborating on the specific mechanism by which nicotine induces dopamine release.

- The sentence regarding cognitive deficits, P50 auditory gating, and prepulse inhibition ([12]) has no context and should be expanded and moved to a more appropriate section of the introduction, as it disrupts the flow of reading. Furthermore, the discussion on the best method to measure nicotine dependence should be separated from this paragraph to enhance the clarity and focus of the study's aims.
- **Method Section:** The authors should specify the exclusion criteria in a separate paragraph within the Method section.
- Since "binge alcohol use" is included as an independent variable in the Method section, the authors should establish a link to nicotine dependence in the Introduction section.
- Did the authors assess the age of first cigarette use? This could be an important factor to consider and should be addressed in the manuscript.
- The description of the GAIN-SS test in the Method section should be expanded for clarity and thoroughness.

Overall, the manuscript presents a well-structured introduction and discussion. Addressing these specific comments and suggestions will enhance the clarity, focus, and overall quality of the study.