Review of: "The case for development of an E-cigarette Ontology (E-CigO) to improve quality, efficiency and clarity in the conduct and interpretation of research"

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In this manuscript, the authors discuss about the need for ontologies in the field of e-cigarette research, in order to construct the E-CigO ontology. Although the authors are targeting a novel and non-mature field of ontologies with several open issues, there are specific points which should be better clarified:

Abstract:

The authors say that there is an urgent need for clarity in the field of e-cigarette research. After that, the authors mention the use of ontologies. However, it is missing the linking between these two fields, and it is not well explained the reason behind this urgent need.

Rest of the Document:

- The authors discuss about the use of e-cigarettes in several countries, and about their benefits. However, they should provide more credible examples of this statement in specific countries around the world.
- The authors should better define the terms which are used with different meanings in the studied field. Concrete examples of these terms could help towards the better understanding of the challenges.
- What are the main challenges and limitations of creating ontologies? In other similar cases (e.g., Gene Ontology), what were the barriers which were addressed? Have these been considered in the E-CigO?
- In addition, the target groups and the benefits of the E-CigO should be better clarified, in order to better provide the necessity of such an ontology