

Review of: "Barriers to quitting smoking – a survey among 1000 adult cigarette smokers in Germany"

Maurizio Abrignani

Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

This paper is quite interesting, however there are some ethical and methodological concerns.

The conflict of interest of the authors is noticeable, but it was clearly explicated.

There are no information, however, whether this study was ever approved by a Ethical Committee. Besides, did participants signed an informed consent?

Methods are considerably unclear as regards study sample selection. In particular, it is not evident how participants were recruited, i.e. after randomization from any list (electoral, phone, or other) or vice versa, they adhered on voluntary basis. Besides, due to the presence of many inclusion and exclusion criteria, it is not known how many people have been considered before arriving to the final sample (a figure with study flowchart could be useful).

There are too many "data not shown"; these data should be given as supplementary material, but, anyway, the use of "data not shown" should be minimized.

When affirming in the conclusion that "scientifically substantiated no-smoke alternatives..could at least mean a reduction in harm", some solid references on this point should be added.