

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

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

Thanks for the review opportunity. The paper presents an important topic. Some comments:

1. I was uncomfortable with the extensive discussion of smoke-free alternatives to cigarettes considering the authors' conflict of interest (being affiliated with a tobacco company that sells smoke-free products). In this regard, some part of the paper sounds like pushing an idea rather than presenting unbiased information.
2. Although quota sampling was employed, the use of a non-probability sample may restrict the generalizability of the results. This at least should be acknowledged and discussed in detail as a limitation.
3. More detail is needed for measurement. For example, how were motivators for quitting smoking asked? What items were used? How were the answers to the open-ended question about barriers categorized into themes such as enjoyment, lack of readiness, etc.?
4. The data analysis feels underdeveloped. The authors may want to use inferential statistical analyses to obtain more insights from the data.
5. The results section presents some useful information, but the text and graphs could feel disorganized at times. The authors may want to leave out some trivial details and streamline the sections. For example, what is the purpose of the section "discouraged smokers"? There is little data to back up the claims. What important information does it present?

I wish the authors well in their revisions of the manuscript.