

Review of: "Evaluation of the Tobacco Heating System (THS) During Closed Lower Limb Fracture Healing in Trauma Smokers' Patients"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an important trial that should be conducted to evaluate whether the negative impact of tobacco is related to the consumption method, i.e., smoking versus the newer heating system (THS). This is an interesting topic without much clinical research that has been conducted. This is a protocol for a future trial to be performed or might be an ongoing trial.

I have not seen an ethical approval number in the methods section. This should be added. The study inclusion and exclusion criteria are clear and fully delineated.

Introduction section:

Pre-clinical research suggests that it is rational to assume that it is not tobacco itself that is the culprit but rather the smoke and the products of combustion. The references are sufficient and support the study hypothesis well.

Study strengths:

Its being a prospective study, the number of expected subjects, the treatment protocol, and study endpoints.

Study weaknesses:

Being a single-center based study.

Funding:

It is a little confusing, in my opinion, that the past tense is used regarding the Philip Morris International contribution. Was this trial performed already, or is it to be performed?

Conclusion:

I suggest that this planned study protocol should be published, and the statistical analysis seems appropriate to me. I wish the authors best of luck and much success.