

# Review of: "Nicotine pouches- a research and regulatory policy agenda to maximise public health benefits and minimise harms"

Romina Aspera<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen

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**Manuscript:** Nicotine pouches- a research and regulatory policy agenda to maximise public health benefits and minimise harms

The manuscript has provided a descriptive summary of nicotine pouches as a less harmful alternative for smokers. The authors present the agenda associated with the proper regulation of the nicotine pouch category as well as the lack of studies associated with their beneficial role. The manuscript is well written and instructive for a reader who wants to gain knowledge in the field. However, minor revisions are suggested to improve the manuscript.

The authors review the oral nicotine pouches category, however, since they mention the new non-combustible products (like E-cigarettes, heat-not-burn products, etc.) it is strongly recommended to highlight the differences between non-combustible products and nicotine pouches, especially since the new non-combustion products could deliver nicotine at same levels than conventional cigarettes and maintain smoking ritual. Since lack of smoking ritual is also a risk factor to fail quick smoking using alternative nicotine sources (like gum, transdermal patch, nasal spray, inhaler, lozenges, or pouch) and the majority of users of nicotine pouches were current smokeless tobacco, this evidences the role of smoking ritual for former smokers, it is suggesting to discuss regarding this fact.

The reviewer suggests describing the common ingredients contain in the nicotine pouches (like water, flavorings, sweeteners, and plant-based-based fibers) to inform the reader who may do not know this product.

It is strongly suggested a prospective meta-analysis (forest plot) of the original researches include in the manuscript to better represent the relevance of this study regarding the safety and effectiveness of nicotine pouch.

Although, several evidences demonstrated that nicotine pouches are a less harmful alternative than conventional cigarettes and non-combustion products if there are or not associated side effects for the stomach and oral cavity should be mention.

