Reviewer's report

**Title:** Measurement of Nicotine Withdrawal Symptoms: Linguistic Validation of the Wisconsin Smoking Withdrawal Scale (WSWS) in Malay

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 December 2009

**Reviewer:** Jean-Francois Etter

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This paper presents the translation and cultural adaptation in Malay of a 28-item scale developed in the U.S. to measure tobacco withdrawal symptoms. This is a qualitative study, the characteristics of the scale were not tested statistically.

The translation process was state of the art (2 professional translations, backward translation in English, pre-tests in 7 smokers). The translation process was rigorous, and the authors took care to obtain a conceptually equivalent and culturally adapted version of the scale. The pre-test showed that the translated version was easily understood by smokers.

Given the high prevalence of smoking among men in Asia, and the increasing prevalence among women (as western tobacco companies look for new markets), the development of a valid measure of tobacco withdrawal symptoms, for use in research and clinical practice, is undoubtedly a valuable effort.

Table 1 may not be necessary.