Reviewer's report

Title: Smoking behavior, attitudes, and cessation counseling among healthcare professionals in Armenia.

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Reviewer: Patricia - Fitzpatrick

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This article is of limited interest for two major reasons:
1. Single hospital study, and cancer hospital, rather than general hospital. It is assumed that this hospital is a tertiary referral hospital, but there is not a full description given
2. Limited in interest outside country; insufficient context and reference to international comparisons

The authors state that smoking is banned in Armenia in health facilities and do not adequately explain why smoking persists in this hospital; does this reflect the national picture in all hospitals? why has the legislation failed? what is the national cultural attitude to smoking and have attitudes been evaluated in relation to the smoking ban?

Other hospitals internationally are introducing campus bans, and the distinction needs to be drawn between workplace indoor bans and hospital campus-wide bans.

There appears to be some contradiction between quantitative and qualitative study in relation to physician's attitude to smoking advice, which is not adequately discussed. In the discussion it states that nurses and physicians strongly supported and shared the view that health professionals should routinely advise their patients to quit smoking, but this is not supported by the qualitative study.

In table 5 it is assumed that an answer of YES/NO was given to the questions listed, but this is not confirmed. The fact that almost 40% of relatively young physicians (mean age 42 years) claim not to have been taught about the dangers of smoking seems incredible. In teaching re lung cancer and cardiovascular disease among others, the relationship to smoking as a risk factor must have arisen over and over. The age of those stating not taught should be determined.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests