Reviewer's report

Title: Time perspective as a predictor of smoking status: Findings from the International Tobacco Control (ITC) Surveys in Scotland, France, Germany, China, and Malaysia

Version: 1 Date: 27 September 2012

Reviewer: Damon Vidrine

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The study was designed to examine the effects of time perspective on current smoking status. A cross-sectional analysis was performed using data from the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project. Specifically, self-report data from participants from Scotland, France, Germany, China, and Malaysia were considered. Findings from the multivariate analysis indicated that time perspective was significantly associated with smoking status. The authors conclude that smoking cessation inventions that enhance future orientation may boost success rates. An important strength of this well-written manuscript is the use of a large and diverse international sample. However, several concerns should be addressed.

Concerns

1. While the authors do a nice job describing time perspective (the primary predictor variable) and reviewing the literature on time perspective and smoking, it is not clear how this variable differs from similar constructs. For example, as defined in the current study, time perspective seems quite similar to impulsivity. Moreover, the literature on smoking and impulsivity is more extensive. Thus, the introduction could be strengthened by a brief discussion of how time perspective is a unique concept.

2. Another concern is the operationalization of smoking (smoker vs. non-smoker). More specifically, collapsing never smokers and quitters into the single category “non-smoker” is problematic. Conceptually, it seems that differences in time perspective may exist between never, former and current smokers. Thus, treating these groups separately in the analyses would be preferable. Of course, data showing that no differences exist between never smokers and former smokers would also address this concern.

3. It is not clear if the single item time perspective measure was psychometrically evaluated in each country under consideration. If so, the translation and evaluation process should be described. If not, this potential measurement issue should be described as a limitation.

4. Perhaps the most serious concern involves the logistic modeling methodology used. In fact, given the significant interaction between country and time perspective, it is not clear if the data from the various countries should be pooled.
A stratified analysis may be preferable and more informative in this situation, particularly given the large sample size and the diverse countries involved.

5. Related to item 4 above, the authors’ interpretation of the results is problematic. The findings do not seem to support the claim that time perspective is an important predictor of smoking status across multiple countries. While the relationship was observed in most countries under consideration, the association was not statistically significant in China.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.