Reviewer's report

Title: The role of action planning and goal enactment for smoking cessation

Version: 1 Date: 18 June 2012

Reviewer: Hua Yong

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Major compulsory revisions:
1. The authors appear to be inconsistent with the focus of the outcome of interest, sometimes referring to smoking cessation and at other times, successful quitting. The latter is a more important outcome to examine in relation to the role of action planning and goal enactment as it helps to shed light on whether these two factors contribute to quit maintenance among those who made a quit attempt. Thus, the analyses predicting quit outcome at T2 and T3 should be based on the subgroup who reported making a quit attempt rather than based on the entire sample. It is now well established that factors predicting initiation of a quit attempt are not necessarily the same as that for quit maintenance and so the current analytic approach taken conflates the two processes.

2. It’s unclear to me why the authors chose to use correlations rather than univariate logistic regression to determine the unadjusted association between predictors and quitting outcomes in Tables 3 and 5. Also, it is unclear what type of correlation was conducted. Given the outcome is binary, Spearman’s rho should be used.

Minor essential revisions:
3. Action planning and goal enactment in the paragraph before Analysis section – It is unclear whether levels of action planning and goal enactment used in the regression analyses (in Tables 1-3) were based on mean score or total score. Is the score normally distributed or skewed?

4. Under the heading “Intention is related to action plan development”, replace “follow-up moments” with “follow-up assessments”.

5. Under the heading “Intention leads to goal enactment” first paragraph, replace “table II” with “table 2”.

6. Under the heading “Plans and their enactment”, correct “quite” to “quit”.

7. The paragraph before “Discussion”, add “neither” to the sentence so that it reads “for some preparation plans, neither the planning nor the enactment…”

8. Second paragraph in the “Discussion”, correct “asses” to “assess”.

9. Second paragraph on p15 in Discussion, correct “partly” to “partial”.

10. Second paragraph on p16 in Discussion, add “of” to the sentence so it reads “we did not assess a differential impact of preparation and coping plans…”

11. Last paragraph on p16 in Discussion, mentioned “Zhou and colleagues”
(2009)” but not found in the Reference list.
12. Table 1 – Make it clearer “pros of quitting” and “cons of quitting”.
13. Table 1 – Add T1 to Action planning so that it’s clear that it refers to baseline
14. Table 1 – spell out SI as Social Influence or add in footnote so that it’s clear to readers
15. Table 2 – fourth column, correct B to #

Discretionary revisions:
16. It may be useful to discuss how the current findings fit in with that from some recent studies showing that planned attempts were less likely to be successful compared to unplanned ones.

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.