Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparison of patterns of use, beliefs, and attitudes related to waterpipe between beginning and established smokers

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Many thanks for continuing to consider our study for publication in BMC Public Health provided we respond to the comments of the reviewer.

Here is our response to the points raised and modifications made accordingly.

Main points

1- We agree with the reviewer in his comment about the need to elaborate more on the samples and bring balance for the reporting of the results, and this was done in the revised version. The main focus of this manuscript however, lies in the comparison between the two groups as to get a feeling on how waterpipe users evolve from being beginners to more established smokers and how this reflects not only on their smoking patterns but beliefs and attitudes towards this smoking method.

2- The abstract, methods and results are modified extensively to accommodate the new balanced presentation of the two surveys and along reviewer's comments.

3- The conclusion was modified accordingly.

4- The introduction is modified incorporating the new information required.

5- Relevant references are added, unless they are reviewed in the detailed review referenced [1], which is now published.

6- The figures' labels are included in the table attached to the figure.

7- The manuscript was read and modified to improve the English.

8- The results section was modified to reflect the new structure of the study, adding the information required (age).

I hope that the revised version provide a satisfactory response to the reviewer's comments and merit publication in your journal.

Best regards

Wasim Maziak