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

Version: 3 Date: 12 January 2005

Reviewer: Silvano Gallus

Reviewer’s report:

General
After the revision, the manuscript was highly improved.
There are still a few minor points to be considered but the paper is now acceptable for publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1) ABSTRACT: at the beginnning of the methods, add the number (and the %) of waterpipe smokers in the survey of university students. ("...samples of university students (total 587, 48.4% men, mean age 30 years), of whom 86 (15% waterpipe users....")
2) METHODS: at the end of first paragraph, add the percentage (ie, 15%) of waterpipe smokers in the survey of university students.
3) RESULTS: there is at least a mistake: Considering the 86+268 waterpipe users, 23.9% of daily consumers, and 72.1% of occasional users do not add up to 100%. Since there are no missing values in this strata (table 2) percentages must add up to 100%. Please check all the numbers and percentages in Results and Tables.
4) TABLE 2: Delete the stratification for gender and marital status, whose distribution was already showed in Table 1. Moreover the distribution of marital status for university students in table 2 was wrong, since it referred to the entire survey, and not to the 86 waterpipe smokers. Once again, check all the results.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests