Author's response to reviews

Title: Addiction to the nicotine gum in never smokers

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Addiction to the nicotine gum in never smokers (Manuscript ID 2011652517122017)

Dear Mrs Makri,

First we would like to thank you for inviting us to revise the paper mentioned above. We modified the paper along the comments of the reviewer and the editor.

Reviewer’s comments

1. Length
   We reduced the paper from 3014 to 2950 words.

2. Survey
   We shortened the title and replaced the word "survey" by "study" or "questionnaire" in the body of the article.

3. Pros and cons of addiction to pure nicotine
   As suggested, we added a few comments on the toxicity of pure nicotine (p.9, 1st paragr.).

4. Summary
   We added the following summary statement at the end of the Discussion: Addiction to nicotine gums in never smokers is probably quite rare, but this study suggests that it can occur.

5. Abstract
   We modified the last sentence of the abstract as suggested.

Minor comments
We modified the paper along all the reviewer's minor comments.

Editor’s comments

Address methodological flaws in the Discussion
In the discussion, we emphasize the fact that this study enrolled a self-selected sample of nicotine gum users, and that the results cannot be generalized to all NRT users.
Ethics

This survey was not submitted to an ethics committee, but participants were informed that their answers were stored on file and had the option to refuse storage of their data. This point was added under Methods.

We hope that the paper is now suitable for publication, and would like to thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

Jean-François Etter