Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of tobacco counseling among Hispanic physicians: a cross-sectional survey study

Version: 1 Date: 20 August 2007

Reviewer: Esteve Fernandez

Reviewer's report:

General

This manuscript is aimed at presenting the results from a survey among Hispanic physicians in the U.S. on the determinants or correlates of anti-tobacco counseling. The topic is of interest, as the authors themselves elaborate in the Introduction. Some points to take into account are listed below.

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

1. Across all the manuscript, and beginning with the title, the authors refer to "predictors of tobacco counseling". Given the cross-sectional nature of the study, it would be preferable to refer to the variables non-causally associated to tobacco counseling as "correlates" or "determinants" (across all the manuscript).

2. In addition to the previous point, the non-causal nature of the associations studied would be clearly acknowledged in the Discussion section.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Title:

1. Please use "correlates" instead of "predictors"

Abstract:

1. Please indicate that the study is among Hispanic physicians in the U.S. of America.

2. If possible, include numerical results.

Introduction:

1. In my opinion, the 2nd sentence should be re-written since the literature itself does not explore anything. Please change "The literature has explored..." to "Several authors have explored...".
2. Objective: use "correlates" instead of "predictors"

3. It is not necessary to provide further details of the correlates investigated (the domains) here. This sentence can be moved to "Methods".

Methods:
1. Use sex instead of gender (sex refers to the biologic characteristic whereas gender refers to the social construct)

Results:
1. Please provide more informative titles for the tables.
2. Have the authors checked the applicability conditions of multiple linear regression (model specification, normality of errors, homoscedasticity, absence of multicollinearity, absence of outliers and lack of self-correlation).

Discussion:
1. Please provide an explanation (or feasible interpretation) to the positive correlations between tobacco counseling practices and self-efficacy --it is consistent with the literature, but why?.
2. Please try to interpret the apparent discrepancies between the results presented and previous studies with regard to sex.
3. Please locate the conclusions after the limitations paragraphs.
4. Please define who are Hispanic physicians in the U.S. Are Spanish physicians in the U.S. considered Hispanics?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'