Reviewer's report

Title: Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence vs Heavy Smoking Index in a general population survey.

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2009

Reviewer: Jean-Francois Etter

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This paper compares an old cigarette dependence scale, developed in 1978 (FTND), and a short (2-item) version of this scale (HSI). Data were collected in 1655 daily smokers, from a representative sample of the general population of Galicia, Spain in 2004-2005. Using FTND as the reference, the authors calculated sensitivity, specificity and positive and negative predictive values for HSI. The authors conclude that The HSI and FTND identified almost the same percentage of daily smokers with high dependence.

HSI and FTND are old measures that are already well documented, and this paper does not add much to the literature.