Author’s response to reviews

Title: Randomized Controlled Trial to Evaluate Tooth Stain Reduction with Nicotine Replacement Gum during a Smoking Cessation Program

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your favourable consideration of our manuscript “Randomized Controlled Trial to Evaluate Tooth Stain Reduction with Nicotine Replacement Gum during a Smoking Cessation Program”.

We have now revised the manuscript in accordance with the reviewers comments and I have uploaded the edited version:

The following list outlines the reviewers’ comments and how we have addressed the request for changes:

REVIEWER 1

1. Abstract is too lengthy. However, it can be considered if it adheres to the journal guidelines;

Response: Abstract word count now = 347 words in keeping with requirement of 350 maximum.

2. Even though study results showed stain reduction but they concluded as stain progression is arrested. They have mentioned this in the both abstract conclusion and in the end conclusion.

Response: Wording changed in both abstract and paper conclusions to report stain reduction. ‘These results support the efficacy of the tested nicotine replacement gum in stain reduction and shade lightening’.

3. In abstract and methodology few areas they used as 2, 4, 6 and 12 weeks, both has numerical and wording wise. Either it can be all numerical or wording wise.

Response: All reference to the number of weeks standardised as numerical
4. Is it necessary to describe flow chart and same thing in methodology

Response: Text adjusted to describe the Flow Chart (Figure 1) 'The flow of subjects into and through the trial is illustrated in the CONSORT flow chart (Moher, 2001) in Figure 1. Of the 546 adults assessed for eligibility, 200 smokers were randomized at baseline to receive either the nicotine replacement gum or the nicotine replacement tablet to help them quit smoking. Reasons for non-enrollment are outlined in Figure 1.'

5. In the file what we have received the content of the figure 1 is not opening.

Response: Uploaded again

REVIEWER 2

'explain better the procedure to get the shade and to discuss a bit more this parameter'.

Response: The following two passages of text were added to clarify the approach.

A qualified and trained dental examiner performed all examinations and scoring, and each subject was examined by the same investigator throughout the trial. Before the trial commenced, the examiner reviewed the tooth stain index and tooth shade assessment with a representative of the sponsor, and examiner repeatability exercises were conducted.

The shade assessments were made under standardized lighting conditions: assessments were all conducted in the same windowless room using color-corrected lighting in the range of 5000 degrees Kelvin, with the subject seated in a special upright examining chair with the arch tooth position parallel to the floor. A blue bib was placed over the subject's clothing, and all lipstick was removed before scoring.

I hope that these changes represent a satisfactory response to the reviewers requests.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Whelton