Author's response to reviews

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

Authors:

Helen Whelton (h.whelton@ucc.ie)
Rose Kingston (r.kingston@ucc.ie)
Denis O'Mullane (d.omullane@ucc.ie)
Frederick Nilsson (ekruse@its.jnj.com)

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

Dear Editor,

Please see attached paper entitled ‘Randomized Controlled Trial to Evaluate Tooth Stain Reduction with Nicotine Replacement Gum during a Smoking Cessation Program’, for consideration by your editorial team. The paper shows a significant reduction in tooth stain following six weeks use of nicotine replacement gum. Although the reduction in stain is modest in clinical terms, it has not been reported previously and its very existence could prove as an additional motivation for smokers to quit or to stay with a smoking cessation program, it also gives dentists a new entry point for discussion of smoking cessation with their clients.

I would like to see the paper published to support innovation in the development of interventions with multiple benefits tackling health issues from different angles. Many dentists agree that they have a role in smoking cessation; this paper supports that role by reporting a successful intervention with added benefits to the subject. In addition, results are relevant to other health care workers who use nicotine replacement chewing gum in supporting smoking cessation because the effects on the outcome measures were not dependent on a visit to the dentist as the teeth were not cleaned at the start of the study, hence the improvement in tooth stain and shade found in this study should be reproducible in other settings.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Whelton BDS PhD MDPH FFPH