Author's response to reviews

Title: Successfull smoking cessation with e-cigarettes in smokers with a documented history of recurring relapses: case report

Authors:

Pasquale Caponnetto (p.caponnetto@unict.it)
Riccardo Polosa (polosa@unict.it)
Cristina Russo (kristina_russo@yahoo.com)
Carmelo Leotta (carmeloleotta@virgilio.it)
Davide Campagna (davidecampagna83@gmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSE TO THE CRITICISMS RAISED BY THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND EXPERT REVIEWERS

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Successfull smoking cessation with e-cigarettes in smokers with a documented history of recurring relapses: a case series
Pasquale Caponnetto, Riccardo Polosa, Cristina Russo, Carmelo Leotta, and Davide Campagna

Date: 05 Octoberber 2011

Dear Sir.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to the comments and suggestions raised by deputy editor.

We hope we have responded adequately to criticisms/suggestions (see below) and improved the overall quality of our manuscript. Please note that corrections are marked up in the text.

RESPONSE TO THE JOURNAL OF MEDICAL CASE REPORTS DEPUTY EDITOR.

1. Within the presentation for Patient 1 for the following sentence: "His eCO reading at baseline was 31 ppm." please have the authors define "eCO" before using the abbreviation.

   We have carefully included your feedback.

2. Within the presentation for Patient 3 for the following sentence: "A 65-year-old pharmacist with a known diagnosis of COPD was seen for a routine follow up in our chest clinic in November 2009." please define the abbreviation "COPD".

   We have carefully included your feedback.

3. Within the discussion section for the following sentence: "Some studies have found that multiple failed attempts have a negative effect on a smoker's confidence in being able to quit [11]" please have the authors end this sentence with a period.

   As per your request, period is now ended.

4. Within the discussion section, the following sentence: "In June 2009, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced in a press conference that "a laboratory analysis of electronic cigarette samples has found that they contain carcinogens and toxic chemicals such as diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze" [15.]" should be: "In June 2009, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced in a press conference that "a laboratory analysis of electronic cigarette samples has found that they contain carcinogens and toxic chemicals such as diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze" [15]." with the period outside and at the end of the bracket.

   We have carefully included your feedback.

5. Also, within the discussion section the following sentence: "The FDA did not report finding DEG, or any other harmful chemical, in the vapour [16]." should read:

   "The FDA did not report finding DEG, or any other harmful chemical, in the vapour [16]." without a period within the bracket.
We have carefully included your feedback.

6. The same for the following: "They demonstrate that the primary components of E-cig cartridges are propylene glycol (PG), glycerin, and nicotine [17]. Laugesen tested E-cig mist for over 50 priority-listed cigarette smoke toxicants and found none [18]." should be:

"They demonstrate that the primary components of E-cigarette cartridges are propylene glycol (PG), glycerin, and nicotine [17]. Laugesen tested E-cigarette mist for over 50 priority-listed cigarette smoke toxicants and found none [18]."

We have carefully included your feedback.

7. "This report only revealed traces (8.2 ng/g) of Tobacco-specific Nitrosamines (TSNAs) in the "high" nicotine cartridge of a E cigarette." should be:

"This report only revealed traces (8.2 ng/g) of Tobacco-specific Nitrosamines (TSNAs) in the "high" nicotine cartridge of an E-cigarette."

We have carefully included your feedback.

8. For the following sentence: "TSNAs were reported in two studies, but at trace levels, which are similar to those found in a nicotine patch,..." please spell out the abbreviation "TSNAs" as it begins a sentence and one should not use an abbreviation to start a sentence.

As per your request, we not use an abbreviation to start a sentence.

9. "Recently, Cahn and Siegel have reviewed the results of 16 laboratory analyses of E cigarette liquid, including the FDA’s “Final Report.” should be:

"Recently, Cahn and Siegel have reviewed the results of 16 laboratory analyses of E-cigarette liquid, including the FDA’s “Final Report.”

We have carefully included your feedback.

10. Please be consistent with the usage of the term "E-cigratte". Choose one spelling and maintain consistency throughout the manuscript (e.g., I notice that sometimes the term is hyphenated, sometimes it is not, and sometimes it is contracted such as "E-cig" (except when quoting the words of another author).

As per your request, we use only the term E-cigarette.

11. There are also instances within the paper where a period is placed within the reference brackets. Another example (in addition the the ones shown above) is: "Although the current data is insufficient to conclude that E-cigs are safe in absolute terms and that further studies are needed to comprehensively assess their safety, these products appear to be much safer than tobacco cigarettes and comparable in toxicity to conventional nicotine replacement products" [19]." Please have the authors go through the paper and correct this with proper punctuation.

We have carefully included your feedback.

12. For the sentence "The fear of this “gateway effect” has been mentioned in connection with the European Union ban on the sale of snus, a type of smokeless that is neither chewed nor smoked." and the statement below that Sweden has one of the lowest smoking prevalence
rates in the world, it would help our general readership if the authors define what "snus" is and where it originated. For example, I obtained this information from Wikipedia:

Perhaps the authors can give a brief and condensed version of this explanation (with verified accuracy of course). I think that this would be interesting to our general readers.

As per your request, a definition of snus is now present.

13. Please define the term "USA" before using the abbreviation.

We have carefully included your feedback.

14. Please define the abbreviation "LED" within the Figure 1 description.

As per your request, a definition of “LED” is now present.

15. Do the authors have permission to use the image that they show in Figure 1?

Yes, we have the permission to use the images in Figure 1 and 2.