Author's response to reviews

Title: Combination therapy of varenicline with nicotine replacement therapy is better than varenicline alone: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

Enclosed is one copy of our manuscript, entitled: “Combination therapy of varenicline with nicotine replacement therapy is better than varenicline alone: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.” an original article to be considered for publication in *BMC Public Medicine*.

Varenicline, an α4β2 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor partial agonist, is considered as the most effective mono-therapy in smoking cessation. Nicotine replacement therapy, on the other hand, is the most widely used. The combination of both has the potential to be more effective than either alone. To date, there are only a few studies focusing on combination therapy, and the results are inconsistent. Safety issue due to adverse events is also a concern. Therefore, the best way to provide suggestions on managing smoking cessation to physicians is to perform a systematic review of current literature. To our knowledge, this is the first systematic review and meta-analysis on this topic. Our study revealed that combination therapy is more effective than varenicline alone, and the safety profile is comparable to mono-therapy with the exception of skin reactions. We believe that the results of our review will provide valuable information for physicians working on this field.

The article is not under consideration by another journal and has not been previously published. Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

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