LETTER

A new point of care cotinine test for saliva to identify and monitor smoking habit

To the Editors:

We welcome the paper by Caponnetto et al. [1], in which they evaluated a nicotine-free inhalator as part of a smoking cessation programme. In the randomised controlled trial, they found no significant improvement with the inhalator, but further analysis of the data showed a significant increase in cessation rate among those with strong and very strong behavioural dependence as measured by questionnaire. While this was a good attempt to find inexpensive means to improve smoking cessation, we question their methodology to assess smoking dependency and abstinence.

Questionnaires such as those used for the Fagerström assess smoking dependency and abstinence.

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For identifying smokers and treating smoking-related diseases under development. This test could be an important adjunct expensive. A dedicated colorimeter to quantify the result is

The new test was found to have a sensitivity and specificity comparable with the other commercial point of care saliva cotinine test available [4], but was quicker and is less expensive. A dedicated colorimeter to quantify the result is under development. This test could be an important adjunct for identifying smokers and treating smoking-related diseases by providing instantaneous results at a fraction of the cost of laboratory cotinine analysis.

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Statement of Interest: A statement of interest for G.F. Cope can be found at www.erj.ersjournals.com/site/misc/statements.xhtml

REFERENCES


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