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Rebuttal From Drs. Perez, Bastian and Oncken

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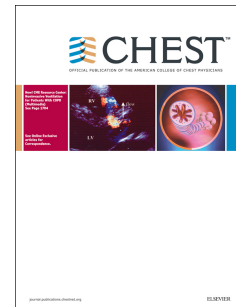
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Conflict of interest statement:

Cheryl Oncken reports ongoing NIH funding for a clinical trial examining the efficacy of the nicotine inhaler for smoking cessation in pregnant women. Pfizer pharmaceuticals has provided free nicotine and placebo inhaler product for this study.

Mario F. Perez- No conflict of interest

Lori A. Bastian- No conflict of interest

We agree with Dr. Hitsman and colleagues (1) that smoking continues to be a global health problem and one of the most common causes of preventable death. We believe that clinicians from every discipline (e.g., physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, psychologists, behavioral specialists, pharmacists, dentists and dental hygienists) should be encouraged to address smoking with their patients at every opportunity. However, we disagree that advanced practice professionals (APPs) are more likely to achieve better tobacco cessation results than physicians.

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