cannot think of a single research question that could justify actively seeking exposing children to SHS or preventing parents from stopping smoking to provide a healthier environment for themselves and their families. Although each study requires and individual assessment of the risk-benefit ratio, as a general rule, experimental studies involving exposure to SHS should be discouraged, preferring observational designs built upon the premise that all efforts will be made to support smoking cessation and eliminate SHS.

Contributors All co-authors participated in the preparation of the manuscript.

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed.

REFERENCES

What this paper adds
- The purpose of this letter is to reply to the concerns raised about the randomised trial ‘Association between exposure to secondhand smoke and sleep bruxism in children: a randomised control study’.
- In the trial, group 2 included those parents who reported not being able to reduce SHS children exposure. There was no action on this group.
- In group 1, the trial was intervention; in group 2, it was just observational.

I can understand that the above mentioned information is needed as it was not fully described in the paper and readers may misunderstand the instructions given during the trial. Under no circumstances should smoking be encouraged and every study should fulfill this requirement.


REFERENCE