A randomized trial comparing two Internetbased smoking cessation programs

- Jean-François ETTER
- Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Switzerland
- E-mail: <u>Jean-Francois.Etter@unige.ch</u>



Acknowledgements

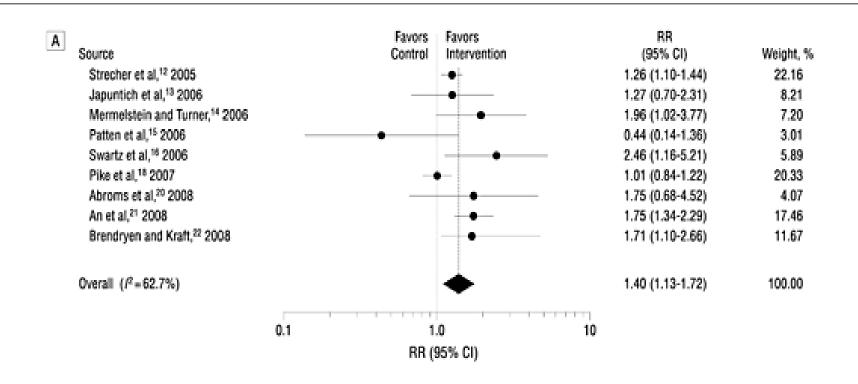
- The online smoking cessation programs were funded by:
 - Swiss federal Office of Public Health
 - Geneva Health Administration
- Study : no external funding
- Both programs are available online, free of charge

Background

- Internet-based programs are effective (Myung Arch Intern Med 2009)
- Stop-tabac.ch: effective interactive program
- How to improve it ?
- Clinical counseling is more effective if... (U.S. clinical guideline)
 - more frequent interactions,
 - prolonged treatment
- Similar results for online programs?

9 RCTs of Web-based programs: OR=1.40

Myung SK, McDonnell DD, Kazinets G, Seo HG, Moskowitz JM. Effects of Web- and computer-based smoking cessation programs: meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Arch Intern Med.* 2009;169:929-37.



Objective

- To assess and compare the impact of an 'old' (1997) online computer-tailored smoking program with a new (2007), enhanced version of the same program.
- Online setting,
 - no face-to-face counseling,
 - no telephone counseling,
 - no documents or booklets sent by mail

Setting: Stop-tabac.ch

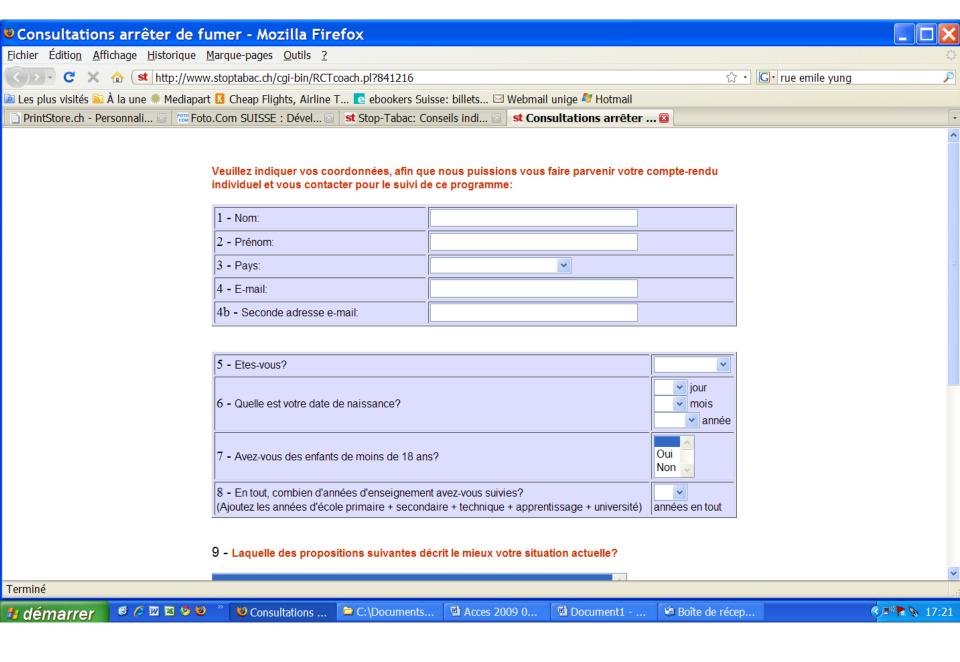
- A comprehensive smoking cessation website, in French
- 150'000 visitors per month
- Content:
 - discussion forum (most popular service)
 - personal stories, testimonials
 - blogs
 - info on diseases (pictures), withdrawal, treatments, medications
 - newsletter
 - FAQ
 - interactive tests

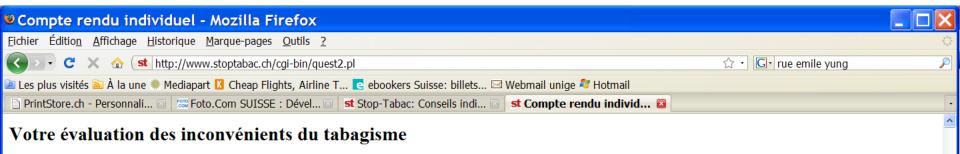
and...

- online "Coach" or "expert system" (old and new versions)

The 'old' program

- First generation expert system
- Available online since 1997
- Based on the Transtheoretical Model of Change
- Questionnaire (60 questions)
- Followed by an individually tailored feedback report (6 to 9 pages)
- Tailored to stages, self-efficacy, pros & cons, strategies, addiction
- Links to booklets (PDFs, no booklets on paper)
- 3 e-mails over 3 months: reminders to answer the questionnaire again
- Follow-up counseling reports (progress reports)
- Efficacy, compared to no-treatment control group:OR=2.6
- Etter et al. Archives of Internal Medicine 2001;161:2596





Les personnes qui ont réussi à arrêter de fumer puis à éviter de rechuter avaient au préalable considérablement modifié leur évaluation des inconvénients du tabagisme. Les paragraphes qui suivent tiennent compte de vos réponses aux questions sur les inconvénients de l'habitude de fumer.

Vos réponses indiquent que vous devriez réfléchir davantage aux inconvénients du tabagisme. Pour cela:

- Lisez le chapitre "Inconvénients de l'habitude de fumer", pages 5 à 8 de notre brochure intitulée "Et si j'arrêtais de fumer (PDF) ".
- Recherchez et lisez d'autres documents qui parlent des conséquences du tabagisme (vous en trouverez une liste dans nos brochures).
- Interrogez votre médecin, votre dentiste ou votre pharmacien sur les risques que le tabagisme fait courir à votre santé.
- Dites vous que vous n'avez pas besoin des cigarettes pour vivre.
- Ecrivez la liste des inconvénients de la cigarette et relisez-la de temps. Affichez cette liste chez vous ou à votre place de travail.
- Faites les 2 expériences suivantes:
 - o Fumez une cigarette à travers un mouchoir blanc pour voir les résidus auxquels vous exposez vos poumons. Ces résidus contiennent de nombreuses substances cancérigènes et irritantes.
 - Le papier de cigarettes est imprégné de produits chimiques toxiques. Brûlez le papier d'une de vos cigarettes et respirez la fumée de combustion, vous vous apercevrez que ces produits sont fortement irritants.

Saviez-vous que...

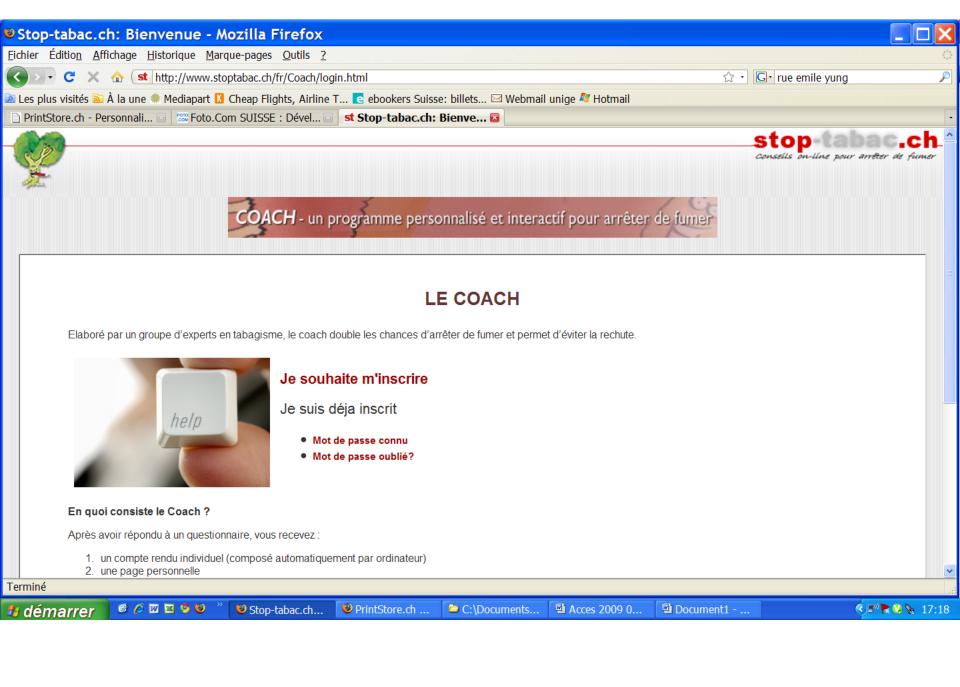
- Les contenus en goudrons et nicotine inscrits sur les paquets de cigarettes sont établis par des machines, ils ne correspondent pas à ce qu'un fumeur absorbe. Si le paquet indique 1 mg de goudrons et 0.1 mg de nicotine, beaucoup de fumeurs absorbent en réalité 15 mg de goudrons et 1 mg de nicotine, soit 10 à 15 fois plus.
- Les fabricants de cigarettes ajoutent de l'ammoniac au tabac pour accroître la quantité de nicotine disponible (freebase) et augmenter ainsi la dépendance les fumeurs. Les cigarettes sont bien plus que du tabac enveloppé dans du papier. Ce sont des produits industriels sophistiqués destinés à permettre aux fumeurs d'obtenir la dose de nicotine jugée "optimale" par les fabricants pour engendrer et maintenir la dépendance.
- En fumant, on absorbe un gaz toxique, le monoxyde de carbone (CO). Le CO se fixe sur l'hémoglobine à la place de l'oxygène et diminue de 15% environ la capacité du sang à transporter l'oxygène. L'action des muscles et du cerveau s'en trouve ralentie.
- Le dernier tiers d'une cigarette est fortement chargé en substances toxiques. Pour éviter de les inhaler, éteignez vos cigarettes aux deux tiers.
- Le benzonvrène, substance contenue dans la firmée de tabac, fait **muter la protéine P53**. Cette mutation, découverte récemment, est la preuve génétique que la firmée du Terminé

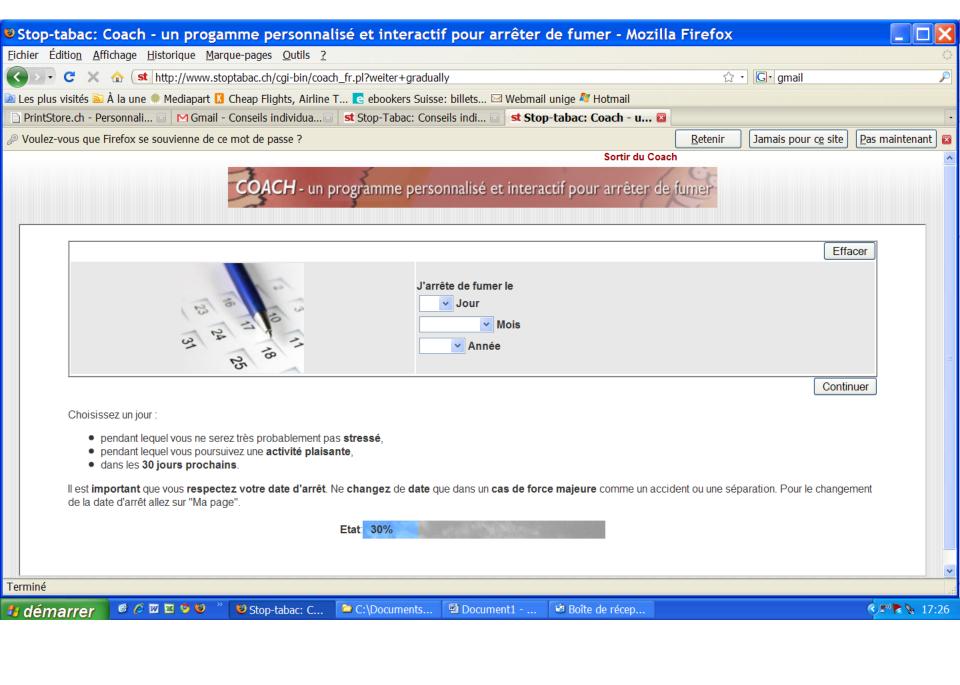
The enhanced ('new') program

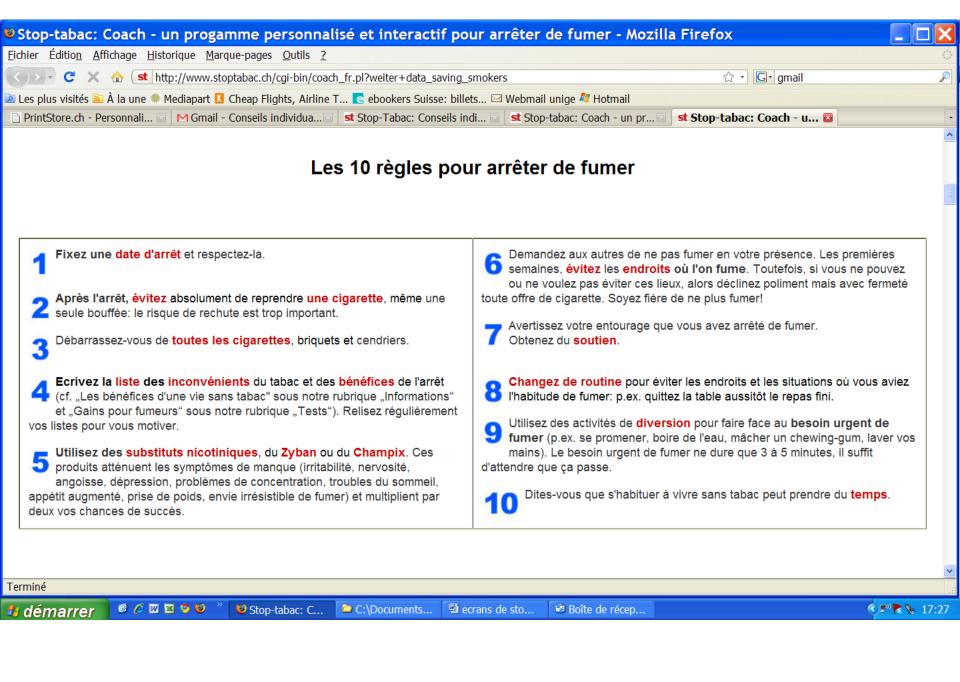
- Available online since 2007
- Like the old program:
 - Questionnaire followed by individually tailored feedback report
 - Follow-up counseling reports (progress reports)
 - Links to booklets (PDFs, no booklets on paper)

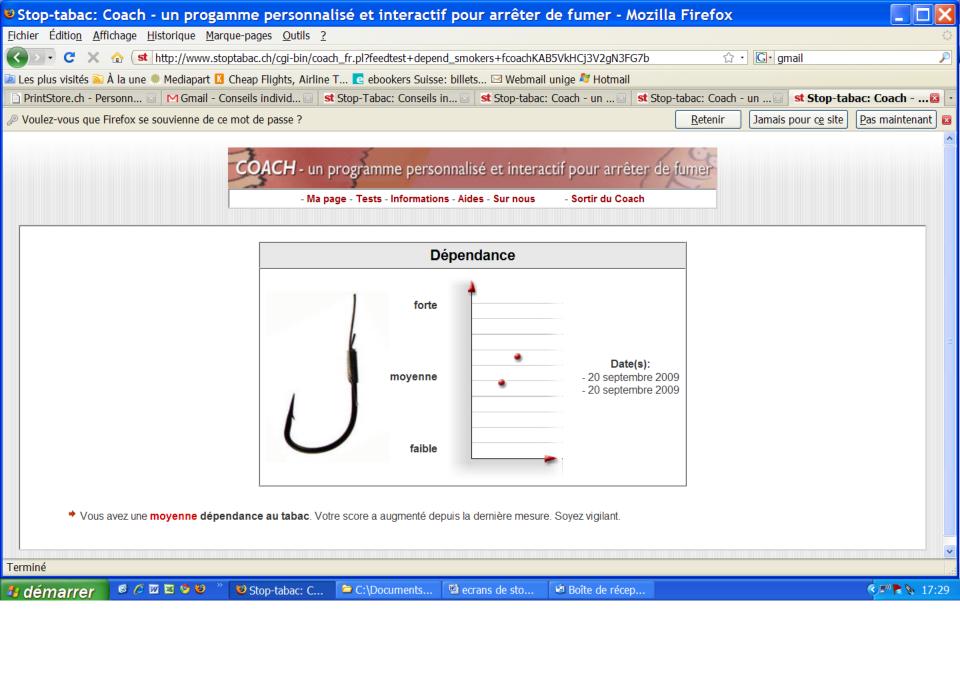
...and in addition

- More content on addiction and its treatment, in particular NRT
- Less content on the Transtheoretical Model
- Personal page (online) with progress graphs, interactive tests
- More intensive follow-up over 3 months:
 - up to 30 e-mail messages with tailored information and counseling, links
- Enhanced graphic design









Hypotheses

- The new program would be more effective
 - in the short term (48 hours), to elicit quit attempts,
 - after 4 months (because of the more intensive follow-up by e-mail)

Participants in the study

 4555 current and former smokers recruited on 'Stop-tabac.ch', from June 2008 to September 2009

Outcome measures

- Follow-up surveys = e-mail messages, click on 1 response option
- 48 hours after entry:
 self report of 24-h abstinence (quit attempts)
- 4 months after entry: self-report of abstinence in previous 4 weeks
- 'Not even a puff of tobacco'
- No biochemical verification

Results: participation

■ Baseline participants: n=4555

- Current smokers n=3300 (72.4%)

- Recent quitters, ex-smokers: n=1255 (27.6%)

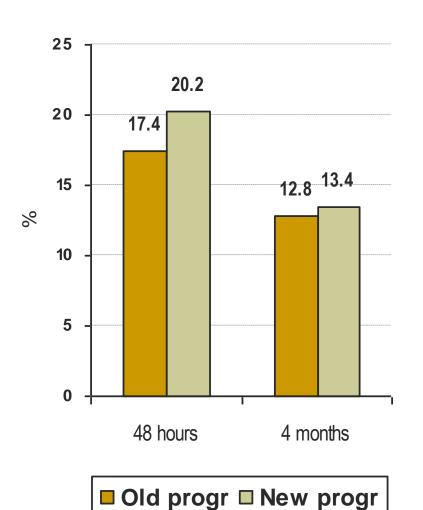
Follow-up rates:	All	Old	New	р.	ľ
				-	
- 48 hours :	3811 (83.7%)	84.9%	82.4%	0.022	
- 4 months:	2146 (47.1%)	48.6%	45.7%	0.048	

Intention-to-treat analysis: non-respondents counted as smokers.

Baseline characteristics

	Old	New	р.
N	2211	2344	
Age	34.7	34.5	0.51
Sex (% men)	35.3	35.1	0.88
Current smokers (%)	71.2	73.6	0.19
. Cigarettes per day	18.0	17.0	0.46
. Minutes to first cigarette	15.0	15.0	0.50
. Intend to quit in next 30 days (%)	85.7	85.4	0.91
Former smokers (%)	28.8	26.4	0.19
. Days since quit (median)	5.0	5.0	0.21

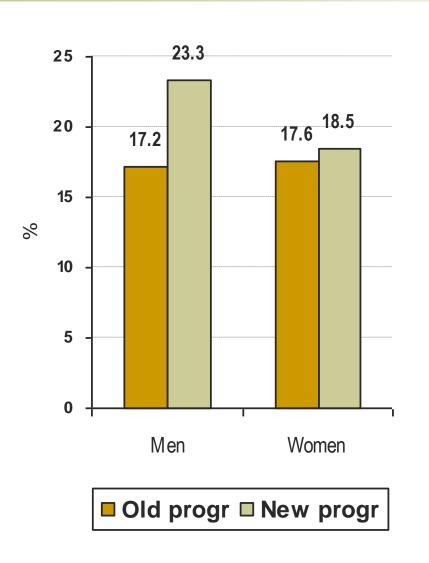
Abstinence rates in smokers



48 hours: OR=1.20, 95% CI=1.01 to 1.43 p=0.044

4 months: p=0.60

Abstinence rates at 48 hours in smokers, by sex



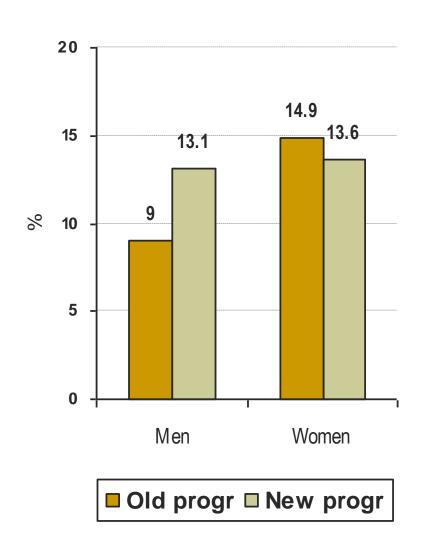
Men:

OR=1.46 (95% CI=1.09 to 1.95) p=0.010

Women:

OR=1.06 (95% CI=0.85 to 1.33) p=0.60

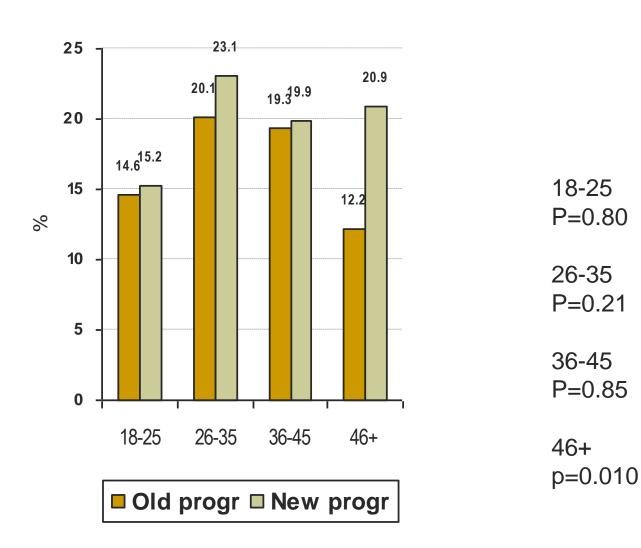
Abstinence rates at 4 months in smokers, by sex



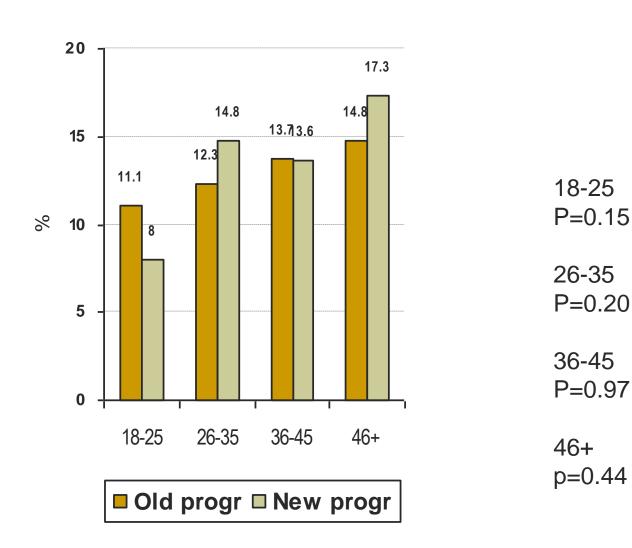
Men: OR=1.53 (95% CI=1.05 to 2.22) p=0.025

Women: OR=0.90 (95% CI=0.70 to 1.15) P=0.40

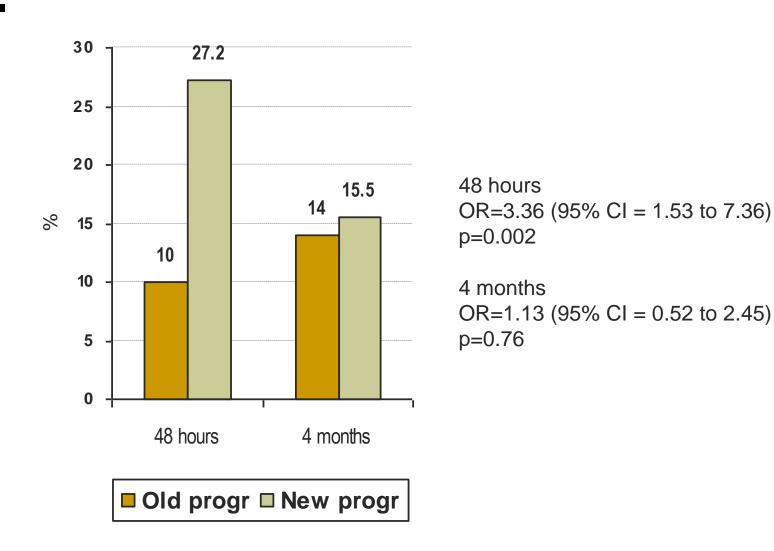
Abstinence rates at 48 hours in smokers, by age



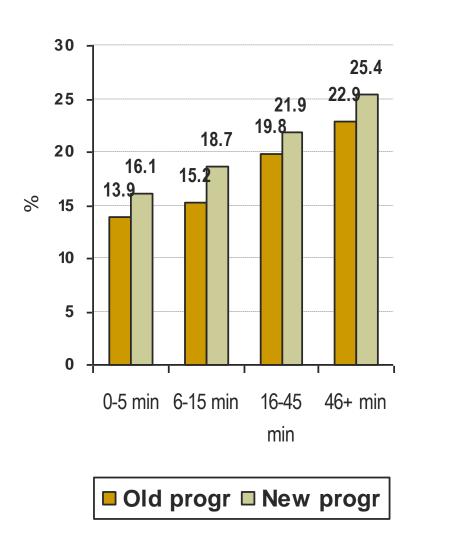
Abstinence rates at 4 months in smokers, by age



Abstinence rates in smokers, in men aged 45+ (n=203)



Abstinence rates at **48 hours** in smokers, by dependence level (minutes to 1st cigarette)



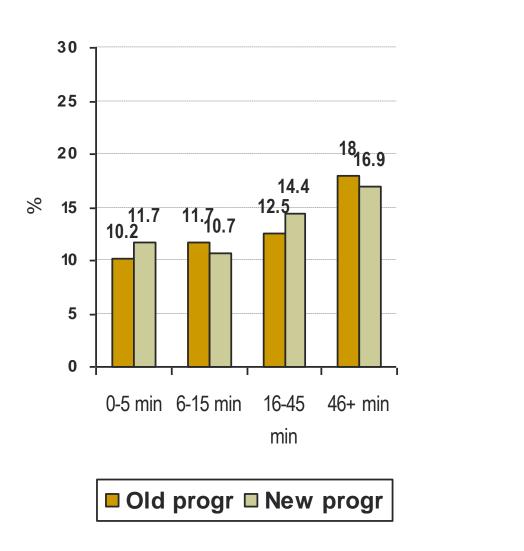
0-5 min P=0.36

6-15 min P=0.19

16-45 min P=0.44

46+ min p=0.45

Abstinence rates at **4 months** in smokers, by dependence level (minutes to 1st cigarette)



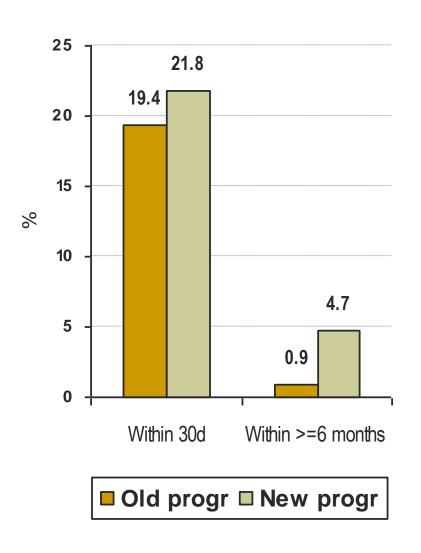
0-5 min P=0.51

6-15 min P=0.66

16-45 min P=0.43

46+ min p=0.73

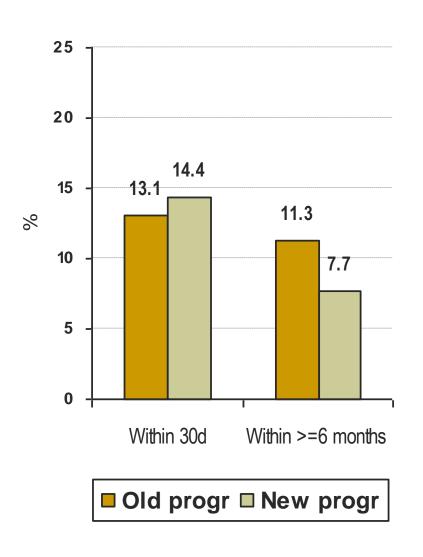
Abstinence rates at 48 hours in smokers, by motivation to quit



In 30 days P=0.12

In >=6 months OR=5.2 P=0.019

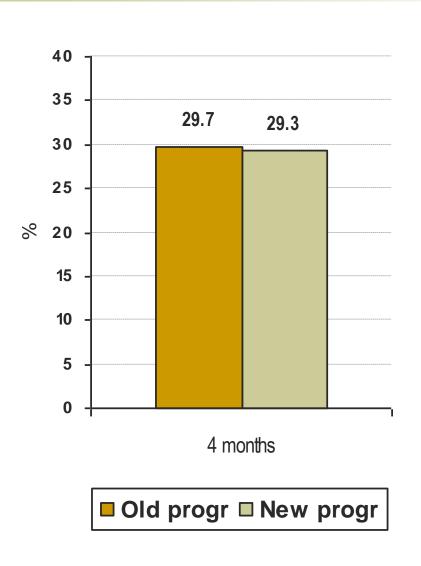
Abstinence rates at 4 months in smokers, by motivation to quit



In 30 days P=0.32

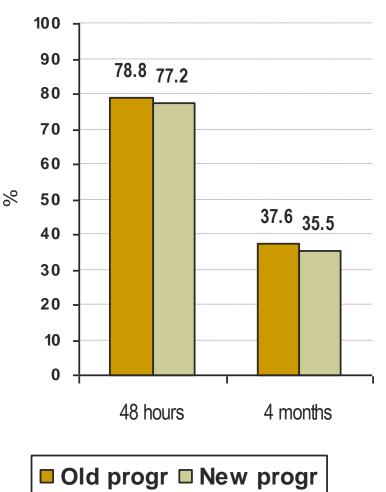
In >=6 months P=0.19

Abstinence rates at 4 months, in smokers who were abstinent at 48 hours (relapse) (n=610)



p = 0.91

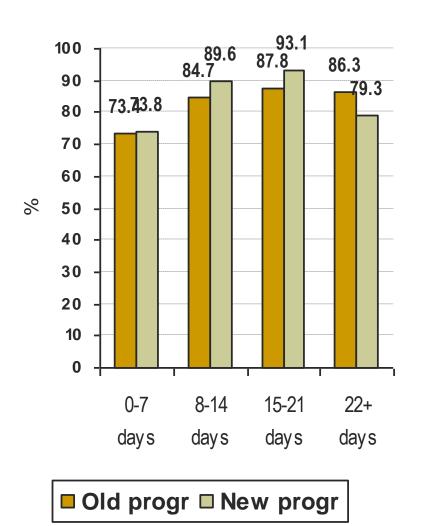
Abstinence rates in former smokers



48 hours: p=0.51

4 months: p=0.45

Relapse rates at **48 hours**, by duration of abstinence, in ex-smokers



0-7 days

P=0.92

8-14 days

P=0.37

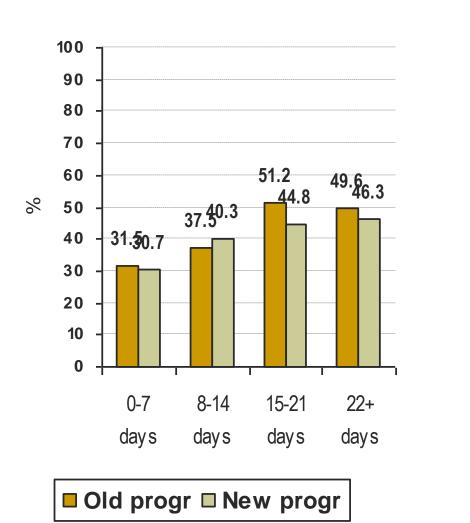
15-21 days

P=0.47

22+ days

P=0.13

Relapse rates at **4 months**, by duration of abstinence, in ex-smokers



0-7 days

P=0.81

8-14 days

P=0.73

15-21 days

P=0.60

22+ days

P=0.59

Conclusions

- In daily smokers, the new, enhanced program increased
 24-h quit attempts just (48 h.) after enrollment.
 This effect was largest in men and in those aged >45 years
- In men smokers, the new program enhanced quit rates:
 - at 48 hours and
 - at 4 months
- At 48-h, the new program increased quit attempts in those who were the least motivated to quit
- In former smokers, both programs had the same effect

Interpretation

- New program more effective in men >45 years: reflects the age+sex of the authors of the program?
- This program increases quit attempts in those least motivated to quit, as in our previous study (Arch Intern Med 2001)
- Both groups received an active intervention and had access to the other features of the website
- Quit rates were high in both groups : ceiling effect ? (19% after 48 hours, 13% after 4 months)
- Low response rate at 4 months, no biochemical verification