

Call of Abstracts - "International conference on the E-Cigarette: patterns of use and health impacts"



Call of abstracts

"International conference on the E-Cigarette: patterns of use and health impacts" - Paris, on 5-6th December 2022

Submission form

Poster & oral presentation

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Background information

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Abstract title

Reducing attractiveness of e-liquids: proposal for a restrictive list of tobacco-related flavorings

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Abstract details (poster & oral)

Background, method, results and conclusions

Background. Electronic cigarettes are addictive and harmful, and flavor is a key factor determining their abuse liability. As both adult smokers and young non-smokers like sweet and fruity flavors in particular, e-cigarette use can be discouraged by banning such flavors. In June 2020, the Dutch Government decided to only allow tobacco flavors in e-liquids, to protect young people against the harmful effects of e-cigarettes whilst maintaining e-cigarettes as a tool for smoking cessation. We propose a restrictive list of allowed flavorings that will only enable the production of e-liquids with a non-sweet tobacco flavor.

Method. We used e-liquid data notified via the European Common Entry Gate system before the ban was announced. First, we classified all e-liquids into flavor categories, and continued with flavorings present in the set of tobacco e-liquids. Selection criteria related to frequency of addition, chemical composition, flavor description and health hazard were defined to compile a restrictive list of tobacco flavorings.

Results. E-liquids marketed as having a tobacco flavor contained a total of 503 different flavorings, some with tobacco flavor, but also other flavors. We excluded 1) 330 flavorings used in < 0.5% of e-liquids, 2) 77 flavorings used less frequently in tobacco than in all e-liquids, 3) 13 plant extracts, 4) 60 sweet or not associated with tobacco flavorings and 5) 7 flavorings with hazardous properties. This resulted in a final list of 16 flavorings.

Conclusions. Implementing this restrictive list in legislation will likely discourage e-cigarette use among youth, but also make e-cigarettes less attractive as smoking cessation aid. Regulators should also consider that users may add non-tobacco flavorings not marketed for use in e-liquids as alternative.

Main messages

Main messages. The Dutch government decided to ban all e-liquid flavors other than tobacco, by only allowing flavoring additives that impart a tobacco flavor. We compiled a restrictive list of 16 flavorings that meet this requirement.

Type of study / research

Original study

Geography of the study

Europe

Funding of study

Federal source

Yes

State source

No

Nonprofit Grant Funding Entity Source

No

Nonprofit Grant Funding Entity Source

No

Academic Institution Source

No

Pharmaceutical Industry Source

No

Tobacco/E-Cigarette Industry Source

No

Declaration of interest

The submitter declares that during the past 5 years have a direct nor indirect link (professional*, personal or financial) with the tobacco and e-cigarette companies**

No