

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

Type of submission

Oral

Theme of conference

Health impact

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Abstract title

The role of novel nicotine-containing products on SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 progression

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Abstract details (poster & oral)

Background, method, results and conclusions

BACKGROUND: Because of the alleged protective effect of nicotine on SARS-CoV-2 infection driven by the relatively low smoking prevalence among COVID-19 patients, some researchers, whose conflicts of interest with the tobacco industry could not be ruled out, revised the literature speculating that e-cigarettes containing nicotine could lower the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 progression. **METHOD:** We are conducting a systematic literature review on all the studies providing data on the link between e-cigarette use and heated tobacco product (HTP) use, and COVID-19 incidence, severity and mortality, using an innovative search strategy involving an umbrella review and a traditional review in the main scientific databases (i.e., PubMed/MEDLINE and Web of Science). **RESULTS:** Preliminary findings showed at least six cross-sectional studies on the role of e-cigarettes on COVID-19 incidence: none of them provided an inverse relationship, three a null, and three a statistically significant direct relationship between e-cigarette use or intensity and SARS-CoV-2 infection. At least two studies showed that e-cigarette users had more frequent and persistent COVID-19 symptoms. A recent large cohort study did not find any relationship between e-cigarette use and COVID-19 incidence, hospitalization, and mortality. To our knowledge only one cross-sectional study investigated the association between heated tobacco product (HTP) use and COVID-19. It was based on 499 Italian adults who obtained a valid SARS-CoV-2 antibody test: a higher SARS-CoV-2 prevalence was observed among HTP users (14.6%) compared to non-users (10.5%), although the relationship did not reach statistical significance. **CONCLUSIONS:** No study reported a protective role of e-cigarettes or HTP on COVID-19 incidence and severity. Several studies, on the contrary, showed an increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection for e-cigarette users.

Main messages

The limited but growing evidence on the role of e-cigarettes on COVID-19 incidence, shows that, if any, e-cigarette use is associated with an increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection when compared to non-use.

Type of study / research

Systematic review

Geography of the study

International (including Europe)

Funding of study

Federal source

No

State source

No

Nonprofit Grant Funding Entity Source

Yes

Nonprofit Grant Funding Entity Source

Yes

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