

Analyzing the Impact of Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping on Cardiovascular Health

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DESCRIPTION

In recent years, electronic cigarettes, commonly known as e-cigarettes or vapes, have gained significant popularity as an alternative to traditional tobacco smoking. Proponents of vaping argue that it offers a less harmful way to satisfy nicotine cravings, with some even suggesting that it can aid in smoking cessation. However, concerns have arisen regarding the potential impact of e-cigarettes on cardiovascular health.

Vaping involves inhaling a vapor created by heating a liquid known as e-juice or vape juice in an electronic device. E-juice typically contains nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals. The process of vaping is often perceived as less harmful than smoking traditional cigarettes because it doesn't involve the combustion of tobacco, which is a major source of harmful toxins in tobacco smoke.

Nicotine and cardiovascular health

Nicotine is the primary addictive component of both traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes. It is known to have various effects on the cardiovascular system. When nicotine is inhaled or absorbed, it can lead to a range of physiological responses, including increased heart rate and blood pressure. These effects are short-term and are often cited as reasons for concern when it comes to vaping and cardiovascular health.

Short-term effects on cardiovascular health: Several studies have demonstrated that vaping can lead to immediate changes in cardiovascular parameters. A study published in *JAMA Cardiology* in 2019 found that a single session of vaping with a nicotine-containing e-cigarette led to increased heart rate and blood pressure in healthy young adults. These acute effects, although temporary, can be problematic for individuals with pre-existing cardiovascular conditions.

Long-term impact on cardiovascular health: While short-term effects on cardiovascular health are concerning, the long-term impact of vaping is an area of ongoing research and debate. The relatively recent emergence of e-cigarettes means that there is limited long-term data available. Nevertheless, there are some

potential mechanisms through which vaping may harm cardiovascular health over time.

Inflammation and oxidative stress: The inhalation of chemicals present in e-cigarette vapor, such as formaldehyde and acrolein, may lead to inflammation and oxidative stress in the cardiovascular system. Chronic inflammation and oxidative stress are known risk factors for the development of atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular diseases.

Alteration of lipid profiles: E-cigarettes can also influence lipid profiles in users, potentially leading to unfavorable changes in cholesterol levels. A study published in the journal *Atherosclerosis* in 2018 found that e-cigarette use was associated with alterations in lipid metabolism, including increased levels of total cholesterol, Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, and triglycerides. These changes could increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases over time.

Interaction with conventional smoking: Another important consideration is the relationship between e-cigarette use and traditional cigarette smoking. Many e-cigarette users are current or former smokers. This dual use of both traditional and electronic cigarettes may compound the risks to cardiovascular health, as the harmful effects of smoking are well-established.

Cardiovascular disease and smoking cessation: One of the arguments in favor of e-cigarettes is their potential role in smoking cessation. Some individuals have successfully quit smoking by switching to vaping. However, the long-term impact of this transition on cardiovascular health is still unclear. While e-cigarettes may be a less harmful alternative for heavy smokers, they may not be without risk, especially for non-smokers and young adults who take up vaping.

Regulation and the need for further research: The regulation of e-cigarettes and vaping products remains a contentious issue in many countries. Health authorities are working to establish more strong regulations to protect public health, particularly among young people. To make informed decisions, further research on the cardiovascular effects of vaping is essential.

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CONCLUSION

Electronic cigarettes and vaping have gained popularity as a potentially less harmful alternative to traditional smoking. While vaping may have fewer harmful components than traditional cigarettes, it is not without risk, especially when it comes to cardiovascular health. The short-term effects of vaping on the cardiovascular system, such as increased heart rate and blood pressure, are well-documented. Long-term effects, including potential harm to endothelial function, inflammation, oxidative stress, and unfavorable changes in lipid profiles, are subjects of ongoing research.

Vaping should not be considered a risk-free alternative, especially for non-smokers and young adults. Furthermore, the potential for dual use of e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes complicates the picture and may increase the overall risk to cardiovascular health. More research is needed to fully understand the long-term consequences of vaping and its role in smoking cessation. In the meantime, it is essential for individuals to make informed choices and for regulatory authorities to implement measures to safeguard public health. Ultimately, the impact of electronic cigarettes and vaping on cardiovascular health remains a complex and evolving topic that requires further investigation.