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Relationship of smoking with COVID-19 and its adverse effects

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Abstract

There is a direct relationship between COVID-19 and smoking. This relationship has detrimental consequences for smoking and COVID-19 on body physiology. Smoking causes disc herniation, lungs diseases, heart illness, lipid profile changes, muscle protein synthesis declines, head, neck, and gastric cancers, cerebral inflammation, weight loss and obesity. The smoking habit of pregnant women leads to miscarriage, poor foetal growth, and low lipid and protein levels in breast milk. In males, it also reduces semen ejaculation and seminal vesicle volume. The treatment is based on quitting the smoking. Preventive measures such as a healthy diet and regular exercise can help to mitigate the negative consequences of smoking. In addition, smoking has been recognised as a major factor in COVID-19 transmission. Tobacco smokers are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 infection due to poor lung function, cross-infection, and vulnerable hygiene behaviors. People who have smoked in the past are thought to be more susceptible than non-smokers to have more severe COVID-19 illness symptoms. COVID-19 is more common among smokers than nonsmokers. Current smokers are five times more likely to have influenza infection than non-smokers. Smoking has been identified as one of the risk factors linked to infection and death.



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Introduction

Smoking has a long history since the beginning of time. Tobacco and other poisonous substances were smoked in shamanistic ceremonies all over the Americas as early as 5000 BC [1]. Cigars and pipes were the most common use of tobacco. In the nineteenth century, cigarettes were first brought to the United States. The smoking of cigarettes is known by the time of Civil War [2].

The smoking alters the physiology of the body in the form of musculoskeletal disorder, arterial stiffness, cerebral aneurysm, lungs disease and cancer, cardiac diseases, change in lipid profile, the effect on the serum lipid and lipoprotein concentration, hypertension, depressing muscle protein synthesis, influenza and influenza like disease and inflammation of digestive track.

Musculoskeletal dysfunction was discovered in a Norwegian household survey and cough was observed as the major cause of disc herniation in smokers. Excessive smoking leads to increase the lipid profile through lowering high-density lipoprotein (HDL) levels. The amount of HDL in blood is inversely proportional to the level of smoke [3]. Smoking leads to weight loss and low Body Mass Index (BMI). The presence of nicotine increases the metabolic activity and decreases the appetite [4].

Smoking has a direct effect on the metabolism of muscle protein production. The muscle mass can deteriorate as get older and known as sarcopenia [5]. It can also lead to gut inflammation, which can develop to diseases like Bowls disease or gastric cancer [6] and alters the microbiota of the intestine [7]. Adhesion molecules, cytokines, and reactive oxygen species contribute to cerebral aneurysm inflammation [8].

Preterm delivery, poor foetal growth, and low levels of fat and protein in breast milk are all caused by maternal smoking [9]. Smoking also reduces the number of follicles in the ovary. Oxidative stress and enhanced cellular apoptosis are two symptoms of ovarian injury. There is a link between cigarette smoke and hair follicle loss. It affects the morphology and maturation of oocytes, resulting in aberrant follicle growth. Smoking has multigenerational influence on progeny ovarian function [10].

The COVID-19 virus has a similar effect on lungs as other respiratory illnesses. Serious patients of COVID-19 develop severe respiratory distress. Smoking can raise the risk of COVID-19, even

induce exposure. COVID-19 enters the lungs through the nasal or oral routes, where it binds to cells and attaches to their surface structure through proteins. The lungs tissues are unable to digest oxygen effectively while sick [11].

Excessive oxygen in lungs broke down the tissues and the body become poisonous. This refers to the ability of blood to deliver oxygen to the lungs and other organs throughout the body. It causes organ failure or multi-organ failure. The repeated contact from hand-to-mouth during smoking increases the chance of viral infection and cigarette is considered as the major reason. The toxin in cigarettes results in lung infections. Smoking becomes a chain reaction across the body during a viral infection including COVID-19 that might decrease the capacity to fight respiratory sickness [12].

Musculoskeletal Disorganization

Smoking is linked to musculoskeletal disorders. Coughing may cause disc herniation due to smoking. It causes fatigue, tension, and headaches on regular basis. Smoking causes an autoimmune condition in which the immune system misidentifies, and targets own bodily tissues, causing inflammation in and around the joints. It also causes rheumatoid arthritis, in addition to inflammatory arthropathies. Musculoskeletal aches are aches of back, neck, upper and lower limbs.

Toxins in cigarette smoke are detrimental to the body in several ways. Nicotine, a psychostimulant that affects cortical and autonomic arousal, is one of them. Tobacco usage results in vasoconstriction, hypoxia, and fibrinolysis problems. Excessive smoking harmed personality traits such as neuroticism, extroversion, dependence, and a proclivity for somatization [13].

Inflammatory responses of lungs

Tobacco smoking promotes inflammatory reactions in the lungs due to respiratory contaminants and cause chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Systematic inflammation, dietary irregularities and weight loss, skeletal muscle disinfection, and other possible systematic consequences are included in systematic impacts. Shortness of breath and coughing are also included in sputum production. The increased numbers of neutrophils, macrophages, and T-lymphocytes produce systemic inflammation. Smoking alters the

calorie intake, basal metabolic rate, intermediary metabolism, and body composition, resulting in weight loss and skeletal muscle mass loss. Dual-energy X-ray absorption or bioelectrical impedance measurements are used for identification. Skeletal muscle is made up of a net loss of muscle mass, intrinsic muscular phenomena, and residual muscle dysfunction [14].

Serum HDL level

Serum HDL level decreases with the increase in the number of smoked cigarettes. Smoking is directly linked with LDL and its levels in the blood. In comparison to cigarette smoke, bidi smoke contains three times the quantity of nicotine and carbon monoxide, as well as five times the amount of tar. These risk profiles might aid in the development of cardiovascular prevention measures for teenagers [15].

Pathophysiology and clinical implications

Pathophysiology and clinical effects have are associated with smoking [16]. frequent smoking caused Analgesia and nausea. It also harms other systems, causing osteoporosis, lumbar disc disease, and slowed bone recovery, to name a few. In both smokers and non-smokers, nicotine in nasal sprays and transdermal patches lowers pain sensitivity [17].

Hypertension

Smoking is the cause of hypertension. It causes arterial stiffness by activating the sympathetic nervous system. Arterial stiffness has significant impact on blood pressure. It causes atherosclerosis by causing malignant hypertension and renovascular hypertension. Variables that contribute to the atherothrombotic process include cardiovascular diseases, endothelial dysfunction, inflammation, lipid alteration, and changes in antithrombotic and prothrombotic factors [18].

Depressing muscle protein metabolism

Smoking can affect the physical function of the body and slows down muscle protein synthesis. It also raises the risk of sarcopenia (muscle wasting associated with advanced age) [19, 20]. It also slows down muscle renewal metabolism by inhibiting the

muscle protein synthesis [21, 22]. Tobacco use can affect the physical function and musculoskeletal system. Tobacco smoking is linked to lower bone mineral density leads to osteoporotic fractures [23, 24]. Sarcopenia leads to the direct effects of smoking. Chronic smokers have lower blood flow in their skeletal muscles. The decrease of muscular mass or fat-free mass may be linked to cigarette smoking [19]. A single mechanism may be responsible for the suppression of muscle protein synthesis in smokers [25].

Inflammation of the digestive tract

Smoking causes inflammation to the digestive tract, small and large intestine, by altering the function and interaction of the intestinal epithelium, immune system, and microbiota [26]. Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are also linked to smoking [27-29]. Crohn's disease is more common as people get older. Ex-smokers and active smokers experience more relapses, have more severe pain, require more hospitalisation, have a worse response to treatment, and are more likely to require surgery [30-32]. Second-hand smoking is especially harmful to the health since it causes major cardiovascular and respiratory illness such as coronary artery disease and lung cancer [33]. Low birth weight and untimely deaths have an impact to pregnancy [34, 35].

The effect on the body physiology (The Breast Milk)

Smoking has a variety of physiological effects on the body. The milk of smoker mothers had reduced fats and protein however the density remained the same [36]. Smoking has a negative impact on breast alveolar cells, lowering the lipid and protein ratio as well as the lactation time [1]. In comparison to non-smokers, the newborns of smokers are ill and underweight [37].

Atherosclerosis

Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) causes higher oxidative stress, arterial stiffness, inflammation, the plaque, heart rate variability, atherosclerosis, and poor blood flow in the cardiovascular system than active smokers [38]. Second-hand smoking stimulates blood platelets, causing thrombus formation, which destroys the artery lining to atherosclerosis. Smokers had more platelet activation than non-smokers.

Teenagers are more harmed by passive smoking and have greater fibrinogen levels [39]. Cigarette smoke induces the endothelium to release nitric oxide, which promotes vasodilation. Epinephrine stimulates the endothelium to secrete endothelin, which produces vasoconstriction. Endothelial injury causes the vessel dilatation to decrease and vascular contraction to rise [40].

The aortic stiffness in passive smokers and active smokers are similar [41]. Second-hand smoking is the leading cause of free radical emission, which results in oxidative stress and antioxidant depletion [42].

Microbiota in the intestine

Cigarette smoking had a direct or indirect effect on the gut microbiota. Smoking cessation changes the microbiota of the intestine by increasing the Phylum Firmicutes and Actinobacteria while decreasing the Bacteroidetes and Proteobacteria. The characteristics of observed microbial alterations affect the variations in body weight. It can also cause inflammatory Bowls disease (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis) [7].

Ovarian folliculogenesis

The effects of cigarette smoke on ovarian folliculogenesis are unfavourable. Increased oxidative stress, autophagy, DNA damage, and abnormalities in oocyte and granulosa cells are the symptoms of ovarian damage. It also affects the shape and maturation of oocytes. The number of follicles in the ovary is reduced. Cigarette smoking affects the main follicle pool in the offspring to be depleted during nursing. Toxicants in cigarettes, including nicotine, cotinine, and cadmium, have damage the ovarian follicle. The maternal smoking has an impact on the ovary [10].

Gut leakage

The gut microbiota and the host have a symbiotic and reciprocal interaction. However, with the passage of time, age, drug usage, food, alcohol, and smoking, it changes. Alcohol and smoking alter the stomach lining, resulting in H Pylori-related illnesses such as gastric cancer. Alcohol depletes microorganisms with anti-inflammatory activity in small intestine and colon, causing damage to the intestine known as leaky gut. Inflammatory smoking causes Bowls illness. Alcohol and smoking have a cause-and-effect

connection that affects the micro biome of the gastrointestinal tract [43].

Cerebral aneurysm

Smoking causes the inflammatory reactions by causing chemicals, cytokines, reactive oxygen species (ROS), leukocytes, and vascular smooth muscle cells to stick together. A brain aneurysm can grow, progress, and rupture due to smoking [44]. The key determinant in the pathophysiology of cerebral aneurysms is vascular information. It establishes a relationship between cigarette smoking and aneurysm formation and rupture [44, 45].

The cigarette smoke carries a variety of toxins to bloodstream and cause inflammation. In the arteries, atherosclerotic lesions arise [46]. Endothelium changes morphological features through enhancing the procoagulant and vasoconstrictive properties, leukocyte adherence, and cytokine and growth factor production [47]. Cigarette smoke inactivates the nitric oxide output by increasing the production of ROS [48].

Cigarette smoke raises the volume and viscosity of blood vessel. An increase in shear stress causes endothelial dysfunction. Cigarette smoke affects vascular smooth muscle cells, lowering the amount of ROS and causing inflammation. A shift in atherosclerosis, a reduction in collagen production, and the creation of apoptosis in a cerebral conduit generates aneurysm, which is burst by cell death and thrombus formation [44].

Weight loss

Nicotine affects weight loss and obesity in smokers by increasing the energy expenditure and decreasing appetite [4]. In comparison to non-smokers, smokers have a lower BMI or body weight [49]. In smokers, it raises metabolic rate, lowers metabolic efficiency, and decreases the appetite. Female smoking is quite common in the United States. They were overweight and want to lose the weight [50]. The same reason guys have for smoking [51].

It has been demonstrated that the more cigarettes smoked, the lower the body weight. Heavy smokers may be at risk of obesity, according to cross-sectional research [52]. There is an increase in visceral fat and insulin resistance as a result of smoking lead to metabolic syndrome and type-2 diabetes [53]. Smokers have a larger waist-to-hip ratio than non-smokers [54].

Neonatal physiology

Maternal smoking has an impact on the physiology of babies. Smoking mothers have less stress reactivity [55]. It causes the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis to become dysregulated, resulting in obesity, diabetes, and reprogramming of the newborn modified blood pressure control system [56, 57]. Neonates have a limited ability to respond to life. Nicotine raises cortisol levels in the foetus [55].

Maternal smoking

Mother cigarette smoke while baby is still in the womb leads to develop chronic illnesses, cancer, and have poor cognitive function for the new-born. By causing mutations in nuclear and mitochondrial DNA, smoking has a direct influence. Smoking depletes the vitality through affecting the lungs. To compensate for energy and respiratory chain shortages, smoking alters the mitochondrial DNA by causing a change in the amount of copies [58]. During pregnancy, cigarette smoke has been linked to a childhood disease, chronic disease [59, 60], preterm delivery [61], asthma and infertility [62]. Preconception, in utero, and perinatal are the three sensitive phases during which a foetus might be harmed by changes in the environment [58].

Respiration

Cigarette smoking has become quite popular all around the world. However, it has a negative impact on pulmonary breathing. Second-hand smoking and direct exposure affect the adolescent reparative health, including asthma and lung illness [63]. Nicotine passes the placental membrane, affecting embryonic lung development by disrupting glucose metabolism, decreasing fibroblast growth, and changing cell signalling. In growing lungs, it reduces apoptosis. All of them are asthma and lung infection risk factors [64, 65].

COVID-19

In December 2019, a pneumonia pandemic of unknown origin was discovered in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Pneumonia cases were linked to the Huanan Seafood Open Market, according to epidemiologic studies. After inoculating respiratory components into human airway epithelial cells, a novel respiratory virus was discovered. The seventh human corona virus discovered in China. Severe

Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was identified after a genomic investigation. Genetic research refutes the theory that SARS-CoV-2 is derived from the virus prior backbone [66]. COVID-19 binds to the angiotensin converting enzyme-2 (ACE2) receptor with high affinity. These receptors are found all across the body, causing organ damage. ACE2 receptors were found throughout the body and impair the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, renal, hepatic, central nervous system, and ocular systems. [67]. The virus can spread through their lips or nose in little liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, talk, or breathe from an infected person. The number of lymphocytes and eosinophils in COVID-19 patients normally decreases.

A 14-days quarantine and ongoing monitoring by the local public health authorities are the main treatments [68]. Members of the household should reside in a separate room or compartment and keep at least 1 metre away from the quarantined individual [69].

Association of Smoking with COVID-19

Behavior of Smokers

The biological consequences and behaviors of smoking appear to increase the risk of COVID-19. Smoking damages the alveolar cells in the lungs, impairing lung function. It also impairs the pulmonary function [70]. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned the public that smoking can raise the risk of COVID-19. Smokers' behavior includes touching their lips with their fingers and removing their protective face masks to smoke [71].

Despite the lack of statistical significance in smoking, alcohol consumption, BQ chewing, and COVID-19 patient severity, more studies have confirmed that these behaviors are harmful and risk factors for underlying diseases in population. Health Officials should develop regulations to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking, drinking, and chewing betel nut. They must encourage a healthy lifestyle [72].

Smoking and COVID-19

Tobacco smokers are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 infection due to poor lung function, cross-infection, and vulnerable hygiene behaviors. COVID-19 causes severe lung pneumonia and is spread by salivary droplets [73].

People who have smoked in the past are thought to be more susceptible than non-smokers to have more severe COVID-19 illness symptoms. COVID-19 is more common among smokers than nonsmokers [74]. Current smokers are five times more likely to have influenza infection than non-smokers, according to a major meta-analysis of nine studies (n = 40,685) [75]. Smoking has been identified as one of the risk factors linked to infection and death from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) [70, 76].

Entrance of the virus is blocked

Nicotine in cigarettes, according to some specialists, may protect the body from infection by the corona virus. Nicotine is known to interact with the Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor. Nicotine, on the other hand, may attach to the same receptor as the corona virus, according to the study. When a new corona virus approaches the same receptor, nicotine stops the corona virus from entering the cell by blocking the entry. [77].

Cytokine Storms

Studies are also being conducted to see if nicotine can prevent cytokine storms from forming in the body. The immune system overreacts, resulting in a cytokine storm. The majority of deaths caused by the corona virus are due to cytokine storage. It is a bodily process that happens when the immune system overreacts, resulting in organ failure. This experiment could be a game changer in the fight against COVID-19 if it proves to be successful.

Nicotine Patches

More experiments with two sets of health care personnel interacting with COVID-19 patients are being done to test this idea. Nicotine patches were administered to one group and fake patches to the other. The nicotine patch employees will next be evaluated to see if they are more resistant to the coronavirus than the Dummy patches. The patches have also been tested on patients in hospitals to determine whether they might aid with symptom relief [78].

Angiotensin Converting Enzyme-2 Receptors

People who smoke have a 25% increase in the number of ACE2 receptors. The increased expression

of ACE2 receptors in smokers might increase the number of new coronal viral entry sites. The nicotinic acetylcholine receptor is binds at the binding positions of nicotine. Nicotine and smoking can affect ACE2 expression in the lungs and other important organs of the body, suggesting that smoking may enhance COVID-19 cellular entrance *via* nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR) signaling. In the lungs, kidneys, heart, brain, and other organs, nAChRs are located in cells that express ACE2 [79-81]. As a result, smoking has the potential to alter the etiology and prognosis of COVID-19 in a variety of organs. ACE2 expression is dramatically raised in 24 hours after SARS-CoV infection and stays high after 48 hours [82]. This suggests that ACE2 is involved in more than just viral susceptibility. Increased inflammatory responses were connected to elevated ACE2 expression, which might be associated with the signs of a cytokine storm [83].

Experts advise individuals not to smoke because of the dangers it poses to their health. Smoking has a harmful impact on the lungs, if a smoker becomes infected, he will have more severe symptoms. The corona virus can potentially be transmitted through the lungs. The upper respiratory airways are involved in mild symptoms, however the lower respiratory tract is involved in the more severe phases of illness [84, 85].

Hospitalized Patient

The patients neglect to notify hospital personnel of their smoking history or getting accurate medical histories under emergency settings is difficult. Hospital admissions staff may routinely underestimate the number of smokers among COVID-19 patients [86].

Smoking cessation is expected to minimize the chance of COVID-19. As a result, doctors should counsel their patients to quit smoking right away [87].

World Health Organization

However, the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) claims that smokers have a greater chance of getting severe COVID-19 and dying from COVID-19. There is insufficient evidence to support any relationship between cigarette, nicotine, or alcohol usage and COVID-19 prevention or treatment. Smoker hand-to-mouth conduct and smoke-induced

lung illnesses may enhance their sensitivity to COVID-19 [88].

Conclusion

The use of tobacco has been linked to respiratory and cardiovascular problems. It also causes atherosclerosis, subarachnoid haemorrhage, and cerebral haemorrhage. Smoking has been found to have negative consequences on the physiology of the body. The lungs are affected in both instances; smoking has also been identified as a major contributor in COVID-19 transmission. According to the World Health Organization repeated hand-to-mouth contact with cigarettes can raise the risk of contracting the virus. Tobacco smokers are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 infection due to poor lung function, cross-infection, and vulnerable hygiene behaviors. COVID-19 causes severe lung pneumonia and is spread by salivary droplets. People who have smoked in the past are thought to be more susceptible than non-smokers to have more severe COVID-19 illness symptoms. COVID-19 is more common among smokers than nonsmokers.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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