

Review of "Smoking, vaping and hospitalization for COVID-19"

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This article raises a potentially important issue but there are a lot of factors that need to be considered when interpreting the results so it has to be considered as a hypothesis generating exercise. There are some other studies appearing that are relevant. A meta-analysis has concluded that active smoking is not associated with severity of disease [1] but the authors made the elementary statistical error of conflating lack of a statistically significant association with no association and the odds ratio was positive at 1.69. One study has found a significant positive association with occurrence of pneumonia among people infected with COVID-19 adjusting for a range of potentially confounding factors [2]. One thing that this article does is to remind us not to jump to conclusions about specific harmful effects of smoking and always to be willing to challenge preconceptions. In the meantime, it is worth remembering that smoking kills around 19,000 people *per day* globally and irrespective of any interaction with COVID-19, stopping smoking must be an urgent priority.

References

1. [^] Giuseppe Lippi, Brandon Michael Henry. (2020). *Active smoking is not associated with severity of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)*. *European Journal of Internal Medicine*. doi:10.1016/j.ejim.2020.03.014.
2. [^] Wei Liu, Zhao-Wu Tao, Wang Lei, Yuan Ming-Li, Liu Kui, Zhou Ling. (2020). *Analysis of factors associated with disease outcomes in hospitalized patients with 2019 novel coronavirus disease*. *Chinese Medical Journal*. doi:10.1097/cm9.0000000000000775.