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| **Third-hand E-Cigarette Vapour Exposure Causes Pulmonary Effects in Mice** |
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| **Introduction/Aim:** In the past decade, there have been an estimated 82 million e-cigarette users worldwide, representing a tremendous increase in e-cigarette popularity. Particularly in young children, third-hand exposure to e-cigarettes occurs as a result of chemical residues left behind on clothing and surfaces by e-cigarette aerosol. Due of their invisibility, very little is known about the health effects of long-term exposure to third-hand e-cigarette smoke, which was the purpose of this investigation.**Methods:** Male BALB/c mice (4 weeks of age) were housed with a towel exposed to nicotine free (0mg/mL) or containing (18 mg/mL) e-vapours that were replaced daily for 4 weeks. At the endpoint, mice were subject to lung function testing. Lungs were collected for analysis.**Results:** Central and transpulmonary resistance, tissue damping, and tissue elastance was reduced (p<0.05,p<0.01, 18mg vs SHAM). There was an increase in large airway epithelial thickness (p<0.05, 18mg vs 0mg) and epithelial layers in both large (p<0.05, 18mg vs 0mg) and small airways (p<0.01, 18mg vs 0mg & SHAM) by third-hand nicotine-containing e-cigarette exposure. Alveolar disruption was increased by both nicotine-free e-cigarette (p<0.001, 0mg vs SHAM) and nicotine-containing e-cigarette (p<0.0001, 18mg vs SHAM). Collagen was increased in the small airway by nicotine-containing third-hand e-cigarette (p<0.05, 18mg vs SHAM). Fibronectin was decreased in nicotine containing e-cigarette exposure (p<0.05, 18mg vs SHAM).An increased trend of smooth muscle thickness was observed in third hand containing e-cigarette exposure. Mucus cells showed an increased trend in nicotine free e-cigarette. **Conclusion:** The lung health of young mice can be severely affected by third-hand exposure to e-cigarettes, particularly nicotine-containing e-cigarettes. Greater public knowledge of the dangers of third-hand exposure to e-cigarettes is required to decrease these adverse health effects.**Grant Support:** Project was supported by NHMRC project grant (APP1158186) |