

¿VAPEAR ES SEGURO



¿CÓMO LO HICIMOS?

Se realizó una revisión sistemática de los artículos científicos registrados en la base especializada PUBMED que tuvieron como tema principal el vapeo y fueron publicados entre enero de 2017 y diciembre de 2019, periodo posterior inmediato al cubierto por el reporte de consenso *Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarette* de las academias nacionales de Ciencias, Ingeniería y Medicina de Estados Unidos. Los artículos se clasificaron de acuerdo con su calidad, tipo de estudio, solidez metodológica, muestra analítica y reporte de conflicto de interés. De un total de 700 artículos revisados, 69 trataron el tema de contenido tóxico en los dispositivos de vapeo. 16 se clasificaron como de buena calidad, 46 de calidad regular y siete de mala calidad. Ocho artículos de buena calidad se enfocaron en la regulación del vapeo.

¿QUÉ ENCONTRAMOS?

A pesar de que el contenido de componentes tóxicos en el aerosol del vapeo es potencialmente menor que el contenido en el humo de los cigarros combustibles, no existe un método seguro de consumo de nicotina. Durante el proceso aerolización de líquidos en vapeadores se liberan sustancias dañinas para el organismo, su impacto depende de factores relacionados con su temperatura, formulación, saborizante y contenido de nicotina en el líquido, además del dispositivo de vapeo usado y su voltaje; también influyen factores relacionados con el consumidor como la frecuencia de consumo y patrones de inhalación. Esto ha dificultado el estudio de las emisiones de los dispositivos de vapeo y su impacto en la salud y el ambiente.¹⁻⁴

Se han realizado estudios que muestran la existencia de riesgo a la salud por el consumo de estos productos. Un análisis realizado en 42 líquidos de vapeo de 14 marcas diferentes reveló que ninguno de estuvo libre de componentes tóxicos como acetona, cadmio, tolueno, entre otros.¹ Además, un ensayo clínico demostró que la producción de componentes tóxicos durante la aerolización del líquido, como el formaldehído, son mayores a los límites de exposición recomendados por el Instituto Nacional de Seguridad y Salud Ocupacional de Estados Unidos (NIOSH, por sus siglas en inglés).²

CONCLUSIÓN

Para regular adecuadamente los dispositivos de vapeo es necesario conocer su potencial de daño, más allá de las comparativas con otros productos de tabaco. Existe evidencia que señala que durante el proceso de aerolización de los líquidos de vapeo se liberan sustancias dañinas para el organismo (metales tóxicos y cancerígenos). La complejidad que implica el análisis de todas las posibles combinaciones entre líquidos y dispositivos de vapeo, ha derivado en desconocimiento de la totalidad de tóxicos que pudieran ser liberados al momento del vapeo y su efecto en la salud de los consumidores y de las personas alrededor. Es necesario realizar más estudios que nos permitan conocer el impacto de estos dispositivos en la salud.

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Coordinador del proyecto: MMNI Inti Barrientos Gutierrez (inti.barrientos@insp.mx)



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de Salud Pública

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