WHERE THERE’S SMOKE, THERE’S FIRE!

ORAL HEALTH CONCERNS AND EVALI (E-CIGARETTE AND VAPE ASSOCIATED LUNG INJURY)

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Electronic nicotine delivery systems, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), or vapes are a relatively new product category, which first emerged in 2004. E-cigarettes have been growing in use and are a source of great debate among public health advocates and in the media. Emerging evidence demonstrates that e-cigarettes are less harmful than conventional cigarettes and with the legalization of e-cigarettes containing nicotine, there is improved access to e-cigarettes for current smokers, therefore allowing adults more choice around alternative methods of nicotine intake and/or tobacco cessation. In 2018 the E-cigarette giant, Juul, expanded into Canada, adding a new verb to our Canadian lexicon, “juuling.” Today, with the deregulation of cannabis in Canada and a majority of the United States, many smokers are also reaching for marijuana or THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) to be a part of their smoking regime. Is it true that where there is smoke there is fire?

There have been 1,299 reported cases of people suffering lung injuries after using electronic cigarettes or vaping products in the U.S., along with 26 official deaths. In Canada, as of January 21, 2020, 17 cases of vaping-associated lung illness have been reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada from Alberta (1), British Columbia (3), New Brunswick (2), Newfoundland and Labrador (1), Ontario (4), and Quebec (6). No deaths have been reported. In October of 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gave vaping-related illness an official name: e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injury, aka EVALI.

Given the potential oral health concerns around smoking nicotine, marijuana and now E-cigarettes and vaping, all oral healthcare practitioners need to know the pathophysiology, latest research, symptom recognition and what EVALI treatment currently looks like.

This interactive program looks at some of these most challenging patients, their most common negative sequelae due to drug use and the management of these patients with a particular focus on the dental realm. Case studies will augment the delivery of key points and a problem-based learning approach is encouraged so that each participant’s questions are addressed. Most importantly, you will learn directly applicable strategies to successfully treat these medically-complex patients on Monday morning. After all, our goal is to make sure all dental appointments are not just successful and safe for your patient, but also for you and your staff.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize the challenges and trends linking the deregulation of cannabinoids, new smoking cessation opportunities and e-cigarette use
2. Describe the history of vaping related health concerns and EVALI
3. Explain the role of vitamin E acetate in the EVALI outbreak
4. Summarize CDC treatment recommendations for EVALI
5. Learn to be a better resource on vaping-related trends for your patients

MARK DONALDSON, BSP, RPH, ACRP, PHARMD, FASHP, FACHE received his baccalaureate degree from the University of British Columbia and his Doctorate in Clinical Pharmacy from the University of Washington. He completed a residency at Vancouver General Hospital, and has practiced as a clinical pharmacy specialist, clinical coordinator and director of pharmacy services at many healthcare organizations in both Canada and the United States. He is currently the Associate Principal of Clinical Pharmacy for Vizient’s Advisory Solutions, and lives in Whitefish, Montana.

Dr. Donaldson is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Montana in Missoula, Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Dentistry at the Oregon Health & Sciences University in Portland, Oregon, and affiliate faculty in the School of Dentistry at UBC. He has a special interest in dental pharmacology and has lectured internationally to both dental and medical practitioners. He has spent the last 25 years focusing on dental pharmacology and dental therapeutics, and is a leader in the field.

Dr. Donaldson has published numerous peer-reviewed works and textbook chapters. He currently serves on the Editorial Board for the Journal Healthcare Executive and the Journal of the American Dental Association, and is a reviewer for over ten other different journals. He is board certified in healthcare management and is the Past-President and current Regent of the American College of Healthcare Executives’ Montana Chapter. Dr. Donaldson was named as the 2014 recipient of the Bowl of Hygeia for the state of Montana and is the 2016 recipient of the Dr. Thaddeus V. Weclaw Award. This award is conferred by the Academy of General Dentistry upon an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the medical, dental and pharmacy literature. In 2019, Dr. Donaldson was conferred by the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) in Ottawa with the, “Special Friend of Canadian Dentistry Award.” This award is given to an individual outside of the dental profession in appreciation for exemplary support or service to Canadian dentistry and/or to the profession as a whole.

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