



## **EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

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## **EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

**I. GOAL OF MODULE:** Provide students with knowledge and skills on tobacco issues related to the respiratory system

**II. TARGET AUDIENCE**

- a. Level of Student/Learner: 6<sup>th</sup> Semester
- b. Suggested Course or Subject: *Dept. of General / Respiratory Medicine*

- Describe the burden of smoking among asthma patients.

**III. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. To understand the burden of smoking among TB patients.
2. To understand the association between smoking and TB, and the impact of smoking on TB.
3. To conduct counseling to encourage TB patients to quit smoking.
4. To describe the burden of smoking among COPD patients.
5. To describe the association between smoking and COPD and the impact of smoking on COPD.
6. To understand the importance of cessation counseling for COPD patients.
7. To describe the burden of smoking among asthma patients.
8. To describe the association between smoking and asthma, and the impact of smoking on asthma management and control.
9. To understand the importance of counseling asthma patients or their parents to quit smoking.

**IV. CURRICULUM STANDARDS ADDRESSED:**

The General Medicine department has the broad goal of teaching undergraduate medical students the knowledge, skills and behavioural attributes to function effectively as the first contact physician. It has a total of 180 hours of which 10 hours are for Tuberculosis and respiratory diseases. Time from this slot can be used for this module.

- Students will be able to diagnose common clinical disorders, outline various modes of management, propose and interpret diagnostic and investigative procedures, and provide first level management of acute emergencies.

Skills:

- Students will develop clinical skills to assess various common medical disorders and emergencies, perform simple routine investigations, assist in common bedside investigative procedures, and be able to refer a patient to secondary or tertiary level health care.

## **V. MINI-LECTURES**

### **MINI LECTURE 1: TOBACCO AND TUBERCULOSIS**

#### **CORE SLIDES**

1. Global Burden of TB
2. TB in India
3. Smoking: A Risk Factor for TB
4. Smoking Interferes with TB Treatment and Places Household Members at Risk
5. Secondhand Smoking and TB
6. Smoking and Respiratory Infections: Mechanisms
7. Smoking Cessation: TB Patients
8. DOTS Providers and Smoking Cessation

#### **OPTIONAL SLIDES**

1. Burden of TB in Five Countries
2. Smoking, TB Clinical Manifestation, Conversion, and Relapse
3. Smoking and TB: Immunopathogenesis
4. Iron, Smoking, and TB
5. Cessation Messages: TB Patients
6. WHO, TB, and Tobacco: Key Messages

### **MINI LECTURE 2: TOBACCO AND CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD)**

#### **CORE SLIDES**

1. Global Burden of COPD
2. Smoking: A Risk Factor for COPD
3. Smoking and Respiratory Infection: Mechanisms
4. Secondhand Smoke and COPD
5. Indoor Air Pollution and COPD
6. Smoking Cessation: COPD Patients
7. Cessation Messages: COPD Patients

#### **OPTIONAL SLIDES**

1. COPD Prevalence in India
2. Pathophysiology of COPD
3. Immunological Aspect of COPD
4. Smoking, Chronic Bronchitis, and COPD Mortality

### **MINI LECTURE 3: TOBACCO AND ASTHMA**

#### **CORE SLIDES**

1. Global Burden of Adult Asthma

2. Active Smoking and Asthma
3. Secondhand Smoke and Asthma
4. Smoking and Children with Asthma
5. Smoking, Cessation, and Asthma Treatment
6. Cessation Messages: Asthma Patients
7. Clinical Approach: Smoker Asthma Patient

### **OPTIONAL SLIDES**

1. Global Burden: Childhood Asthma
2. Burden of Asthma in India
3. Smoking and Steroid Resistance
4. Smoking and Health Care Utilization

## **VI. CASE DISCUSSION / CLINICAL SCENARIO AND SKILLS CHECKLIST**

### **Overview**

In this module, students are asked to practice integrated communication with simulated patients under supervision of instructors in order to develop their smoking cessation skills. Students will be trained to routinely ask about patients' smoking status in every anamneses. After obtaining patients' current smoking status, students will then practice how to assess patients' readiness to quit, advise and assist patients to quit smoking, and also arrange follow ups to monitor patients' smoking cessation progress. Therefore, students will also learn how to deliver efficient encouragement and provide proper explanation about the harm of tobacco on health, particularly respiratory systems, and to help patients on their smoking cessation attempts.

### **Introduction**

To control the tobacco epidemic, all parties should work together in a strategic and sustainable way, including health professionals. Simple advice from a physician has been shown to increase abstinence rates significantly (by 30%) compared to no advice. Likewise, nursing-led interventions for smoking cessation increase by 50% the chances of successfully quitting. To be able to give advice, doctors must ask the patients about tobacco use. This should be integrated in assessments of every patient.

### **Learning Objective**

Upon the completion of this skills laboratory practice, students are expected to be able to:

- Routinely ask all the patients about their smoking status
- Assess patients' readiness to quit
- Advise patients with respiratory problems to quit smoking
- Assist the patients to quit
- Arrange follow ups on patients' smoking cessation progress
- Explain the harm of tobacco on respiratory system

## Asking the patients' smoking history

Doctors need patients' information to determine diagnosis and decide treatment, and the patient is obligated to give the information to their doctor. Although a major risk factor for many acute and chronic diseases, smoking status is rarely asked by doctor of their patients.

In a survey done by QTI, 77% of Indonesian doctors did not routinely ask patients about smoking. This situation has made doctors lose the opportunity to advise patients to quit and for patients to receive help from doctor to quit. Research studies show that if doctors have a reminder to ask about smoking, e.g., smoking status is part of the vital signs, doctors are three times more likely to advise patients to quit. (Fiore, et al. 2000)

There are several important factors that should be considered when we are asking the patients' smoking history, i.e. 1) asking the smoking status of all patients (including women and teenagers); 2) if a patient does not smoke, they should be asked if they have ever smoked (because even after quitting, a smoker can start again); 3) questions should be delivered in non-critical manner; 4) evaluate the patients' smoking history (how many cigarettes they smoke daily, do they use any other forms of tobacco); and 5) make a note on the patients' smoking status in the medical record (maybe you can place patients' smoking status in your patient's card).

### Case Scenario:

A fifty-six year-old man presented with severe coughing and shortness of breath. He has been having history of recurrent dyspnea for three years that has become worse in the past three months. His respiratory rate was 34/minute. Wheezing was found on chest examination. Spirometry test showed a peak expiratory flow (PEF) of 50% predictive value and the oximetry test was 84%. He is a heavy smoker who started smoking at 15 years of age. He usually smokes 2 packs of cigarettes per day.

### Vital Signs

Blood Pressure: 130/90

Pulse: 104/min

Body Weight: 74 kgs

Temperature: 97 F

Smoking Status: Smoker Ex-Smokers Never Smoke (Circle one)

Smoking Status of Spouse: Smoker Ex-Smokers Never Smoke (Circle one)

### Checklist for Case Scenario

S.No.	Aspects	Please tick if student has covered this aspect
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	<b>Ask</b>	
1.	• Ask patient whether he/she smokes or not	
2.	• If the patient doesn't smoke, ask whether he/she ever smoked before	
3.	• If the patient smokes, ask how many cigarettes he/she takes per day	
	<b>Assess</b>	
4.	• Assess patient's readiness to quit.	
	<b>Advise</b>	
5.	• Advise patient to quit smoking	
6.	• Personalize advice by using the tobacco user's health status/disease	
	<b>Assist</b>	
7.	• Assist the patients to quit by giving him/her pamphlets, brochures	
	<b>Arrange for Follow-up</b>	
8.	• Arrange to follow up on tobacco use	

**Points for Discussion:**

- Tobacco use is one of the most powerful risk factors for COPD. However, the patient should be made to understand that it is not too late to stop smoking.
- Those with mild disease can slow the progression of the disease by smoking cessation.
- The patient should be made aware of the carbon monoxide inhaled with smoking. Since they are already oxygen deficient, the carbon monoxide makes this worse. The doctor should explain that carbon monoxide interferes with oxygen transport.

## **MODULE: EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

### **FACT SHEET**

The fact sheets are to be used by the tutor to supplement the discussion about the scenario. This fact sheet will address background information on tobacco that could be relevant to the scenario.

#### **Tobacco and Tuberculosis**

1. TB and Tobacco are two massive related health problems in Indonesia.
2. Indonesia is a country with the third largest TB burden in the world after India and China.
3. TB is number one killer among infectious diseases and number three on the list of 10 leading killer diseases in Indonesia (after cardiovascular and acute respiratory disease).
4. In Indonesia, nearly 300 people die of TB every day, and more than 100,000 people die per year.
5. Most TB patients are still in the productive ages (15-55 years).
6. The risk of getting TB is 1.8 times higher for light smokers compared to non-smokers, and 3.7 times higher for heavy smokers compared to non-smokers.
7. The risk of dying from TB is 4.5 times higher for smokers compared to non-smokers.
8. The risk of TB relapse is 3 times higher for those who smoked following short course of TB treatment

#### **Tobacco and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**

1. An estimated 210 million people have COPD worldwide.<sup>1</sup>
2. The primary cause of COPD is tobacco smoke (through tobacco use or second-hand smoke).<sup>1</sup>
3. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was diagnosed in the case of 46.4% of active smokers and 28.0% of passive smokers.<sup>2</sup>
4. More than 3 million people died of COPD in 2005, which is equal to 5% of all deaths globally that year.<sup>1</sup>
5. Almost 90% of COPD deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>1</sup>
6. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 75% of deaths from COPD that occur in developed countries are directly related to smoking tobacco.
7. Total deaths from COPD are projected to increase by more than 30% in the next 10 years unless urgent action is taken to reduce underlying risk factors, especially tobacco use.<sup>1</sup>
8. Higher cumulative lifetime home and work exposure were associated with a greater risk of COPD.<sup>3</sup>
9. Members of families in which there is more than one active smoker more often suffer from COPD, smoke ten cigarettes per 24 hours more, and smoke ten years longer than members of families in which there is only one active smoker.<sup>2</sup>
10. The overall prognosis for a patient with COPD depends on the severity of lung disease and whether the patient continues to smoke.<sup>4</sup>
11. The earlier the quitting, the better the improvement of FEV1.<sup>5</sup>



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1. World Health Organization, Tobacco Free Initiative. WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2011: warning about the dangers of tobacco. Available at: <http://www.who.int/tobacco/en/index.html>

## SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

**Question 1** – Which of the following statements about the association between smoking and tuberculosis is incorrect?

- A. Cigarette smoke decreases immune responses and increases the chance of TB infection.
- B. Smoking is associated with a higher chance of mortality among TB patients.
- C. Cigarette smoke increases phagocyte activities.
- D. Cigarette smoke decreases release of proinflammatory cytokines.

**ANSWER = C**

**Question 2** – True/False: Cigarette smoke decreases respiratory mucosal permeability.

**ANSWER = False**

**Question 3** – Which of the following changes can follow structural changes in the respiratory tract due to smoking?

1. Peribronchiolar inflammation and fibrosis
2. Mucosal permeability increases and changes in pathogen adherence
3. Impaired mucociliary clearance
4. Disrupted respiratory epithelium
5. 1, 2, 3, and 4 are correct

**ANSWER = 5 (1, 2, 3, and 4 are correct)**

**Question 4** – True/False: Passive smoking does not increase the risk of TB infection in children.

**ANSWER = False**

**Question 5** – Which of the following effects is not associated with smoking in TB patients?

- A. Smoking increases the risk of pulmonary TB.
- B. Smoking enhances clinical manifestations of TB infection.
- C. Smoking decreases the chance of cavitary TB.
- D. Smoking increases the risk of getting a positive TB-smear.

**ANSWER = C**

**Question 6** – True/False: Nicotine can reactivate latent mycobacterium tuberculosis by down-regulation of TNF- $\alpha$  by the macrophages in the lungs.

**ANSWER = True**

**Question 7** – True/False: Iron loading promotes overgrowth of *M. tuberculosis* in bronchoalveolar macrophages and decreases the phagocytosis ability of macrophages.

**ANSWER = True**