



Japan Society for Tobacco Control

日本禁煙学会

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To honorable citizens. We wish to alert you.

Beware of an article claiming that tobacco offers a protective effect against COVID-19

Manabu Sakuta, Chairperson, Japan Society for Tobacco Control

Low incidence of daily active tobacco smoking in patients with symptomatic COVID-19 V3

<https://www.qeios.com/read/article/574>

CHANGEUX J, Amoura Z, Rey F, Miyara M. A nicotinic hypothesis for Covid-19 with preventive and therapeutic implications. Preprint V2.

Qeios <https://www.qeios.com/read/article/581> (PREPRINT i.e. not peer-reviewed)

These papers claim that tobacco have a protective effect with regard to COVID-19.

However, these papers have the following problems, so please do not believe the claims of these papers.

1. First, it was posted on qeios, an open access internet journal where anyone can post, and have not passed peer review.

2. It makes assertions based on a low number of cases in a single hospital and compares the smoking rate from these cases with the smoking rate of France as a whole. Instead, the smoking rate from these cases should be compared to the smoking rate of Paris, which is relatively low compared to the rest of the country.

The prevalence of smoking after 65 is much lower than the average as seen in every country. This can't be compared with the average smoking ratio in France.

3. The infection rate according to a positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) result is 10 times higher than a New York survey, 28-55 times than in a Los Angeles survey, and 30 times higher than in Italian survey. The reason for the high infection rate is not explained in the paper.

4. Heretofore, all papers that have passed peer review have stated that tobacco smoking increases the risk of contracting COVID-19 infection.

5. The first author on version 2 of the paper is from the tobacco industry and received money from the Center for Tobacco Research in the United States during the 1990s, suggesting a conflict of interest. The French magazine Le Monde also pointed out that the first author of version 2 had ties to the tobacco industry.

End

(References)

Comment le lobby du tabac a subventionné des labos français

https://www.lemonde.fr/sciences/article/2012/05/31/guerre-du-tabac-la-bataille-de-la-nicotine_1710837_1650684.html

REQUEST FOR 3 YEAR GRANT ENTITLED, TARGETED DISRUPTION OF THE BETA-2 AND ALPHA-4 NEURONAL NICOTINIC ACETYLCHOLINE RECEPTOR SUBUNIT GENES IN THE MOUSE

<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=xzkw0085>

Council for Tobacco Research Grant Funding History Changeux, Jean-Pierre, Ph.D. Professor

<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=kzjf0044>

APPLICATION NO. 4189 FUNCTION AND EXPRESSION OF THE BRAIN NICOTINIC ACETYLCHOLINE RECEPTOR JEAN-PIERRE CHANGEUX, PHD, INSTITUT PASTEUR

<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=mymj0149>