



Japan Society for Tobacco Control

日本禁煙学会

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For news organizations

1 March 2020

Mr. Manabu Sakuta, Chairperson, Japan Society for Tobacco Control

1. The current issue of New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) published a summary of clinical findings from patients with the COVID-19 infection from China, principally from Wuhan.
2. According to the study, smokers were at greater risks of more severe outcomes than never smokers, like ICU care, respirator treatment and mortality.
3. Compared to never smokers, the severe risks for current and past smokers were 2.19 times higher, and in particular the risk of respirator treatment or mortality was 3.24 times higher.
4. We have already announced that smoking significantly increases the risk of contracting COVID-19 and reported this to the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare.

<http://www.jstc.or.jp/uploads/uploads/files/information/COVID-19-2.pdf>

5. On 19 February 2020, a new coronavirus receptor was identified as ACE2 (angiotensin converting enzyme 2).

[Cryo-EM structure of the 2019-nCoV spike in the prefusion conformation | Science](#)

6. A relationship between tobacco use and pulmonary genetic expression of ACE2 has also been observed. Smokers have significantly higher genetic expression of ACE2.

[Tobacco-Use Disparity in Gene Expression of ACE2, the Receptor of 2019-nCov\[v1\] | Preprints](#)

Thus, these studies show that smoking increases the risk of COVID-19 infection and increases the risk of severe outcomes, including death.

Thank you for reporting these facts to the Japanese citizens.