EVALI

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Disclosures

• None





Objectives

- Review of vaping products and content
- Pathophysiology of vaping-induced lung injury
- Types of lung injury
- Symptoms and diagnosis
- Treatment
- Outcomes





Vaping products













Increasing usage

High school current use



Current Tobacco Product Use among U.S. High School Students, 2011 to 2019.

Current product use is defined as use in the past 30 days. Between 2018 and 2019, there was a change in the mode of survey administration from paper and pencil to electronic tablet. Data are from the National Youth Tobacco Survey and were provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.









E-cigarette/Vaping Associated Lung Injury (EVALI)

- In early 2019, EVALI emerged as a distinct and defined diagnostic entity.
- Acute lung injury
 - Subset life threatening
 - Constellation of symptoms, laboratory and radiographic findings
 - Often in otherwise healthy young people





Definition

Confirmed Case:

Using an e-cigarette ("vaping") or dabbing* in 90 days prior to symptom onset

<u>AND</u>

Pulmonary infiltrate, such as opacities, on plain film chest radiograph or ground-glass opacities on chest CT

<u>AND</u>

Absence of pulmonary infection on initial work-up. Minimum criteria are:

1. A negative respiratory viral panel

AND

2. A negative influenza PCR or rapid test, if local epidemiology supports influenza testing

<u>AND</u>

All other clinically-indicated respiratory infectious disease testing (e.g., urine Antigen for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Legionella*, sputum culture if productive cough, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) culture if done, blood culture, HIV-related opportunistic respiratory infections if appropriate) are negative

AND

No evidence in medical record of alternative plausible diagnoses (e.g., cardiac, rheumatologic, or neoplastic process).





Probable case: infectious causes not completely ruled out

Surge in hospitalizations

- 2807 hospitalizations/ deaths by Feb 2020
 - All 50 states, D.C., PR, US VI
 - 15% were <18 years old
 - 68 deaths
 - Outpatient cases unknown

 Number of cases peaked in Sept 2019

Since then, there has been a steady decline of cases



Dates of symptom onset and hospital admission for patients with lung injury associated with e-cigarette use, or vaping — United States, March 31, 2019–February 15, 2020



Month/Day



Demographics

- Hospitalized cases (adjusted for population)
- Male predominance (67%)
- White predominance (75%)

FIGURE 2. Prevalence* of hospitalized cases of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (N = 2,291) — United States, August-December 2019



Abbreviations: DC = District of Columbia; PR = Puerto Rico; VI = U.S. Virgin Islands. * Number of cases per 1 million population rounded to the nearest hundredth. The U.S. Census population from 2010 was used to calculate prevalence for U.S. Virgin Islands, and U.S. Census population estimates from 2018 were used to calculate prevalence for all other states, the District of Columbia, and territories.



Lozier 2019

Lozier 2019

Indiana Cases









Content of Vape

FIGURE 3. Percentage of hospitalized EVALI patients (N = 482) who reported brand names of THC-containing e-cigarettes, or vaping, products,* by U.S. Census region[†] — United States, August–December 2019



Product name



Lozier, 2019



Vape Liquid Components (BAL)



* The listed toxicants were detected in bronchoalveolar-lavage fluid obtained from 51 patients with EVALI in 16 states from August through December 2019 and in 99 healthy comparators.







Symptoms

- Respiratory
 - Dyspnea
 - Can be very rapid in onset
 - Cough
 - Typically not productive
 - Cases of hemoptysis reported
 - Hypoxemia

- Constitutional
 - Fever (+/-)
 - Fatigue
- Gastrointestinal
 - Nausea
 - Abdominal pain

Clinical Presentation

- Wide ranging:
 - Onset (days years of usage)
 - Acuity
 - Severity

Mild, outpatient

ECMO

• One study: 45% had been seen in outpatient setting prior to hospitalization, treated with antibiotics for presumed infection





Diagnosis

History (recent and former use) Type and content

Recommended:

- White blood cell counts
 - Neutrophils
 - Eosinophils
- Inflammatory markers (CRP, ESR)

1 ↔

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- Urine toxicology
- Liver function $\uparrow \Leftrightarrow$
- Viral testing (COVID)
- CXR

<u>Consider:</u>

- Histoplasma
- TB
- Legionella
- Sputum culture
- HIV/Opportunistic
 - Depending on presentation
- Noncontrast chest CT

Microscopic Findings





- Diffuse lung damage
- Inflammation of airways and alveolar spaces
 - Mixed inflammatory process
- Filling of air spaces with sloughed epithelial cells

Radiology Findings

Most common

- Ground glass opacities
- Often subpleural sparing

Other findings:

- Pulmonary hemorrhage
- Pleural effusions
- Interstitial pneumonitis





Treatment

- Antibiotics considered if signs of acute infection
 - At least until diagnosis confirmed
- Steroids
 - IV or oral
 - Dose, duration and timing depend on severity, possibility of infection
- Cessation
 - ?nicotine withdrawal
 - Consider child psychiatry if dependence suspected





Mortality

2407 cases by December 2019

- 52 (2%) fatal
- Risk of readmission
 - 2.7% readmitted (median 4 days)
 - 7 deaths (of 2407 hospitalizations) AFTER discharge
 - Median 3 days
 - Older users (median age 53y), ↑comorbidities

MMWR 2020. 68; 1183-1188.





Outpatient follow-up evaluation

Within days of discharge:

- Confirm respiratory status is stable, improving
- Reinforce importance of abstinence from e-cigarette, or vaping, product use
- Assist w/ coordination of care as indicated (e.g. mental health, substance abuse, PT)
- → Advise to return ASAP if develop new or worsening respiratory symptoms

Some fatalities reported days after discharge

Weeks to months after discharge

- Assess pulmonary function, repeat chest Xray or CT
- Continue to educate & counsel





Outcomes - Symptoms

- Most make complete or near complete recovery
- Radiographic resolution
- Time frame:
 - Days to weeks after discharge
 - Some with longer time courses, remain symptomatic at 6-8 weeks
- Some needed home oxygen with activity after discharge
 - 31% in one study
 - Varies by center, length of hospitalization





Pediatrics 2020

Outcomes – Lung Function

- Lung function often abnormal
- Improves with steroids DLCO abnormalities
- Can make full recovery with time, treatment



Review

- Suspicion of vaping product use
- Symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, GI, fever
- Diagnosis of exclusion
 - Infection, other exposures should be considered
- Treatment: steroids, supportive care, time, cessation, possibly oxygen
- Recovery is possible
 - Potential for longterm pulmonary complications
 - Pulmonary followup and testing typically needed





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