



START RUN, BEFORE SMOKE RUIN – THE EFFECTS OF EXERCISE ON SMOKING CESSATION

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ABSTRACT The impact of tobacco on health status is boundless. Smoking tobacco is responsible for various diseases including cancer, cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease, periodontal disease etc. Smoking has been identified as a major risk factor in the development and progression of periodontal disease. Smoking cessation reduces the risk of many diseases. However cravings and withdrawal syndromes have been associated with smoking relapse. Thus exercise plays a significant role in the management of tobacco withdrawal symptoms and cravings that anticipate smoking relapse.

KEYWORDS : Tobacco, smoking, smoking cessation, exercise, endorphins.

INTRODUCTION

Exercise has been recommended as an aid to smoking cessation¹. Exercise has been shown to have some similarities to smoking in its effects on stimulating the central nervous system² and on neurobiological processes in the brain including increasing beta-endorphin levels in smokers and consequently it has been argued that exercise may provide an alternative reinforce to smoking³. Exercise may also play an important role in the acute management of tobacco withdrawal symptoms (e.g. depression, irritability, restlessness, poor concentration) and cravings that predict smoking relapse⁴. Hence, aim of this review is to understand the effects of exercise on smoking cessation.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVALANCE OF SMOKING

The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing more than 8 million people a year, including around 1.2 million deaths from exposure to second-hand smoke⁵. Tobacco use is a major risk factor for many chronic diseases, including cancer, lung disease, cardiovascular disease and stroke. It is one of the major causes of death and disease in India and accounts for nearly 1.35 million deaths every year. India is also the second largest consumer and producer of tobacco. Nearly 267 million adults (15 years and above) in India (29% of all adults) are users of tobacco, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey India, 2016-17. The most prevalent form of tobacco use in India is smokeless tobacco and commonly used products are khaini, gutkha, betel quid with tobacco and zarda. Smoking forms of tobacco used are bidi, cigarette and hookah⁶.

SMOKING AND CRAVING FOR SMOKING

Tobacco is one of the most addictive drugs and significant research has been dedicated to the understanding of the psychobiological mechanisms underlying its addictive nature^{7,9}. Cravings are defined as persistent urges, thoughts or desires to smoke a cigarette. Cravings are one of the most consistent predictors of relapse in previous smokers¹⁰.

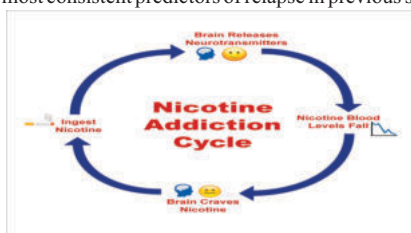


Figure 1: Nicotine addiction cycle

ENDORPHIN AND SMOKING

During smoking → Brain's nerve cells release neurotransmitters → The nicotine molecule is shaped like acetylcholine (neurotransmitter) → Once nicotine reaches the brain, its able to attach to the acetylcholine receptors & mimic its actions → Nicotine also raises endorphin & dopamine → Pleasure and euphoric effects¹¹

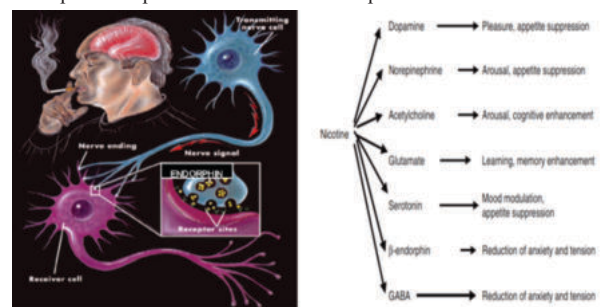


Figure 2: Neurobiology of smoking tobacco

SMOKING CESSATION

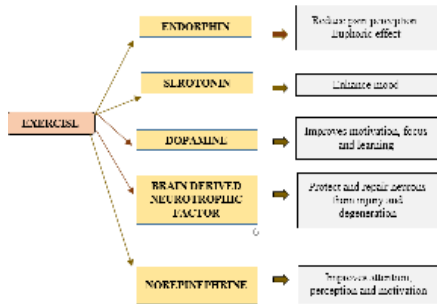
Nicotine dependence is a chronic, relapsing disease driven by addiction to nicotine. A proactive approach is needed, offering treatment to all smokers regardless of their level of readiness to quit. Treatment should be individualized based on the severity of nicotine dependence and the probability of developing withdrawal symptoms, as well as on comorbidities, local resources, and patient preferences¹².

TRADITIONAL METHODS

Psychological approach
Nicotine Replacement Therapy
Antidepressants
Smokeless tobacco
Electronic cigarettes
Cognitive behaviour therapy
Set a quit plan and quit date
Self help
Competitions and incentives
Hypnosis acupuncture

RECENT CONCEPT

Physical exercise



Flow chart 1: neurotransmitters released in body during exercise

PHYSICALACTIVITYAND ENDORPHIN

Exercise is a body activity that enhances or maintain physical fitness and overall health and wellness. Beta endorphin levels have been measured in the circulation and in several other tissues in response to exercise 13. It has been reported by a number of investigators that the intensity of exercise is important in significantly altering circulating beta endorphin levels. These studies suggested that a critical intensity of exercise [$> 60\%$ maximum oxygen uptake] was needed to increase circulating beta endorphin levels 14-16. Several neurotransmitters are released during exercise.

PHYSICALACTIVITIES

Aerobic exercise

Any activity that uses large muscle groups, can be maintained continuously and is rhythmic in nature. This type of exercise rely on aerobic metabolism to extract energy in the form of adenosine triphosphate from amino acids, carbohydrates and fatty acids. Examples of aerobic exercise include cycling, dancing, hiking, jogging/long distance running, swimming and walking¹⁷.

Anaerobic exercise

Intense physical activity of very short duration, fueled by the energy sources within the contracting muscles and independent of the use of inhaled oxygen as an energy source. Without the use of oxygen, our cells revert to the formation of ATP via glycolysis and fermentation. This process produces significantly less ATP than its aerobic counterpart and leads to the build-up of lactic acid. Exercises typically thought of as anaerobic consist of fast twitch muscles and include sprinting, high-intensity interval training and power lifting etc¹⁸.

Harness training

Harness the horse (a set of straps placed on animal so that it can pull heavy things). A restraint or support, especially one consisting of a loop or network of rope or straps. A collection of wire or cables bundled and routed according to their function¹⁹.

T'ai chi

T'ai chi, as a form of moving meditation, follows many of the same principles of Zen practice, which includes focus of the mind on one point (e.g., the leading or active hand in t'ai chi), relaxed unified posture, and deep breathing²⁰⁻²¹.

Table 1: Examples of different types of exercise

Aerobic exercise	Anaerobic exercise
Harness training	T'ai chi

EXERCISE AFTER LOBECTOMY

Decreased exercise capacity and health-related quality of life are common in people following lung resection for non-small cell lung

cancer²²⁻²³. People with lung cancer are affected by weight loss, anorexia, anemia, protein catabolism and muscle wasting²⁴. Dyspnea and fatigue are also common and are likely to result in a decline in physical activity levels as well as the adoption of a sedentary lifestyle .Training included aerobic exercises, strengthening (resistance) exercises, or a combination of these, with or without inspiratory muscle training improves exercise capacity and health-related quality of life, as well as reducing symptoms of dyspnea and fatigue for people with a range of chronic conditions, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart failure, as well as in people with prostate and breast cancer²⁵⁻²⁶.

EXERCISE ONCOLOGY

Exercise has been proposed as a possible cancer treatment. The Exercise as Cancer Treatment (EXACT) framework proposes nine distinct clinical oncology scenarios based on tumor/disease status and treatment status at the time of the proposed exercise treatment²⁷. Exercise can help counteract the negative effects of cancer and its treatment patients with cancer who do not exercise have a higher degree of functional impairment, worse cancer-related fatigue, more psychological distress and a poorer quality of life²⁸⁻³⁰. Exercise has been established as the most effective first-line treatment for cancer-related fatigue, significantly reducing its presence and severity, psychological distress associated with cancer, alleviating depressive symptoms and anxiety and greater quality of life across multiple cancer-specific and general health domains. Exercise also appears to reduce the risk of patients with cancer developing other chronic diseases that may be exacerbated by cancer and its treatment, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and osteoporosis³¹⁻³².

ROLE OF PERIODONTIST IN SMOKING CESSATION

The associations between tobacco use and diseases affecting the oral cavity, such as periodontal disease and cancer, are now well recognized³³⁻³⁴. Dentists are well placed to recognize smokers and dentists can identify the impact of tobacco use in the mouth. In order to promote smoking cessation: 1.The profession and individual practices need to agree the roles of the dental team in smoking cessation 2. Primary care trusts need to ensure the smoking cessation needs of dental patients are met locally. 3. Dental team members providing smoking cessation services should be permitted to prescribe nicotine replacements. Thus, members of the dental team have the potential to help smokers to better health and oral health³⁵.

CONCLUSION

Treating any ailment through medication always have its own adverse effects and may at time it reappears. Aberrant habits like smoking tobacco has become not only a personal self-inflicted problem but also a social disturbance factor which needs nicotine replacement therapy, psychological management and so on. Exercise and smoking cessation are both independently beneficial for health³⁶. Studies showed that 15 minutes of exercise of low-to-moderate intensity not only reduced absolute cravings but also attenuated increases in some craving and withdrawal symptom responses to a smoking. After exercise, strength of desire to smoke, tension, stress, and poor concentration did not increase in response to lit cigarette³⁷.

The present review showed that all these physical activities have its role in endorphin secretion acts as an adjunct to smoking cessation.

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