

# Dental Public Health Reports on Periodontal Response to Electronic Cigarettes Vaping: A Literature Review

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**Abstract:** *The use of e-cigarettes has increased worldwide nowadays, and so is the need of awareness of the pathogenic changes in the periodontium it causes. Due to the anti-proliferative properties of nicotine, the fibroblasts' differentiation is impeded. This leads to periodontitis and other harmful effects on the periodontal ligament. The flavorings, heavy metals, metal particles and other chemicals in the electronic cigarette aerosol, such as reactive oxygen species, aldehydes and carbonyls, lead to inflammation, protein carbonylation, protein denaturation and DNA damage. Further research is required in order to prevent oral disease by administering safety regulations and promote oral health by informing the society about the possible adverse effects of electronic cigarettes vaping.*

**Keywords:** e-cigarettes, ENDS, vaping, periodontium, dental public health

## 1. Introduction

The use of e-cigarettes, or the so-called “vaping”, has increased dramatically nowadays, especially among young adults. Palazzolo, D., 2014, reports that manufacturers promote their products as a cheaper and safer smokeless alternative to traditional cigarettes, and a possible cessation tool. [15] According to Woodcock, J., 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has informed the President of the Electronic Cigarette Association about “violations of good manufacturing practices, making unsubstantiated drug claims, and using the devices of delivery mechanisms for active pharmaceutical ingredients”. [27] Westenberger, BJ, 2009, claims that e-cigarette cartridges and solutions were reported to contain nitrosamines, diethylene glycol and other potentially harmful to humans ingredients. [25] FDA also states that the sale of e-cigarettes should be prohibited or regulated as dangerous nicotine delivery systems. [16] Javed, F. et al., 2017; Reibel, J., 2003; Stoykova, M., N. Musurlieva, D. Boyadjiev, 2014, report that while the effect of smoking tobacco on the progression of periodontal diseases and other adverse outcomes is well-described, the information regarding the impact of e-cigarettes vaping on oral and dental health is scarce. [7, 19, 22] The aim of the current review is to summarize the current data on the topic.

### Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)

According to Javed, F. et al., 2017, ENDS (electronic cigarettes, e-cigs) are battery-operated devices, consisting of a metal heating element in a stainless steel shell, a cartridge, an atomizer and a battery. [7] Numerous authors describe the ingredients in the solution - Barrington-Trimis, JL et al., 2014; Cheng, T., 2014; Gerloff, J. et al., 2017; Javed, F. et al., 2017; Jensen RP et al., 2015; Kosmider, L. et al., 2014. They reach the conclusion that the heating element vaporizes a solution, which contains diverse chemicals, such as nicotine (at high concentration – up to 24 mg) and other additives (humectants) – base/carrying agents, propylene glycol, glycerin, and different flavoring agents, including fruit and candy flavors – ortho-vanilin (vanilla), maltol (malt), cinnamaldehyde, coumarin, etc.; chemicals such as aldehydes (carbonyls), heavy metals (nickel, chromium,

copper, silver), metal nano-particles, and tobacco specific nitrosamines, as well as diacetyl, 2,3-pentanedione, and acetoin (buttery). [2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9]

### Cellular Senescence of the Periodontium

Javed, F. et al., 2017, state that oxidative stress leads to stress-induced cellular senescence (a state of irreversible growth arrest which re-enforces chronic inflammation) and impaired myofibroblast differentiation and epithelial mesenchymal transition. [7] According to Sundar, IK et al., 2016, ENDS affect the receptors in the periodontal ligament, therefore the cellular signaling in periodontal fibroblasts and gingival epithelial cells. [23] Javed, F. et al., 2017, explain that these processes are implicated with regulation of inflammation and cellular senescence. [7]

### Periodontal Disease

The definition of periodontal disease according to Carranza, F. et al., 2014, is that it comprises of a group of inflammatory conditions of the supportive tissues of the teeth that are caused by bacteria. [3] The author describes that periodontal ligament cells, gingival fibroblasts and epithelial cells play a fundamental role in periodontal regeneration. Upon stimulation or stress, these cells are able to incite and maintain inflammatory responses [3] Smoking causes loss of periodontal attachment level, deepening of the periodontal pockets, and more extensive alveolar bone loss, as well as connective tissue and matrix lysis. According to Carranza, F. et al., 2014; Javed, F. et al., 2014; Musurlieva, N., M. Stoykova, 2015; Musurlieva, N., M. Stoykova, D. Boyadjiev, 2012; Reibel, J. et al., 2003; Stoykova, M., N. Musurlieva, D. Boyadjiev, 2014, these etiological factors lead to an increased risk of periodontitis, the progression of which impairs the quality of life of the patients. [3, 6, 13, 14, 19, 22] Lerner, CA et al, 2015, state that the concentration of reactive oxygen species in the e-cig aerosols is comparable to conventional cigarette smoke. [11] Moreover, Sancilio, S. et al., 2015, and Willershausen, I., 2014, claim that direct exposure to e-liquids has also been proven to produce harmful effects in periodontal ligament cells and gingival fibroblasts in culture. [21, 26] Reactive aldehydes and carbonyls from the aerosol can cause protein

Volume 8 Issue 9, September 2019

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carbonylation and DNA damage. Pradeep, AR et al, 2013, report that protein carbonylation causes auto-antibody production, which may lead to destruction of matrix and bone loss. [17] Therefore, carbonyls and aldehydes play an important role in oral health damage, caused by vaping. Rothem, DE et al., 2009, explain that nicotine presents with anti-proliferative properties and affects fibroblasts *in vitro*. [20] Lei, W. et al., 2017, state that this affects oral myofibroblast differentiation, thus reducing the wound-healing ability by decreasing wound contraction by myofibroblasts. [10]

The nicotine concentration in ENDS varies significantly. Numerous studies - Al Amri, MD et al., 2016; Levin, L. et al., 2005; Raes, S. et al., 2015; Twito, D. et al., 2014 – prove that nicotine is associated with impaired leukocyte activity and healing by inhibiting neovascularization and osteoblastic differentiation, as well as an increased risk of implant failure, impaired healing, poor papilla regeneration, and increased bone loss. [1, 12, 18, 24]

## 2. Conclusion

Electronic cigarettes contribute to the pathogenesis of periodontal disease and other oral complications due to the inhaled nicotine, flavorings and other chemicals. They affect the periodontal ligament, stem cells and gingival fibroblasts and reduce the wound healing ability because of the decreased release of pro-inflammatory mediators. Further research is required in order to prevent oral disease by administering safety regulations and promote oral health by informing the society about the possible adverse effects of electronic cigarettes vaping.

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