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Use of digital technologies for evaluating prevalence of various types of nicotine usage among young people

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European Respiratory Journal 2020 56(suppl 64): 1372; DOI: https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.congress-2020.1372

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This article appears in:

European Respiratory Journal

Vol 56 Issue suppl 64

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## Abstract

Introduction: Alternative methods of nicotine usage such as tobacco heating systems, e-cigarettes dramatically increased among young people during last years but it still co-exists with a traditional cigarette and hookah.

ms: To determine the prevalence of various types of nicotine usage among young people.

Methods: An online survey was conducted among 432 medical students (MS), age from 18 to 23 years, 312 women (72.2%), 120 men (27.8%) by using a custom-created Google Forms Questionnaire. The questionnaire was distributed through social networks (Instagram) and messengers (Telegram).

Results: 202 (46.8%) of the respondents did not use nicotine. Smoking was reported among 146 (33.8%) of MS, more men than women (43.3% vs 30.1%, p-0.004). Hookah use was reported among 70 (16.2%) MS with no significant difference between men and women. 25 (5.8%) of MS used tobacco heating systems (IQOS and GLO). Single MS noted other nicotine use options: ecigarette - 4 (0.9%), Juul - 2 (0.5%), chewing tobacco -3 (0.7%), snuff tobacco - 1 (0.2%). MS under the age of 18 more frequently combined several ways of nicotine use than older MS (19.4% vs 9.5%, p-0.006). MS over the age of 19 prefer to smoke digarettes 69.3% and hookah 38.1%. Tobacco heating systems were less popular among them comparing to MS under 18 (5.7% vs 9.55%, p-0.006).

Conclusions: Using online survey through social networks and messengers was an effective way of conducting information. More than half of students used nicotine, often by smoking cigarettes and hookah. Alternative ways of using nicotine were observed in less than 10% of cases. Young students often combined several ways of using nicotine.

Cite this article as: European Respiratory Journal 2020; 56: Suppl. 64, 1372.

This abstract was presented at the 2020 ERS International Congress, in session "Respiratory viruses in the "pre COVID-19" era".

This is an ERS International Congress abstract. No full-text version is available. Further material to accompany this abstract may be available at www.ers-education.org (ERS member access only).

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