# **AU InforMed**

Volume 15 Number 9 (Issue 296)

Monday October 2, 2017

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## **Smoking Cessation**



Available from: http://multiple-sclerosis-research.blogspot.com/2017/04/clinicspeak-is-it-time-to-stop-smoking.html

October is National Healthy Lung Month. The number one risk factor for lung cancer is cigarette smoking.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death worldwide.<sup>2</sup> Join us in this month's issue of *AU InforMed* as we delve deeper into the topic of smoking cessation and how YOU can participate in National Healthy Lung Month.

#### **Health Benefits of Quitting**

- Cigarette smoking kills more than 480,000 Americans each year and over 5 million people globally each year<sup>2,3</sup>
- Smoking has been considered a leading risk factor for early mortality and disability worldwide, second only to highsystolic blood pressure<sup>3</sup>
- Smoking-related illness in the U.S. costs more than \$300 billion per year<sup>4</sup>
- More people in the U.S. are addicted to nicotine than any other drug
- Lowers the risk for lung cancer and lung diseases such as COPD
- Reduces the risk for heart disease, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease
- Reduces respiratory symptoms, such as coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath<sup>5</sup>



Available from: https://www.quit.ie/l-Want-to-Quit/ready/

#### Five Major Steps of Intervention<sup>6</sup>

#### 1. Ask about tobacco use

#### a. Examples:

- How many cigarettes do you smoke per day?
- How long have you been smoking?
- Have you had any changes with your smoking habits?
- Have you tried to quit smoking before? If so, how did you quit?

#### 2. Advise tobacco users to quit

- a. Discuss benefits of smoking cessation with patient
- **b.** Provide clear, patient-specific advice

#### 3. Assess readiness to make a quit attempt

- a. Determine patient's motivation to quit
  - Personal health, relationships, cost
- **b.** Identify the patient's barriers to quitting
  - Weight gain, withdrawals, social acceptance
- c. Identify and help minimize triggers
  - Social encounters, stress, drinking coffee

#### 4. Assist with the quit attempt

- a. Set a quit date
  - It is best to pick a quit date within the next 2 weeks.
  - Within these 2 weeks, it is important to prepare a smoke-free personal space (home, vehicle).
- **b.** Product recommendation and counseling



Available from: http://healthorl.org.ng/how-to-quit-smoking/

#### 5. Arrange follow-up

- a. Contact patient around the time of their guit date to evaluate progress
- **b.** Contacting patients at least 4 more times has been shown to increase cessation success

#### Don't think you can remember all this information?

Just remember the "5 A's" to help!



Available from: http://802quits.org/providers/provider-resources/



Available from: https://www.nysmokefree.com/C ME/CME1Images/5As.jpg

#### Is your patient not ready to quit?6

- 1. Relevance
  - a. Identify patient-specific reasons to stop smoking
- 2. Risks
  - **a.** Discuss negative health outcomes associated with continued smoking
- 3. Rewards
  - **a.** What benefits will the patient gain after quitting smoking?
- 4. Roadblocks
  - a. Identify patient-specific barriers to change
- 5. Repeat
  - a. Assess readiness at each encounter



Available from: http://www.walthampton.com/success/road-blocks-hula-hoops/attachment/roadblock/

Table 1: Common Methods to Quit Smoking<sup>7,8</sup>

Medication	Available Dosage Forms	Advantages	Disadvantages
Nicotine Gum  Nicotine Lozenge	2 or 4 mg 2 or 4 mg	<ul> <li>Oral substitute for tobacco</li> <li>May be used in combination with other agents</li> <li>May delay weight gain</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Frequent dosing</li> <li>Specific chewing technique required</li> <li>Gum chewing may not be acceptable or desirable for certain patients</li> </ul>
· ·	, and the second		<ul><li>Frequent dosing</li><li>Gastrointestinal adverse effects</li></ul>
Transdermal Nicotine Patch	7, 14, or 21 mg	<ul> <li>Once daily dosing</li> <li>Delivers consistent levels of nicotine throughout the day</li> <li>Easily hidden</li> <li>May be used in combination with other agents</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>May not be acceptable for patients with certain dermatologic conditions</li> <li>Vivid dreams may occur as an adverse effect if the patch is worn during sleep</li> </ul>
Bupropion SR	150 mg	<ul><li>Twice daily dosing</li><li>May delay weight gain</li><li>Antidepressant effect</li></ul>	<ul> <li>May cause suicidal ideations</li> <li>Increases risk of seizures</li> <li>Drug interactions</li> </ul>
Varenicline	0.5 or 1 mg	<ul> <li>Twice daily dosing</li> <li>Alternate         mechanism of action         if bupropion         ineffective or         intolerable</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>May cause suicidal ideations</li> <li>Dose-dependent nausea; take with food to minimize</li> </ul>

#### **Patient Resources**

- AUPCC "Pack It Up" Program9
  - Located in the Harrison School of Pharmacy
  - o Offers smoking cessation guidance and planning sessions with pharmacists and/or pharmacy students
  - Appointments can be made by calling (334) 844-4099
- Alabama QUITNOW<sup>10</sup>
  - o Free telephone and online counseling for those ready to quit smoking
  - Offers up to eight weeks of nicotine replacement therapy patches for patients that are eligible
  - Website: www.quitnowalabama.com
  - o Phone number: 1-800-QUITNOW (1-800-784-8669)
- BeTobaccoFree.gov<sup>11</sup>
  - Website from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
  - Tips for quitting as well as how to help others quit smoking
- Freedom from Smoking<sup>12</sup>
  - Initiative by the American Lung Association
  - Personalized smoking cessation plan, helpful strategies from specialists, and online community interaction
  - Website: http://freedomfromsmoking.org/
- YOU!
  - Pharmacists are key in helping patients fight tobacco use.
  - Use this information; reach out to your patients!

Available from: http://militaryhistorynow.com/2016/12/12/i-wantyou-the-story-behind-one-of-the-most-famous-wartime-posters-

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### The last "dose" ...

"I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who conquers his enemies; for the hardest victory is over self." - Aristotle [384-322 BC]

An electronic bulletin of drug and health-related news highlights, a service of ... Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy, Drug Information Center • Phone 334-844-4400 • http://www.auburn.edu/academic/pharmacy/dilrc/overview.html Bernie R. Olin, Pharm.D., Director

