

Examining the Relationship Between Smoking and the Course of COVID-19

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Introduction

COVID-19 is a disease that can cause mild to severe infections in humans. COVID-19 is basically a disease of the respiratory system. The causative agent is Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV2). Smoking has been associated with an increased risk of infection. In the current COVID-19 outbreak much more extensive research and stronger evidence is needed on the relationship between smoking and the course of COVID-19. The aim of our study is to examine the course of the disease from the perspective of smokers/non-smokers and volunteers who have had COVID-19 with our survey questions, to reveal data and to contribute to literature.

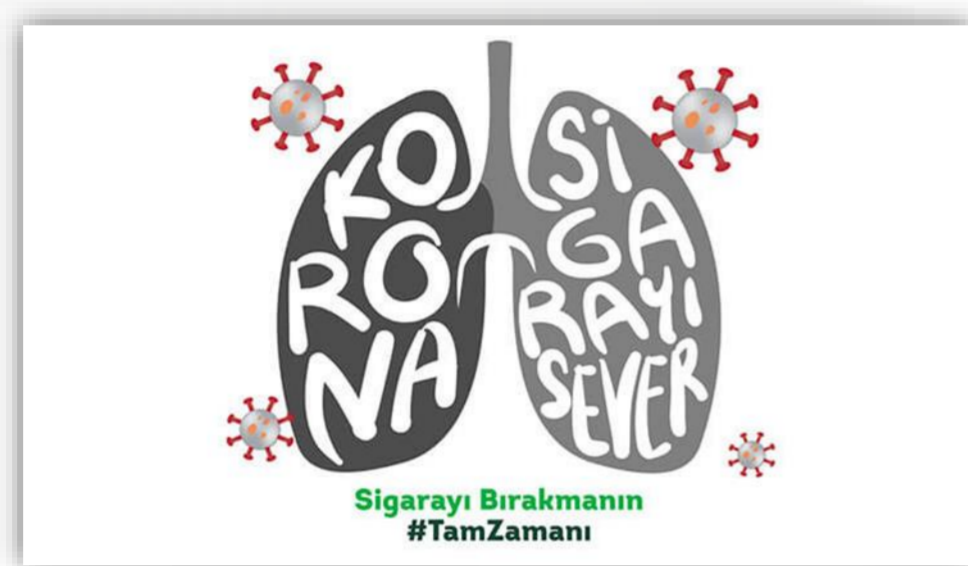


Figure-1. A public service announcement during the COVID-19 pandemic

Material and Method

This study included 100 volunteers who had COVID-19. The volunteers included the 1,2,3,4,5 and 6th grades of Bezmialem Faculty of Medicine and the staff of Bezmialem Hospital. There are 19 questions in our survey conducted on the online platform. Our questionnaire included questions such as the symptoms of passing COVID-19, severity, and hospitalization history of smokers and non-smokers.

Results

Volunteers from different age groups over the age of 18 participated in this study. 66% Women, 34% Men participated. While 73% did not smoke, 27% did. Based on the data obtained from the questionnaire, there was no significant difference between smokers and non-smokers in terms of hospitalization, duration of COVID-19 symptoms, use of cortisone, oxygen blood thinners during treatment, and intensive care admission ($p>0.05$). It was observed that people who smoked during COVID-19 had a milder experience of COVID-19 compared to the scores ($p=0.007$).

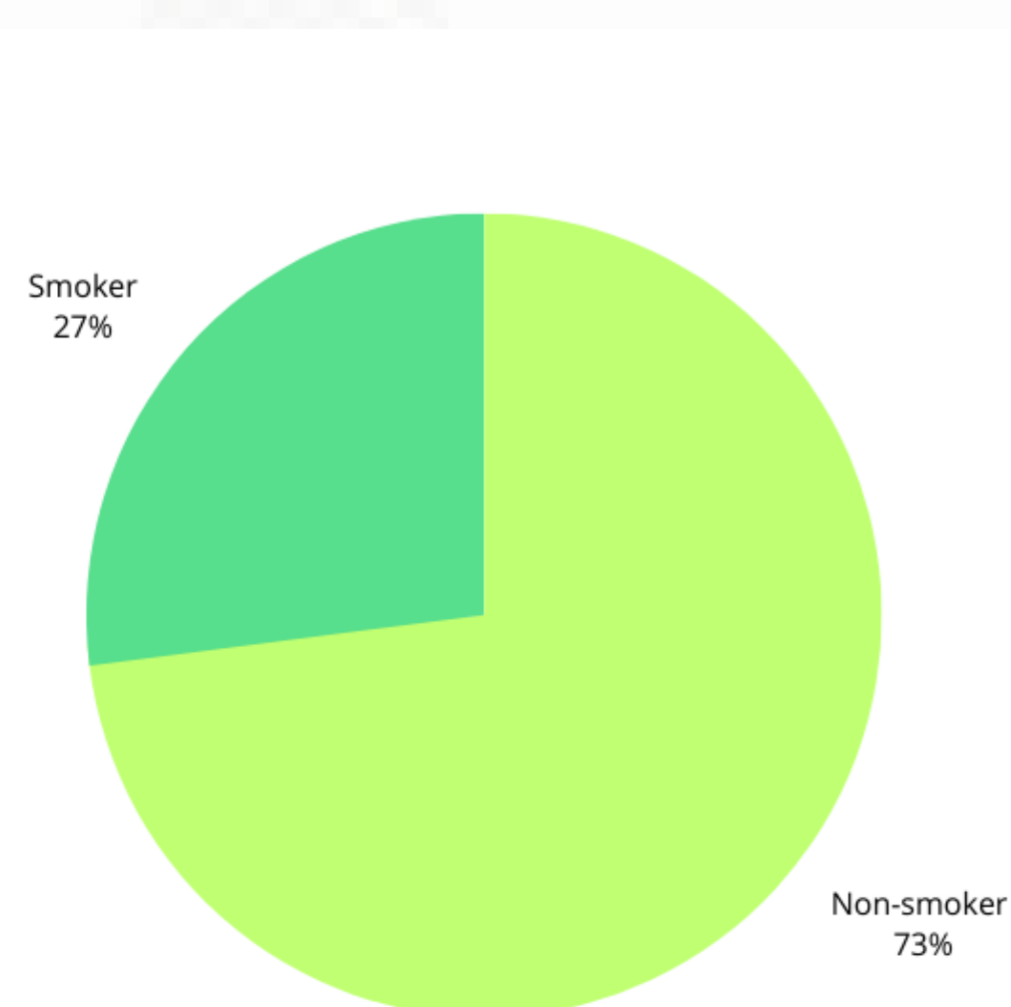


Figure-2. Comparison of smokers and non-smokers

Conclusion

More studies are needed to preserve the association of smoking and COVID-19. Parameters such as vaccination, age, year of passing the disease also change the course of the disease. The link with this institution to smoking cannot be determined directly. According to this study, there is no relationship between smoking and the course of COVID-19. Volunteers who smoked during their illness reported that they had mild COVID-19 according to their own scores.

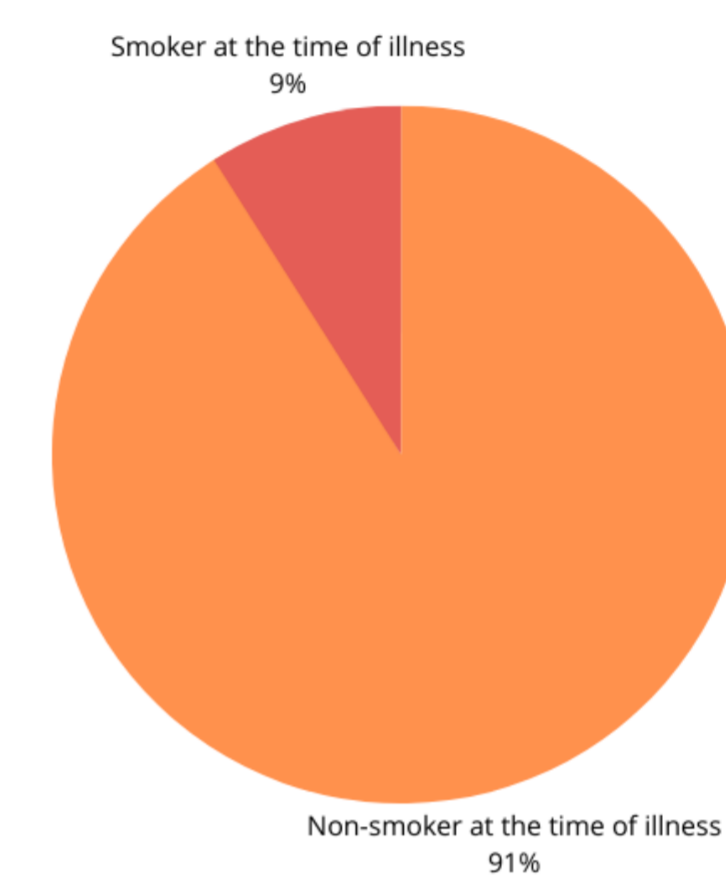


Figure-3 Comparison of smokers and non-smoker volunteers at the time of COVID-19 disease

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Key Words: Smoking, COVID-19, Symptom