

# E-cigarettes may be harmful

Electronic cigarettes may cause damage to the lungs, overturning an earlier study suggesting they were harmless. The University of Athens claims its research shows e-cigarettes cause airway resistance in users

## ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE

*Invented in China in 2000, first went on sale in 2004*

### Nicotine

Dissolved in propylene glycol. Lasts about as long as pack of 20 cigarettes (at rate of 10-15 e-puffs per cigarette)

### Atomiser

Sensor detects smoker taking drag on filter and activates heater to vaporise nicotine

### Microprocessor

Controls light

### Lithium ion battery

Powers light and atomiser

### LED light

Glowes when smoker draws on filter

Screws together

Nicotine expelled

Disposable or rechargeable section

Disposable refill cartridge

Trachea (windpipe)

Lungs

## UNIVERSITY STUDY

*Researchers observed 32 people who used e-cigarettes for 10 minutes*

**Subject** (who has never smoked)

**Airway resistance**

**+24%**

**Subject** (who is smoker with normal lung function)

**Airway resistance**

**+44%**

*Airway resistance increases when airways become constricted*

Source: Wire agencies

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