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Abstract Submission Form

PRESENTER'S DETAILS		Session C. Quality
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Category Research		
PRESENTATION DETAILS		
Authors Mughal F, Rashid A, Jawad M	Title of Study <i>Attitudes and behaviours towards tobacco cessation among general practice doctors: a cross-sectional study.</i>	
What's the problem you are tackling? Waterpipe tobacco smoking (WTS), smokeless tobacco (ST) use, and electronic cigarettes (EC) are becoming increasingly common. While WTS and ST are associated with adverse health outcomes, EC are less harmful and are recommended as a cessation aid. Little is known around how general practice doctors approach tobacco products beyond traditional cigarettes, and thus we aimed to examine the attitudes and behaviours of such clinicians towards these products and tobacco cessation.		
How did/will you do it? A 13-item piloted self-completed anonymous electronic questionnaire was distributed throughout the United Kingdom to general practitioners (GP) and GP trainees via the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), Health Education England, Vocational Training Schemes, and Clinical Commissioning Groups between January and May 2016. Sociodemographic characteristics of participants, clinician awareness of tobacco products, perceived consultation barriers, and clinician attitudes and behaviours were gathered. Chi squared was used to compare between product harm-perception and clinician cessation behaviour. Logistic regression modelling was undertaken for cigarettes, WTS, ST, and EC, to determine the correlates of giving cessation advice in a consultation.		
What did you find? This cross-sectional study of 312 GPs and GP trainees in England highlighted that two thirds were aware of WTS and that a lack of information, knowledge, confidence, and time were all significant barriers to the enquiry of WTS in a consultation. ST awareness was poor. It is concerning that GPs and GP trainees had lower harm perception, gave less cessation advice, and made less referrals, for WTS and ST users compared to cigarettes. A third endorsed EC as an appropriate cessation aid. Clinicians of ethnic minorities and more experienced GPs have higher odds of providing cessation advice for WTS and ST users.		
Why does this matter? The findings strengthen the need for an educational package for general practice on WTS, ST, and EC. The RCGP GP Curriculum must include objectives for trainees to be competent on these products. Practices should revisit their new patient registration template to ensure tobacco status is asked and recorded, allowing for opportunistic screening and management of tobacco users.		