

Tobacco – Tar

Tar is a sticky substance found on tobacco leaves. Tar coats the lungs and air sacs in smokers, preventing them from getting enough oxygen. Tar paralyzes the cilia in a smoker's windpipe so that dust particles and pollen are not swept out of the air passages. Tar contains more than 40 cancer-causing chemicals. Organs affected by these poisons include not only the mouth, vocal chords, throat, and lungs, but also the kidneys, bladder, and uterus and ovaries (in women).

Tar Accumulation

Purpose -- To demonstrate the amount of tar that can accumulate from one or more cigarettes.

Equipment

Filter less cigarettes and matches

Cotton balls

“Smoking Machine” request machine from Tobacco Prevention Program Phone 701-642-7744

- a. Turkey baster or empty ketchup bottle
- b. Large syringe

Procedure

Stuff cotton balls into the end of the smoking machine.

Tape an unfiltered cigarette onto the end of the smoking machine.

Light the cigarette and draw the smoke back through the cotton balls by pulling back on the

syringe or by squeezing the bottle or baster.

Examine the tar accumulation by looking, smelling, and touching.

Key Points

Not all of the tar was caught.

Smell the inside of the smoking machine to see what a smoker's breath smells like.

The accumulation was from only one or two cigarettes. Imagine what the tar accumulation would be from a whole pack of cigarettes.

