

EFFECTS OF TOBACCO DUST ON LUNG FUNCTION

A PRELIMINARY STUDY

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Smoking is harmful to several systems especially to the respiratory system. Tobacco workers involved in manufacturing of tobacco products are exposed to the harmful substances even though they are not users of such products. This work was carried out to study the effects of tobacco dust in such workers.

Thirteen tobacco workers, all volunteers, and the same number of non-tobacco workers, as controls were studied. All subjects were non-smokers between the ages of 21-49 years and no previous history of respiratory diseases. The subjects were asked to come to the Physiology Laboratory and their weights, heights, Vital capacity (VC), Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) in the first second and Maximum Breathing Capacity (MBC) were measured.

The results per square meter of body surface area are summarized below:

	Workers		Controls		Probability (Student t)
	Mean	S D	Mean	S D	
VC ml	1329	361	2102	361	0.02
FVC ₁ ml	1488	263	1818	406	0.05
MBC L/M	71.2	18.2	91	22	0.02

These findings indicate that the tobacco workers have defective lung functions which probably were caused by tobacco dust.