

Abstract: Manipulating cigarette constituents in male menthol smokers

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The FDA has the regulatory authority to reduce, but not eliminate, nicotine from cigarettes. The FDA could also ban menthol from cigarettes. The purpose of our parent study DA036486 "Manipulating tobacco constituents in female menthol smokers" is to examine the impact of these two regulatory actions alone and in combination on smoking behavior in female menthol smokers. This proposed supplement will recruit male menthol smokers, which will allow us to examine whether there are gender differences in the effects of these two potential regulatory actions on smoking behavior.

We will recruit 57 male menthol smokers, randomize them to either reduced nicotine content cigarettes (RNC), to reduced nicotine content menthol cigarettes (RNC-Men), or to conventional nicotine cigarettes (CN) for six weeks with an additional six week follow-up. When combined with data from female subjects from our parent study we hypothesize that 1) Women assigned to RNC-Men will smoke more experimental cigarettes and have lower craving scores and measures of dependence compared to men; 2) Men assigned to CN cigarettes will smoke more experimental cigarettes, and have lower craving and dependence scores, compared to women; 3) Men and women assigned to RNC cigarettes will have similar changes in smoking behavior. Results of this study hold promise to provide insight into whether reducing nicotine or eliminating menthol from cigarettes could impact smoking behavior differently in men and women.