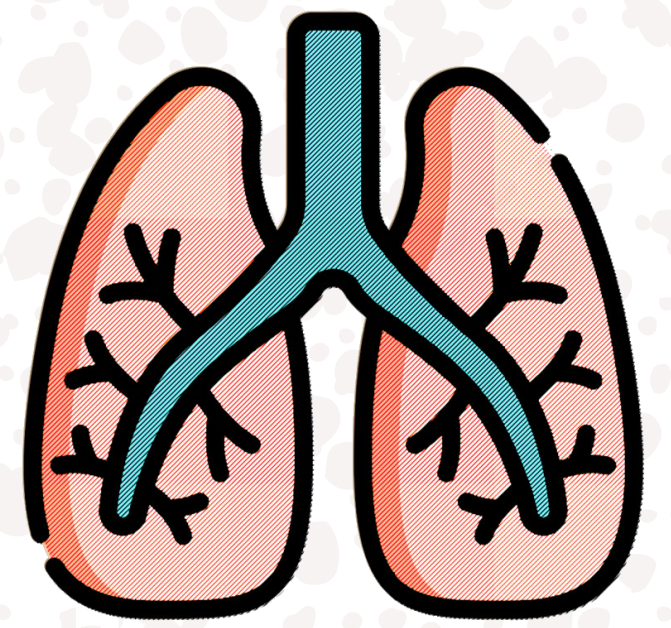


What is EVALI?

EVALI (e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injury) is an inflammatory response in the lungs triggered by inhaled substances. Given a huge range of products — many illicit or counterfeit — and many different ingredients, it's not surprising that EVALI varies, too. It may occur as pneumonia, damage to tiny air sacs in the lungs (alveoli), or an inflammatory reaction called fibrinous pneumonitis.

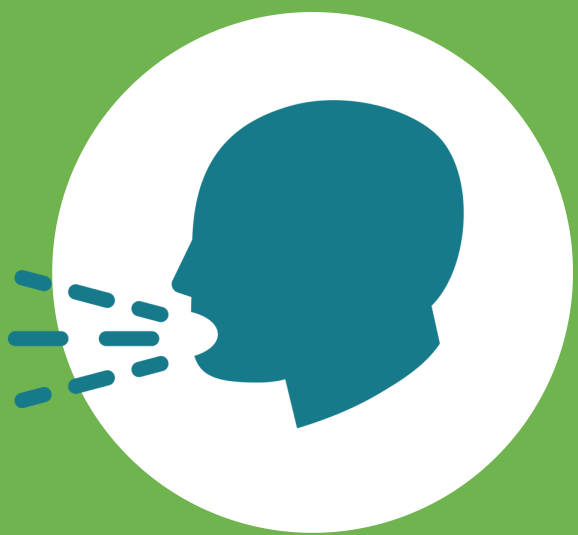


How is EVALI diagnosed?



- Diagnosing EVALI can be challenging because the symptoms of this lung condition are similar to those in other respiratory illnesses, like pneumonia, the seasonal flu virus, and COVID-19. Right now, doctors diagnose EVALI based on symptoms, recent use of vaping products, abnormalities found on lung scans, and no evidence of infection. Unfortunately, direct lung examination requires a bronchoscopy, which most patients are too sick to tolerate safely.

What are the symptoms of EVALI?



- Shortness of breath
- Cough
- Chest pain
- Fever and chills
- Diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting
- Tachycardia (rapid heartbeat)
- Tachypnea (rapid and shallow breathing)

What are the causes of EVALI?



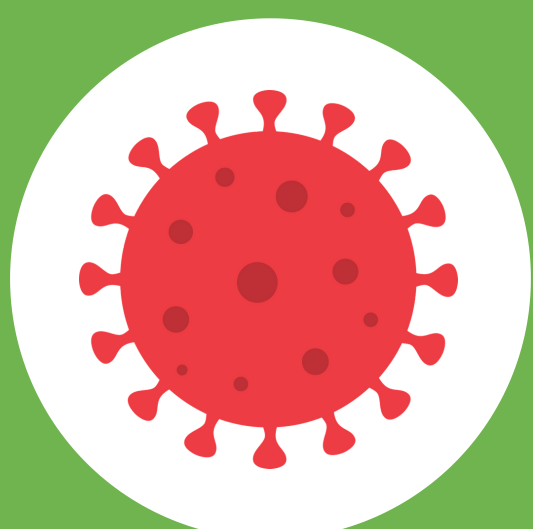
- It has been hard to pinpoint the causes of EVALI. Vaping products can contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabinoid (CBD) oils, nicotine, and other substances, flavorings, and additives. THC is the psychoactive mind-altering compound of marijuana that produces the "high." Most likely, more than one specific product or substance is causing severe lung problems. However, CDC and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials urge everyone to avoid e-cigarette or vaping products that contain THC

What do we know about EVALI and marijuana?



- THC has been detected in most of the EVALI case samples tested by the FDA so far, according to the CDC.
- The most common brand associated with EVALI is Dank Vape, a brand of products containing THC, the principal psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.
- Exclusively using products with THC increases the risk for EVALI. (It's unclear whether people who used nicotine-only vapes also were exposed to vape products with THC, or whether other ingredients caused the lung injury.)

EVALI and COVID 19



- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) identified 8 patients with EVALI who were hospitalized in April 2020. Each patient tested negative for COVID 19 and reported recently vaping THC-containing products. These are the first cases of EVALI identified by CDPH since Feb 2020.
- Clinicians evaluating patients for possible COVID-19 should also inquire about vaping practices, and consider an EVALI diagnosis for hospitalized patients who reported vaping in the past 90 days.
- These cases serve as a reminder of the severe health risks associated with vaping. CDPH continues to urge all individuals to refrain from vaping, particularly THC-containing products from unlicensed sources.