

Dr. Ian MacDonald states that there is more danger of "midriff bulge" from quitting smoking as there is from continuing smoking.

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No Proof Smoking Causes Cancer, HMA Meet Told

A well-known California surgeon today decried the "furor" over the relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer.

Dr. Ian MacDonald, professor of surgery at the University of Southern California, said there is no conclusive proof that smoking causes lung cancer. He is one of several speakers at the Hawaii Medical Association's annual meeting at the Princess Kaulani.

He said well-publicized studies and graphs have shown a tremendous rise in lung cancer among smokers, but a close look at the figures indicates that the specific statistics have been blown up way out of proportion.

He noted that by reverse figuring such studies show that out of 100,000 heavy smokers, 94,000 will not get lung cancer.

"To hear some of them talk, you'd think this was all a black plague epidemic of lung cancer," he said in an interview today.

Dr. MacDonald believes that for all the smokers or non-smokers who do get lung cancer or any other type of cancer, there must be a genetic susceptibility factor. Such a factor makes a person cancer prone, he believes.

Therefore, to his way of thinking, if a person doesn't have this inherent factor, he could smoke constantly and heavily from age 10 to 90 and not get lung cancer.

He has seen "beautifully clear bronchial tubes" in post mortems of extremely heavy smokers . . . "not a sign of cancer."

Dr. MacDonald notes too that "no one knows exactly whether there has been an increase in lung cancer" because X-rays especially of chest diseases and other lung cancer detection techniques were not in use.

"We don't know for sure

just how much lung cancer there was, say in 1915, so how can we compare the figure today with that of the distant past," he said.

Another questionable point, he added, was the smoking-cancer test conducted on mice. These studies were done by painting cigarette tar on shaven areas on mice.

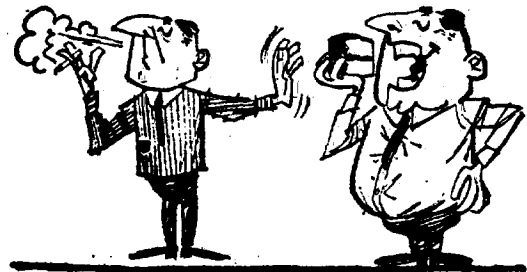
"A bunch of us figured that the tar exposure on the mice was equivalent to 66,000 cigarettes per day for 60 years," he reported.

"I feel if you're going to do the tests right, you ought to let the mice smoke those cigarettes," chuckled Dr. MacDonald.

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Medicine Chest

'Hatchet Job' On Smokers Draws Fire



'Carry Nation' Reformers Singed As Doctor Cites Weight Danger

By JOHN TROAN, Scripps-Howard Science Editor

People who stop puffing cigarets often start puffing out around the midriff.

And that, says a prominent surgeon, frequently adds up to a greater danger than smoking.

"For many smokers," Dr. Ian Macdonald of Los Angeles contends, "their addiction is far less hazardous than the alternative, almost inevitable peril of obesity."

Dr. Macdonald charges that anti-smoking advocates are trying to impose "a new brand of prohibitionism" on the flimsy evidence that cigarets cause lung cancer.

The doctor describes these advocates as "male counterparts of Carry Nation," the woman who won fame as an anti-liquor crusader around the turn of the century.

"No reformer," he says "is as determined as an ex-chain smoker."

Dr. Macdonald concedes that statistics show lung cancer occurs most frequently among

the heaviest cigaret smokers. But, he insists, "men of scientific substance" aren't convinced this proves tobacco is guilty.

"Lung cancer also develops in non-smokers," the doctor notes, "and in the great majority of regular cigaret smokers the disease does not develop."

Dr. Macdonald recalls that a researcher 30 years ago suggested "the regular use of tobacco may decrease longevity by something over two years." If this is so, he says "many are quite willing to pay such a price in return for the continued enjoyment of the oldest, and surely the safest, tranquilizer of all."

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