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Oral Nicotine Pouches: Histology of Oral Mucosa with Chronic Use

Alexandria, VA – A study performing a histologic evaluation of oral mucosa in chronic oral nicotine pouch users was presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the AADOOCR, which was held in conjunction with the 49th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Dental Research, on March 12-15, 2025 in New York, NY.

The abstract, “Oral Nicotine Pouches: Histology of Oral Mucosa with Chronic Use” was presented by Christian McSweeney of A.T. Still University during the “Oral Cavity and Head and Neck Cancer” Oral Session that took place on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT (UTC-4).

Oral nicotine pouches (ONPs) are a new generation of tobacco-free nicotine pouches, which are used recreationally. Unlike snus and smokeless tobacco, ONPs contain pharmaceutical-grade nicotine as their major ingredient, along with flavorings, buffers, and preservatives. Limited research has examined the impact of ONP use on oral tissues.

The purpose of this case-series study was to perform histologic evaluation of oral mucosa in chronic ONP users. Diagnostic status of oral mucosa in chronic users is critical for assessing overall risk for adverse outcomes from recreational ONP use. Biopsies showed chronic ONP use produces an inflammatory response at the site of pouch placement. A longitudinal study is necessary to determine lifetime risk associated with chronic ONP use.

About AADOOCR

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research to advance health and well-being. AADOOCR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit and private-sector institutions who share our mission. AADOOCR is the largest division of the International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research. Learn more at www.aadocr.org.