
RSNA Press Release

RSNA 2019 Presents Session on Lung Injury from Vaping

Released: December 2, 2019

CHICAGO — A panel of medical professionals will discuss the public health impact of e-cigarette use, or "vaping," today during a session at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA).



Mark L. Schiebler, M.D.



Jeffrey S. Klein, M.D.

E-cigarette use is on the rise. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 9 million adults in the U.S. use e-cigarettes, and vaping has become especially popular among teens. The 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey reported that in 2018 more than 3.6 million middle and high school students were using e-cigarettes.

E-cigarette inhalants, upon vaporization of the e-cigarette solution, contain potentially harmful toxic substances that can cause lung injury and, in some cases, [inhibit vascular function](#).

In August, a multistate outbreak of lung disease associated with e-cigarette product use began in the United States. The situation is ongoing, and multiple substances and product sources are still under investigation by the CDC. However, most patients involved in the outbreak have reported using products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Therefore, the CDC recommends that people avoid e-cigarette products that contain THC.



Brandon Larsen, M.D., Ph.D.



Seth J. Kligerman, M.D.

"An outbreak of lung disease associated with vaping has developed recently throughout the U.S.," said Jeffrey S. Klein, M.D., RSNA Board Liaison for Publications and Communications and A. Bradley Soule and John P. Tampas Green and Gold Professor of Radiology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine in Burlington. "Radiographic and CT findings of diffuse pneumonitis have emerged as characteristic findings in affected patients and are included in the CDC case definition of vaping-induced lung injury.

"In our efforts to educate radiologists about this potentially fatal condition they may encounter in younger patients with acute respiratory symptoms, the RSNA has organized a special session at RSNA 2019 where experts will provide up-to-date information regarding key radiologic, pathologic and physiologic findings associated with this critical public health issue," he said.

Dr. Klein participated in calls with the CDC, as it worked with various medical specialty groups to investigate and identify potential causes of vaping-related lung injury. In September, Dr. Klein produced a brief [educational video](#) aimed at updating radiologists on this topic, so that they could be well positioned to assist in identifying cases.



Alessandra Caporale, Ph.D.

For the session at RSNA 2019, Dr. Klein will be joined by Mark L. Schiebler, M.D., professor of cardiothoracic radiology at University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health - Madison, Travis S. Henry, M.D., associate professor of clinical radiology at the University of California, San Francisco, Seth J. Kligerman, M.D., associate professor of radiology and section chief of cardiothoracic imaging at the University of California, San Diego, Brandon Larsen, M.D., Ph.D., consultant and associate professor of laboratory medicine and pathology at Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Alessandra Caporale, Ph.D., post-doctoral researcher in the Laboratory for Structural, Physiologic and Functional Imaging at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

The session will provide a brief introduction, followed by an exploration of the scope of the problem, description of imaging findings and histopathology associated with vaping-related lung injury, a presentation on how vaping affects the vascular system and a Q&A with the panelists.

After attending the session at RSNA 2019, radiologists and other medical professionals should have a greater understanding of the public health implications of the vaping-related lung injury outbreak in the U.S. They will also become familiar with common CT and X-ray findings associated with the condition, and how the pathology helps to define the possible causes of this disorder. Lastly, they will know more about vaping's impact on vascular function.

"As we learn more, RSNA will continue to keep radiologists informed on this important public health topic," Dr. Klein said.

"Special Interest: E-cigarette/Vaping-associated Lung Injury (EVALI)" (SPSI27) will be held Monday, Dec. 2, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

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For the latest information from the CDC on vaping-associated lung injury, visit https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html.

Note: Copies of RSNA 2019 news releases and electronic images will be available online at [RSNA.org/press19](https://www.rsna.org/press19) beginning Monday, Nov. 25.

RSNA is an association of over 53,400 radiologists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists and related scientists, promoting excellence in patient care and health care delivery through education, research and technologic innovation. The Society is based in Oak Brook, Ill. ([RSNA.org](https://www.rsna.org))

To ensure you are using the most up-to-date information, please call the RSNA Newsroom at 1-312-791-6610.

For patient-friendly information on chest X-ray and CT, visit [RadiologyInfo.org](https://www.radiologyinfo.org).