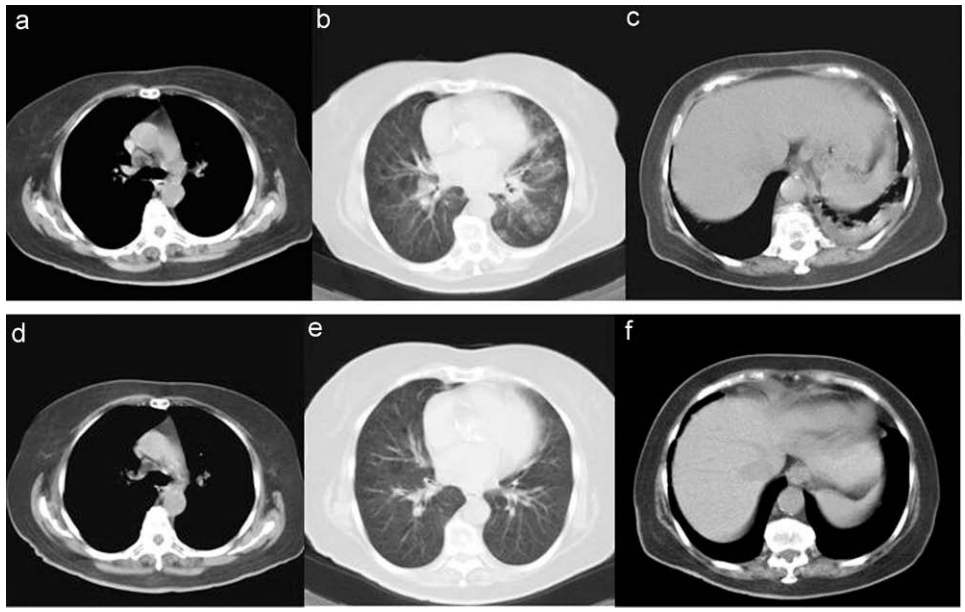

Figure. Pretreatment computed tomography scans of the chest without contrast enhancement. A. Chest CT with mediastinal window settings reveals a right paratracheal lymph node measuring 2 cm at the level of the aortic arch. B. Chest CT with pulmonary window settings shows atypical infiltrates and micronodular ground-glass opacities in the basal segments of the lower lobe and lingula of the left lung. C. Chest CT with mediastinal window settings shows left pleural effusion in the lower segments. After 1 month of follow-up. D. Chest CT scans reveal smaller mediastinal lymph nodes. E. No areas of lung infiltrate are observed. F. Pleural effusion has resolved spontaneously.

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Reduction in tobacco consumption: an emerging topic within the smoking debate

Reducción del consumo de tabaco: una subárea temática emergente dentro del tabaquismo

To the Editor:

Finding articles on the reduction of tobacco consumption (RTC) is normal in the recent literature on smoking, some articles discuss the reduction of damage; others discuss reducing until no longer smoking (RNS), and others discuss epidemiology. Therefore, and as it is an emerging topic in smoking, we want to know exactly which are the topics that the RTC deals with and their repercussions. The Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-Expanded) was used to carry out a bibliographic search for the 2002-2007 period, using describers previously characterised and described.[1] After a manual review of the records by 2 researchers of our group, we found a total of 100 documents, from 272 authors, with a total of 372 signatures and, therefore with an index of signatures per study of 3.72, from a total of 119 different institutions. The average citation per study for the total number of documents was 5.34 (interval: 0–32). From the total number of articles, 53% were about damage reduction, 29% were about RNS, 14% were about epidemiology and 4% were included in the "others" section. When analysing the average number of citations per study by topic, epidemiology reached 6.57 (interval: 0—30), RNS 6.17 (interval: 0—32) and damage reduction 4.96 (interval: 0–31).

The RTC is a current topic concerning smoking, as it presents, when deeply analysed, two topics that make it very interesting and controversial at the same time. The first concerns if there is a safety threshold in consumption and on the reversibility in the damaging effects of cigarettes, which seems to not exist,[2] as even with a low rate of consumption of cigarettes per day, damage is produced. The other topic is that there are many smokers that could try to reduce their consumption, without actually wanting to stop smoking, and it has been shown that this would lead to a greater number of people trying to stop smoking as well as an increased abstinence after reduction.[3] As we have been able to confirm, these are the topics with the greater number of documents that have been produced, but it is interesting that they are not those that have had the greatest repercussions, therefore, as we have shown, the average of citations per study is greater in studies on epidemiology. Smoking, as we have previously stated, presents a high average repercussion, which could be explained by its multidisciplinary nature, as it is found to be included in all of those scientific areas that have increased its production, visibility and importance. The repercussion of the RTC is

slightly greater than the average previously found for smoking in general,[5,6] and we are not surprised that the documents on epidemiology are those that cause more repercussions of the topics included in the RTC, as it is one of the specialties with a greater production and visibility regarding smoking.[5]

It is known that the oldest articles increase with time the number of citations that they receive, without establishing this fact in a period of 5 years,[6] as the citation is maintained and even increased with each year that goes by. Because of this, the repercussion of the RTC of the years studied will continue to increase with time, which will place it in a position in front of smoking.

We can confirm that the RTC is an important emerging topic within the topic of smoking, with repercussions greater than the average found for all of the topics concerning tobacco together and with certain clearly defined research topics.

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