COVID-19 and vaping: risk for increased susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 infection?

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To the Editor:

With great interest we read and commend the study done by Russo et al. [1], highlighting their findings that nicotine induces an increase in angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE-2) expression in human bronchial epithelial cells (HBEpC) and is mediated by α7-subtype nicotinic receptors (α7-nAChR). It raises the concern that all electronic nicotine-delivery systems may put users at greater risk of succumbing to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).