



## Health Hazards of Tobacco

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*The blood-profile of cigarette smokers and oral mucosa tobacco chewers has been investigated with an objective to determine the health hazards of consumption of tobacco. Blood samples of 20 smokers and 20 non- smokers of two age groups (18-25 yrs. and 30-60 yrs) were analyzed for their serum cholesterol.*

*Similarly, oral fluid was collected from 19 tobacco chewers and 19 non- chewers of two age groups (18-25 yrs. and 30-60 yrs) and assessed by histology test. The tests revealed high levels of serum cholesterol (mean = 216 mg/dl, t-stat = 4.99, t-critical = 2.26) in smokers of 18-25 yrs. age group and still higher in smokers of 30-60 yrs age group (mean = 235.7 mg/dl, t-stat = 4.68, t-critical = 2.26) as compared to non- smokers of both the age groups. The histology test revealed precancerous condition like leukoplakia in tobacco chewers of 18-25 yrs. age group and further aggravated precancerous condition like dysplasia and erythroplakia in chewers of 30-60 yrs age group as compared to the control subjects.*

**Keywords:-** *Cigarette smokers, tobacco chewers, serum cholesterol, oral histology, leukoplakia, dysplasia and erythroplakia.*

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