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SMOKING BEHAVIOUR STUDIES AT CAMBRIDGE:
A COMPARISON OF MIDDLE-TAR AND LOW-TAR SMOKERS ON THEIR USUAL BRANDS

(Report No. RD.1776 Restricted)

SUMMARY

There has been a considerable amount of interest, particularly amongst members of the medical profession, in possible differences in "smoke exposure" between smokers of middle- and low-tar cigarettes.

This report gives the detailed results from the first part of a joint study with Mr. R. Stepney and Professor I.H. Mills at Cambridge, in which forty smokers of middle-tar and low-tar cigarettes were investigated, smoking their usual brands. In terms of delivery (or mouth intake), the amounts of tar and nicotine obtained by the two groups of smokers were closer than those expected ("league-table" figures). Even so, the results show that smokers of low-tar cigarettes obtained lower tar and nicotine deliveries than those smoking middle-tar cigarettes. Interestingly, middle-tar smokers actually obtained less tar and nicotine than indicated by "league table" figures.

The results also show that women obtain lower deliveries of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide than men, confirming results from previous work.

In order to update our knowledge of low-tar and middle-tar smokers, two further studies, involving a further forty smokers at Cambridge and a rather larger group (100+) in S.E. London, are now underway.

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