

Three FACTS about Tobacco

1. It is a FACT that no scientifically proven direct causal relationship between smoking and disease has ever been found to exist. This remains true, despite the vast sums of money being spent on research by medical authorities and by the industry in attempting to trace any such link.
2. It is a FACT that a vast amount of statistical data exists, which is believed by many doctors and authorities to show that a causal link exists between smoking and certain diseases.

Note (i) this is the heart of the smoking controversy, and the weight of evidence is not to be lightly dismissed.

Note (ii) yet even the strongest statistical data can never amount to direct proof of causation on its own - other hypotheses, also suggested by doctors and research workers, have to be considered, for example that smoking and disease may share a common cause in the bodily constitution, or that the living and working conditions of the person concerned may be involved in the disease.

Note (iii) in any case the evidence does not all point one way - in the 30,000 or more reports on this subject there are many anomalies and contradictions. Indeed the scientists at times disagree amongst themselves on the interpretation of the data and charges against tobacco can be supported by one set of figures and countered by another. Even the best-informed opinions can honestly differ on where the facts lie.

3. It is a FACT that many smokers and many health authorities have expressed a preference for cigarettes with a lower tar and nicotine content, even though the health effects of any of these or of any other cigarettes are unknown. The tobacco companies are responsible commercial enterprises which are always prepared as far as possible to give the customer what he wants and to fit in with government requirements. To this end they are constantly modifying and developing their products, and the cigarettes they sell today are far different from those of twenty and even ten years ago.

Although it is clear that the allegations that smoking causes disease have not been proven, the reverse is also true - it has not been proved that smoking is not possibly a health hazard. Consequently research into this subject must be continued.

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