**ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SMOKELESS-TOBACCO USE AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE 2015 BRFSS DATA**

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**Introduction:**Tobacco smoking is a well-documented risk factor for CVD; however, the association between smokeless-tobacco use and CVD remains poorly understood.

**Objective:**Toevaluate the association between smokeless tobacco use and CVD.

**Methods:** To better understand the possible association, we completed a cross-sectional review of the 2015 BFRSS database. Of the 441,466 respondents, 3.64% reported using smokeless tobacco and 1.28% (n = 5,635) reported using smokeless tobacco and never smoking. We also reviewed a random sampling of smokeless tobacco non-users (who also reported never smoking) (n =5,635).

**Results:** The prevalence of CVD in the sample was 38.9% overall with no significant difference between the two groups before adjustment for covariates. After adjustment for confounding variables, the adjusted odds ratio for CVD and hypertension was 0.60(0.55 –0.66) and0.7(0.63 – 0.77) respectively with a lower rate in smokeless-tobacco users. However, there were higher adjusted rates of myocardial infarction [OR -1.4(1.13 – 1.73)] and stroke [OR 1.41 (1.1 – 1.81)]. There was no significant difference in the adjusted rates of angina/coronary heart disease between the two groups [OR 1.0(0.8 – 1.26)].

**Conclusion:** Smokeless tobacco use is associated with higher rates of myocardial infarction and stroke. Smokeless tobacco use was also associated with lower CVD and hypertension rates, but this needs further study.