E-cigarettes-beware of the rocket in your pocket

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Letter to Editor: E-cigarettes - beware of the rocket in your pocket

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Dear Editor,

An important point was neglected from the recent RCP report on e-cigarettes (EC) and tobacco harm reduction [1]. We recently published the first case series of burn injuries from EC devices and their exploding rechargeable lithium ion batteries [2]. The patients suffered significant thigh burns requiring hospitalisation and surgical debridement. These unfortunate EC users described their devices bursting into flames like a "rocket in my pocket". The devices were not second hand, counterfeit or damaged, they were purchased from UK high-street EC stores. A review of internet media sources revealed an alarming epidemic of EC related fires and explosions, with at least eight significant EC related burn injuries during 2016 in the UK alone [3].

There is currently a real risk of explosion, fire and significant injury from EC re-chargeable lithium ion batteries [2-4]. Urgent consumer guidance on the safe charging and storage of EC devices and their batteries is required. We would welcome any device regulation that would come with MHRA licencing, this should drive significant improvements in product safety and quality. It is completely unconscionable that public users are currently being sold devices with the potential to spontaneously explode and seriously injure. Likewise, it would be completely unconscionable to prescribe such a device to a patient without guarantee of safety. Given EC are now being proposed for use by some of our young [5] and potentially most vulnerable [6] patients, these concerns need to be highlighted and considered as a matter of urgency.


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https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=ecigarette+explodes&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&gws_rd=cr&ei=0NMjV87bDoSEgAaJ1bCwCQ


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