

# Alcohol in e-cigs can affect motor skills, study shows

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Credit: AI-generated image ([disclaimer](#))

Some commercially available e-cigarettes contain enough alcohol to impact motor skills, a new Yale University School of Medicine study shows.

E-cigarettes deliver nicotine by vaporizing [liquids](#), which often contain

alcohol and other chemicals in addition to nicotine. In the new study, published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, researchers tested subjects who used two commercially available e-cigarettes with liquids containing either high (23.5%) or low (0.4%) amounts of alcohol.

While neither group reported feeling differently after inhaling vapor, the group who used e-cigarettes with the high alcohol level performed more poorly on psychomotor tests and in some instances also had detectable levels of alcohol in their urine.

About 75% of the commercial e-cigarette liquids tested in the study contained less than 1% alcohol. However, the authors note some e-cig users create their own liquids with higher alcohol content and that almost nothing is known about the prevalence and patterns of using e-liquids that contain alcohol.

The [researchers](#) also said it was possible that the presence of alcohol might reinforce the addictive properties of both nicotine and alcohol if inhaled.

"Given the widespread and unregulated use of e-cigarettes, especially by youth and other vulnerable populations, further studies are needed to evaluate both the acute safety and long-term health risks of using alcohol-containing e-cigarettes," said Mehmet Sofuoglu, of Yale's Department of Psychiatry and VA Connecticut Healthcare system, who is senior author of the paper.

Provided by Yale University

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