**Is Smokeless Tobacco use a risk factor for Coronary artery disease? A comparative study of smokers and smokeless tobacco users.**

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**Abstract:**

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is a major cause of premature death and disability throughout the world. Tobacco use is an important and avertable cause of CAD. The use of tobacco is on the rise worldwide especially among the youth. So the present study was carried out in 400 young males to evaluate & compare the cardio vascular disease risk factors in smokers & smokeless tobacco users- tobacco chewers & Kharra chewers. Tobacco users had significantly higher cardiovascular disease risk factors- C reactive protein & lipid profile (except HDL) than non users. The C reactive protein & lipid profile differences between smokers & tobacco chewers were found to be non significant while Kharra chewers had significantly lower values than smokers & tobacco chewers. The deleterious cardiovascular risk factors were considerably less in Kharra chewers than cigarette smokers & tobacco chewers. Excessive risks in tobacco users than non users bestow grounds to initiate and strengthen the programs to inform the public of the harmful nature of all forms of tobacco use.

**Key words:** C reactive protein (CRP), lipid profile, cardio vascular disease, Tobacco, Smokeless tobacco.