

Lipid-Laden Macrophages in Cannabinoid Oil Vaping Associated Lung Injury



To the Editor:

We read with great interest the article by Coneul and Chieng.¹ The authors demonstrated an interesting association between computed tomography (CT) patterns and cannabinoid oil-associated vaping lung injury.¹ However, an interesting topic that the authors did not mention was the association between lipid pneumonia and lipid-laden macrophages. Lipoid pneumonia is an inflammatory response to the presence of lipids within the alveolar space, and the typical CT finding would be fat attenuation in the lung. The authors stated that lipid-laden macrophages in bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) could suggest a form of lipid pneumonia. Recently, Butt et al reported a few cases that represented exogenous lipid pneumonia as a result of vaping-associated lung injury; none of them showed histologic evidence of the same.² We would like to raise the awareness that lipid-laden macrophages should be interpreted with caution because it may merely be a marker of exposure rather than a marker of toxicity. We are also wondering whether these CT images showed fat attenuation.

Kulothungan Gunasekaran, MD^a
Venkat Rajasurya, MD^b
Arul Chandran, MD^c
Joe Devasahayam, MD^d

^aDivision of Pulmonary Critical
Care Medicine, Yale New Haven
Health Bridgeport Hospital,
Bridgeport, Conn

^bDivision of Pulmonary Diseases
and Critical Care, Novant Health,
Winston-Salem, NC

^cDivision of Pulmonary Diseases
and Critical Care, Hurley Medical
Center, Flint, Mich

^dDivision of Pulmonary Diseases
and Critical Care, University of
South Dakota, Sioux Falls

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Requests for reprints should be addressed to Kulothungan Gunasekaran, MD, Division of Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine, Yale New Haven Health Bridgeport Hospital, 267 Grant Street, Bridgeport, CT 06605.

E-mail address: stankuloth@gmail.com