

Tobacco: Health benefits of smoking cessation

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Are there immediate and long-term health benefits of quitting for all smokers?

Beneficial health changes that take place:

- Within 20 minutes, your heart rate and blood pressure drop.
- 12 hours, the carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal.
- 2-12 weeks, your circulation improves and your lung function increases.
- 1-9 months, coughing and shortness of breath decrease.
- 1 year, your risk of coronary heart disease is about half that of a smoker's.
- 5 years, your stroke risk is reduced to that of a nonsmoker 5 to 15 years after quitting.
- 10 years, your risk of lung cancer falls to about half that of a smoker and your risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, cervix, and pancreas decreases.
- 15 years, the risk of coronary heart disease is that of a nonsmoker's.

Can people of all ages who have already developed smoking-related health problems still benefit from quitting?



WHO TEAM

Health Promotion (HPR), No Tobacco (TFI)

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