

POISONS

Tobacco smoke contains over 4,000 chemical compounds, present as gas or tiny particles including:

Nicotine

This is what makes the cigarette addictive. Even very small doses can cause convulsions and death. Small children eating cigarettes found in the house can suffer severe poisoning.

Tar

This is formed when tobacco smoke condenses. It's deposited in the lungs and gradually absorbed. It's a mixture of many chemicals including: formaldehyde, arsenic, cyanide, benzopyrene, benzene, toluene, acrolein, ammonia, dimethylnitroamine and radio-active polonium-210.

Carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is transported by red blood cells, and so while they are doing this, they are unable to carry the necessary amount of oxygen needed by the body.

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