

Review of: "FDA Decision to Authorize NJOY ACE Menthol Was Based on a Rigorous Review of the Science to Determine That the Benefits Outweigh the Risk"

Donald Miller¹

¹ North Dakota State University, United States

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This commentary is an important and well-written explanation of why the FDA authorized menthol-flavored e-cigarettes for aid in smoking cessation.

In regulating e-cigarettes, the FDA takes a public health approach, balancing the benefits for smoking cessation versus the harms of initiating nicotine use by youth. Consistent with the concept of overall harm reduction, the FDA felt the science demonstrated that the benefits of these e-cigarettes outweighed the harms to public health. Although many people have strong opinions about vaping products, the FDA took an evidence-based approach.

It is important to understand that while tobacco cessation drugs are helpful for many, more and better alternatives are still needed. Vaping may not be one's first choice for cessation therapy, but it is still an alternative to discuss with patients.

[Smoking cessation drug development has stagnated. Here's why | STAT \(statnews.com\)](#)