Introduction

• Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) - a global menace
• Greatest burden of use in SEAR
• No effort yet undertaken to consolidate research data on SLT & identify still-under researched areas

Objectives

• To identify the most-researched areas in SLT
• To delineate collaboration among scientists
• To identify research gaps for better policy impact assessments

Methods

• Data collected from PubMed database using MeSH Terms & computational techniques
• Networks designed to denote collaboration between authors
• Subjects of study in SLT analyzed to detect research gaps

Results

• 3190 PubMed records analyzed
• Maximum research interest - Adverse effects (1017) & Epidemiology (925)
• Least research on economics and administration & dosage

Conclusions

• We, for the first time, highlight paucity of research on important topic like economic costs & alternative strategies for SLT control
• Imperative need to form core research groups in high-burden countries for policy-oriented research for SLT control
• Intra-country & inter-country collaborative research the need of the hour

Limitations

• Results based on single word search “smokeless tobacco”
• Authors without affiliations are excluded