



COPING WITH QUITTING: COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES

<p>COGNITIVE STRATEGIES focus on retraining the way a patient thinks. Often, patients will deliberate on the fact that they are thinking about a cigarette, and this leads to relapse. Patients must recognize that thinking about a cigarette doesn't mean they need to have one.</p>	
REVIEW COMMITMENT TO QUIT	Each morning, say, "I am proud that I made it through another day without tobacco!" Remind oneself that cravings and temptations are temporary and will pass. Announce, either silently or aloud, "I am a nonsmoker, and the temptation will pass."
DISTRACTIVE THINKING	Use deliberate, immediate refocusing of thinking toward other thoughts when cued by thoughts about tobacco use.
POSITIVE SELF-TALKS, PEP TALKS	Say, "I can do this," and remind oneself of previous difficult situations in which tobacco use was avoided.
RELAXATION THROUGH IMAGERY	Center mind toward positive, relaxing thoughts.
MENTAL REHEARSAL, VISUALIZATION	Prepare for situations that might arise by envisioning how best to handle them. For example, envision what would happen if offered a cigarette by a friend—mentally craft and rehearse a response, and perhaps even practice it by saying it aloud.
<p>BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES involve specific actions to reduce risk for relapse. These strategies should be considered prior to quitting, after determining patient-specific triggers and routines or situations associated with tobacco use. Below are strategies for several of the more common cues or causes for relapse.</p>	
STRESS	Anticipate upcoming challenges at work, at school, or in personal life. Develop a substitute plan for tobacco use during times of stress (e.g., use deep breathing, take a break or leave the situation, call a supportive friend or family member, use nicotine replacement therapy).
ALCOHOL	<i>Drinking alcohol can lead to relapse.</i> Consider limiting or abstaining from alcohol during the early stages of quitting.
OTHER TOBACCO USERS	<i>Quitting is more difficult if the patient is around other tobacco users. This is especially difficult if another tobacco user is in the household.</i> During the early stages of quitting, limit prolonged contact with individuals who are using tobacco. Ask co-workers, friends, and housemates not to smoke or use tobacco in your presence.
ORAL GRATIFICATION NEEDS	Have nontobacco oral substitutes (e.g., gum, sugarless candy, straws, toothpicks, lip balm, toothbrush, nicotine replacement therapy, bottled water) readily available.
AUTOMATIC SMOKING ROUTINES	Anticipate routines associated with tobacco use and develop an alternative plan. Examples: MORNING COFFEE: change morning routine, take shower before drinking coffee, drink tea instead of coffee, take a brisk walk shortly after awakening. WHILE DRIVING: remove all tobacco from car, have car interior detailed, listen to an audio book or talk radio, use oral substitutes. WHILE ON THE PHONE: stand while talking, limit call duration, change phone location, keep hands occupied by doodling or sketching. AFTER MEALS: get up and immediately do dishes or take a brisk walk after eating, brush teeth, call supportive friend.
POSTCESSATION WEIGHT GAIN	Do not attempt to modify multiple behaviors at one time. If weight gain is a barrier to quitting, engage in regular physical activity and adhere to a healthful diet (as opposed to strict dieting). Carefully plan and prepare meals, increase fruit and water intake to create a feeling of fullness, and chew sugarless gum or eat sugarless candies. Consider use of pharmacotherapy shown to delay weight gain.
CRAVINGS FOR TOBACCO	Cravings for tobacco are temporary and usually pass within 5–10 minutes. Handle cravings through distractive thinking, take a break, do something else, take deep breaths.



WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS INFORMATION SHEET

Quitting tobacco use brings about a variety of physical and psychological withdrawal symptoms. For some people, coping with withdrawal symptoms is like riding a roller coaster—there may be sharp turns, slow climbs, and unexpected plunges. **Most symptoms manifest within the first 1 to 2 days, peak within the first week, and subside within 2 to 4 weeks.** Report new symptoms to your health-care provider, especially if severe. Consider the impact of recent medication changes and your caffeine intake.

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	DURATION	RELIEF
Chest tightness	Tightness is likely due to tension created by the body's need for nicotine or may be caused by sore muscles from coughing.	A few days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use relaxation techniques Try deep breathing Use of NRT may help
Constipation, stomach pain, gas	Intestinal movement decreases for a brief period.	1–2 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink plenty of fluids Add fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain cereals to diet
Cough, dry throat, nasal drip	The body is getting rid of mucus, which has blocked airways and restricted breathing.	A few days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink plenty of fluids Avoid additional stress during first few weeks
Craving for a cigarette	Nicotine is a strongly addictive drug, and withdrawal causes cravings.	Frequent for 2–3 days; can happen for months or years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait out the urge, which lasts only a few minutes Distract yourself Exercise (take walks) Use of a nicotine medication may help
Depressed mood	It is normal to feel sad for a period of time after you first quit smoking. Many people have a strong urge to smoke when they feel depressed.	1–2 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase pleasurable activities Talk with your clinician about changes in your mood when quitting Get extra support from friends and family
Difficulty concentrating	The body needs time to adjust to not having constant stimulation from nicotine.	A few weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan workload accordingly Avoid additional stress during first few weeks
Dizziness	The body is getting extra oxygen.	1–2 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use extra caution Change positions slowly
Fatigue	Nicotine is a stimulant.	2–4 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take naps Do not push yourself Use of a nicotine medication may help
Hunger	Cravings for a cigarette can be confused with hunger pangs; sensation may result from oral cravings or the desire for something in the mouth.	Up to several weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drink water or low-calorie liquids Be prepared with low-calorie snacks
Insomnia	Nicotine affects brain wave function and influences sleep patterns; coughing and dreams about smoking are common.	1 week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit caffeine intake (and none after 12 noon), because its effects will increase with quitting smoking Use relaxation techniques
Irritability	The body's craving for nicotine can produce irritability.	2–4 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take walks Try hot baths Use relaxation techniques

Adapted from materials from the National Cancer Institute.