

Enzyme could help smokers quit

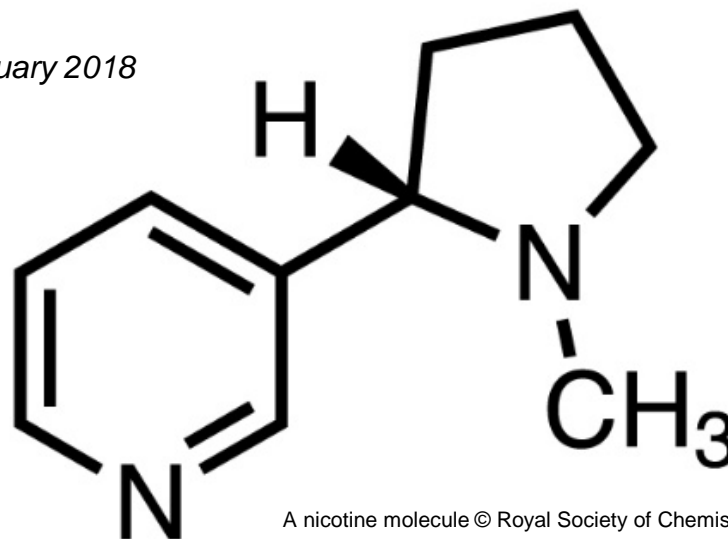
Nicotine is the addictive substance in cigarettes. It affects smokers' brains and makes it hard for them to stop smoking.

Scientists have found a way to break down the nicotine using an enzyme. The enzyme had to be changed slightly.

Scientists have tested the enzyme on rats. Rats are less likely to be addicted to nicotine when they are given the enzyme. So, if we give the enzyme to people who are trying to stop smoking, it may help them as well.

However, another scientist is worried the enzyme may be neutralised by the human body's immune system.

Read the full article at rsc.li/2ETtyVg, first published 23 January 2018

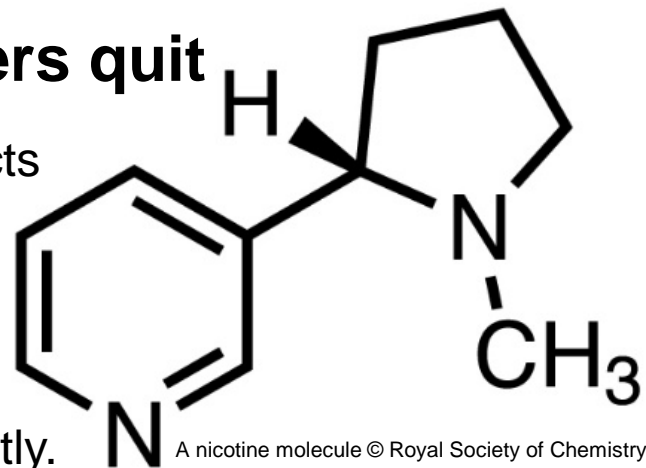


A nicotine molecule © Royal Society of Chemistry

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1. Describe what it is like to be addicted to something.
2. What do you think an enzyme is?
3. What are the advantages of testing the enzyme on rats first?
4. What are the disadvantages of testing the enzyme on rats first?