Animal testing and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT)

In response to an enquiry from a patient, we asked manufacturers of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) available in the UK to provide information on whether their products have been tested on animals. The statements are accurate as of July 2024, when this briefing was originally published.

Nicorette (Johnson & Johnson/Kenvue)

Stop smoking medications:

- Nicorette 2mg gum
- Nicorette 4mg gum
- Nicorette Fruit Fusion 2mg Gum
- Nicorette Fruit Fusion 4mg Gum
- Nicorette Freshmint 2mg Gum
- Nicorette Freshmint 4mg Gum
- Nicorette Icy White 2mg Gum
- Nicorette Icy White 4mg Gum
- Nicorette QuickMist 1mg Mouth Spray
- Nicorette QuickMist Cool Berry 1mg Mouth Spray
- Nicorette QuickMist SmartTrack Fresh Mint 1mg Mouth Spray
- Nicorette 10ml Nasal spray
- Nicorette 15mg Inhalator
- Nicorette 2mg Microtab
- Nicorette Cools 2mg Lozenge
- Nicorette Cools 4mg Lozenge
- Nicorette Fruit 2mg Lozenge
- Nicorette 10mg InvisiPatch
- Nicorette 15mg InvisiPatch
- Nicorette 25mg InvisiPatch

Response:

“We are deeply committed to the ‘3R’ Principles of replacement, reduction, and refinement, and actively promote the use of non-animal alternatives whenever feasible. When it comes to the development of medicines, medical devices and other regulated health products, animal use can be required to demonstrate safety and/or to validate efficacy for regulatory purposes. Our Humane Care and Use of Animals Policy ensures the ethical and humane treatment of animals used in laboratory settings to advance patient safety and well-being, reflecting animal welfare standards that meet all applicable local and national laws and regulations.”

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Nicotinell (GSK/Haleon)

Stop smoking medications:

- Nicotinell Mint 2mg Medicated Gum
- Nicotinell Mint 4mg Medicated Gum
- Nicotinell Fruit 2mg Medicated Gum
- Nicotinell Fruit 4mg Medicated Gum
- Nicotinell Mint 1mg Lozenge
- Nicotinell Mint 2mg Lozenge
- Nicotinell Rapid Relief 1mg Oromucosal Spray*
- Nicotinell 7mg patch
- Nicotinell 14mg patch
- Nicotinell 21mg patch

**Product launched after statement was provided*

Response:

"As a purpose-led business, focused on delivering better everyday health with humanity, we at Haleon understand the strength of feeling and sensitivity around the use of animals in research. We only use animals in the development of new products where alternative forms of testing do not exist, and where there is a specific scientific, legal, or regulatory requirement to do so, in order to ensure our products are safe and deliver the intended health benefits.

Animal studies represent a very small part of our research and development of innovative consumer health products. Where we are required to use animals for specific scientific, legal, or regulatory requirements, this is managed exceptionally carefully with our maximum focus on ensuring it is conducted in the most humane way possible.

Ultimately, we would like to see all development of innovative consumer health products take place without the involvement of animals. Haleon is therefore committed to the replacement, reduction, and refinement of animal studies (the 3Rs) and we are actively engaged in efforts to develop and validate experimental methods that can provide alternatives to the use of animals in research. You can read our full policy position on the use of animals in researching on our website."

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NiQuitin (Perrigo)

Stop smoking medications:

- NiQuitin 2mg Lozenges
- NiQuitin 4mg Lozenges
- NiQuitin Mint 2mg Lozenges
- NiQuitin Mint 4mg Lozenges
- NiQuitin Minis Mint 2mg Lozenges
- NiQuitin Minis Mint 4mg Lozenges
- NiQuitin Minis 2mg Lozenges
- NiQuitin Minis 4mg Lozenges
- NiQuitin 21mg Pre-Quit Clear Patch
- NiQuitin 21mg Clear Patch
- NiQuitin 14mg Clear Patch
- NiQuitin 7mg Clear Patch

Response:

“NiQuitin products (patch, lozenges & mini lozenges) have not involved animal testing as part of their development and can thus be considered free of animal testing. However, to support the safety of our products we have relied on existing studies that were performed in the past by other laboratories, and which tested nicotine products on animals. Hence, the NiQuitin product range is free of animal testing, however nicotine in general isn’t, and this is also true for all our competitors as nicotine was widely studied in animals some time ago.”

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