**BBC Radio Asia**

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1st this hour would look at some of the week leading science breakthroughs including is a vape pink safer than smoking quite keen to assuming you've heard of it is the food of the future of her brain scientists helping deaf people to make more sense of speech he plus the brain implant which oma envisaging is about the size of a drawing pin will lighting up the field of october genetics how scientists are using liked to control the brain the latest sign that this 5 live 1st the number of people using electronic

e-cigarettes has doubled in the last 5 years and now stands at about 15 % of adults because e-cigarettes work by vat rating and nicotine rich liquid to produce the vapour rather than by burning tobacco some people regard them as a safer alternative to conventional smoking but always safer might the perception of safety potentially encourage non smokers to embrace the habit this week to papers been published examining these possibilities one of them by richard me check from the university of michigan and the other from leon shihab from university college london leon 1st analyse the event said to have a look at the relative risk of using these tech its compared with standard conventional cigarettes be looked at long-term users of these products to these people have been using e-cigarettes bodies one of the had their exposure to various cancer causing chemicals that people call smoke cigarettes the also another control group

richer people although using nicotine replacement therapy also stopped smoking so nicotine replacement therapies are things such as nicotine patches and nicotine gum compared to a cigarette smokers knows we're all completely switched over to e-cigarettes dramatically reduce specs version to the country causing chemicals to between 50 to 97 % reduction and levelled off cigarettes smokers and level to raise similar to those who use conventional forms of nicotine replacement therapy and therefore on the basis of what you have seen for your study what conclusion you draw might think the main conclusion to draw from the studies that some of the little child they're on the risks and dangers of e-cigarettes probably overstates the harm they can cause certainly compared to earth the use of conventional cigarettes as those who call it switch over to using e-cigarettes dramatically reduced exposure to cancer causing chemicals meaning that it is likely that it reduces their risk off subsequent diseases including cancer a great game

some very encouraging but on the other hand richard mia you're coming at this from a different direction what is your perspective world we look at a slightly different research question so as you pointed out in the introduction of the day right now about whether e-cigarettes use among teens is leading them to become smokers or whether alternatively kids er aping said smoking so we do is we interviewed a group of 17 year olds and we followed them up you're later so long kid to never smoked the baseline those relating as compared to those who were taking more about 4 times more likely to have smoked a cigarette in the following year then to among kids to had smoked in the past but were current smokers to the baseline we find that those who were dating were also more likely to come back to smoking about twice as likely to smoke a cigarette in the past here i suppose you can't really tell although whether those individuals who vote and

then smoked or carry on they think we're just gonna become smokers anyway so reaction look at that we had a question of the day fine hot dangerous to think smoking yes and we had a sizeable group who said that smoking was most dangerous thing you could do and so with just those kids who would seem to be likely to go on to smoking and even among them we found that those who they are likely to smoke we also found that among the kids aping those who thought that a cigarette was highly dangerous the baseline were more likely to move away from that there was likely to reduce the perceived risk of smoking as if it what reasons did they give for taking up the habit the 1st place dollar reason for the baking among those surveyed said they want to experiment to see what it was like and also that they like the flavour speakers taking comes out wide right a favourite song which will appeal to teens like chocolate are cherry year pub which

is leon it seems is a bit of attention here on the one hand we have this tall the you're saying appears to really help on the basis of your data on the other hand we got rich tears saying well actually it is pretty attractive to teams mile yes erm i have to say that i'm not entirely convinced that is possible to prove forget about us as we look at this and the uk which has quite a relaxed attitude cards e-cigarettes we have seen an increase in the use of e-cigarettes among use as well although the use of e-cigarettes among nonsmoking kids is very very low indeed and we can compare this with the country that he said it's not really widely available such as news zealand who deceived you compare the trajectory of that decline is very comparable say the pool was putting in the sense that if there is and indeed gateau effect from using e-cigarettes to using cigarettes then you would expect in the long term that the decrease and cigarette consumption and singer

prevalence and use should stop but this is not the case now is the case in the us where they think the latest data show that the singer consumption of to cigarette contention this lowest for them since and recalling her started bridget yes that is true in fact that there's a historical low in the role of cigarette smoking among teens the us study is one that actually was the 1st to report that but actually that long decline that started more than two decades ago and a point up the climb started well before you see what he thinks listed do you think then project that makes clear that these are an evil thing we should news on the basis of the fish you're only seeing a negative it's encouraging more people who privacy been extremely diligent giving up or not take up smoking the 1st place to embrace this habit my main message would be many teens believe that taping is completely

innocuous and it has no negative consequences are think if word got out that kids today are significantly more likely to start smoking think many teams would think twice before pimping maybe steer steer clear of devices do not think that is a risk beyond that it's not just kids it could be some of the adults of missing here and not smokers that might be tempted to toy with the idea of a thing because it does taste nice perhaps or or it is not regarded as so bad here yes it does it is a theoretical risk and that the data and uk just do not bear this out there's no evidence that i concede currently that a non smokers are taking up maybe it's so you're view it's a good thing it will help people to minimize the harms that cigarettes do yeah just reiterated the vast majority will use e-cigarettes are either our current smokers and ex smokers and it is sad truth that only about 50 % off its makers mention stops making their lifetime which means that in the uk once and still

of nearly 100000 died because of smoking e-cigarettes are potentially a real for been some people have failed to stop making of other conventional forms of support to stop smoking and they appear to be significantly safer then continue to make rigid last word to you here are point out that among 13 and 15 year olds taping is more than twice as prevalent as cigarette smoking among teens bp has really taken off to the extent that it is a british smoking no i think that's a message that teams need to hear rigid me neck and his paper was in the journal tobacco control before richard was leon shot had who published his study in the annals of internal medicine the nerve cells or neurons that send messages from one end of the body to the other has fascinated anatomist for over a century and outstanding question is