

SCHOLARSHIP WEEK

The Influence of Medical Marijuana on Quality of life in Cancer Patients Undergoing Chemotherapy Compared to Non-uses: A Systematic Review



HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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Introduction

- Chemotherapy plays a vital role in fighting the disease but often leads to severe side effects like nausea, pain, and fatigue.
- Medical marijuana emerges as a potential solution to alleviate these chemotherapy-induced symptoms.
- Through its cannabinoids like THC and CBD, medical marijuana shows effectiveness in addressing issues such as nausea, loss of appetite, and pain.
- By interacting with the body's endocannabinoid system, medical marijuana offers cancer patients an alternative means to manage symptoms and improve their quality of life during treatment.

Objective

- Evaluate Quality of Life: Examine the overall wellbeing of cancer patients using medical marijuana during chemotherapy.
- Assess Symptom Management: Determine the effectiveness of medical marijuana in reducing symptoms such as pain, nausea, vomiting, and appetite loss.
- Identify Adverse Effects: Highlight potential side effects associated with its use.

Methodology

- Participant Inclusion
- Intervention Types
- Outcome Measures
- Experimental Studies
- Observational Studies
- Clinical Studies
- Randomized Control Trials

Results/Findings

- The majority of interventions revolved around the use of cannabis-derived medications, such as medical cannabis and cannabinoids
- Some studies demonstrated the efficacy of cannabis-based therapies in relieving symptoms such as pain, chemotherapyinduced nausea and vomiting, and other discomforts related to cancer
- Side effects documented across studies comprised drowsiness, dizziness, dry mouth, heightened appetite, and sleepiness.

Records after duplicates removed

(n = 411)

Records screened

(n = 411)

Full text articles

(n = 10)

Studies included in

qualitative synthesis

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assessed for eligibility -

Records identified through

other sources

(n = 55)

Records excluded

other sources

(n = 401)

Full-text articles excluded

(n = 0)

Figure

Records identified through

database searching

(n = 356)

Intervention

- Cannabis-Based Medications:
 - Oils
 - Capsules
 - Edibles
 - Sublingual tinctures.

Routes of Administration:

- o Inhalation: Smoking, vaporization.
- Oral Ingestion: Capsules, oils, edibles.
- Sublingual Tinctures: Applied under the tongue for direct absorption.

Dosage Information:

- Structured or self-regulated dosing.
- Example: 1-2 sublingual drops twice daily or an average of 8.75 sprays per day of THC and CBD extract.

Conclusion

- Medical marijuana can help cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy by reducing pain, nausea, vomiting, and appetite loss, making life better for people of all ages and with different types of cancer.
- Future research should look into how it works, its side effects in the short and long term, the best amounts to use, & how to give it.
- It's also important to see how legal changes affect getting medical marijuana. More research can make medical marijuana even better for helping with chemotherapy symptoms.

Precautions

Start with a Low Dose:

 Gradually increase to minimize severe side effects.

Monitor for Side Effects:

 Common reactions: drowsiness, dizziness, dry mouth, and appetite changes.

Patient Monitoring:

 Regular assessment by healthcare providers to ensure safe usage.

• Legal Considerations:

 Adhere to local & state regulations on medical marijuana use.

References

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