The Use of Cannabis for in Children with Primary Pain Disorders

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Cannabis

  - Montana: 4.1 %
  - Vermont: 0.07 %

- beneficial effects may be partially (or completely) offset by potentially serious harms
  - alterations to perception: NNH 6-9
  - motor function: NNH 4-6
  - altered cognitive function: 6-12

- Systematic review of randomized controlled trials
  Cannabinoids: NNT: ns; NNH 12.1. Only 2 out of 9 trials positive

- RCT Cancer pain: not effective
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnFZjDmohDc

“Fluffy, does the evidence support the use cannabis in children for chronic pain?”

Cannabis:

- Correlation with mental illness

- Health issues associated with cannabis

- Impairment of driving ability
- Associated with drugs of abuse
- Impacts on work

3 studies show positive correlation between marijuana use and testicular cancer


Cannabis

Studies on adolescent neurocognitive functioning


- Marijuana use was also correlated with poorer verbal and attention performance. Schweinsburg AD, Nagel BJ, Schweinsburg BC, Park A. Effects of marijuana on adolescent neurocognitive performance during spatial working memory. Psychiatry Res. 2008;163(1):40–51

- It is not regulated by the FDA, its purity and THC content are not consistently verified, and because there are only small case studies available, the risk–benefit relationship cannot be determined.

Early-Onset, Regular Cannabis Use Is Linked to IQ Decline


Positive Effects

Cannabinoids

- Well...
Cannabis
San Diego, CA

Cannabinoids

- Youthful exposure leads to earlier onset & more severe psychosis, incl. schizophrenia
- 9% of adults (17% teens) who experiment with marijuana become dependent

Negative Effects

Evidence & Safety

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<th>Good Safety</th>
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Evidence & Safety

- **AAP Handout for parents "Despite relaxed regulations, marijuana harms developing brain"**: [http://aapnews.aappublications.org/content/36/3/4.full.pdf+html]
- **Updated AAP policy opposes marijuana use, citing potential harms, lack of research** [http://aapnews.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/01/26/aapnews.20150126-1]

Cannabis

"Dr. Cox, considering evidence and safety - should we ever use Cannabis in children's pain management?"
Further Training:
CIPPC@ChildrensMN.org

9th Annual Pediatric Pain Master Class
• Minneapolis, MN | June 11-17, 2016

Education in Palliative & End-of-life Care [EPEC]: Become an EPEC-Pediatrics Trainer
• 9th Conference: Chicago, IL | March 12-13, 2016