

Cannabinoid Use in the Management of Chronic Pain

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Changing Picture for Legalization

Medical marijuana is legal in over half of the United States.

In most states, it is still only legal for medical use but not for recreational use.

Cannabidiol (CBD) is legal in all states.

The 2020 election has changed the legalization picture even further.

What is Cannabis?

The name for the marijuana plant itself.

Some chemicals found within the plant have effects on the human body. The two most studied are Cannabidiol (CBD) and Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Terpenes are other chemicals in the cannabis plant that are also commonly found in other plants such as pine or lavender.



What are the potential therapeutic effects of CBD?

Does not cause intoxication (feeling high/altered)

Anti-seizure

↓ Opioid craving

↓ **PAIN** (?)

Potential Adverse Effects of Cannabis

Intoxication (feeling high/altered)

Lung conditions (with smoking)

Risk of vehicle crashes

Mental health effects

Effects on pregnancy

Problems with learning, memory, attention

Dizziness and falls

Interactions with other medications

Research

A recent study noted labeling of products was inconsistent.

Actual amounts of CBD in the product may not be consistent with the amount noted on the label.

THC content in some products was found to be higher than as labeled.

Another recent study looked at cannabis use in women with chronic pelvic pain.

) New research is limited but suggests potential benefits in regard to pain and quality of life.

What are the potential therapeutic effects of THC?

↑ Appetite

↓ Nausea

↓ **PAIN**

Further studies are needed to support the positive effects of the cannabis plant, while looking for ways to lessen negative effects.