









OBJECTIVES

- To briefly discuss the role of the endocannabinoid system in the response to cannabinoids
- To discuss the behavioral, cognitive, psychosocial effects of cannabis and its compounds
- To examine the evidence for the use of cannabinoids for the treatment of <u>seizures/epilepsy</u>

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Definitions (NIDA)

Cannabinoids

- Chemicals derived from the Cannabis plant (or manufactured)
- + Dronabinol (pill and liquid) and Nabilone synthetic FDA-approved $\Delta\text{-9}$ THC/ $\Delta\text{-9}$ THC-like products
- Medical cannabis (medical marijuana; MMJ)
 - Whole, unprocessed cannabis plant or its basic extracts to treat symptoms of illness and other conditions
 - FDA has not recognized or approved the cannabis plant as medicine
 - MMJ (marijuana/marihuana) in the US this term is somewhat pejorative as it was first used by law enforcement to demonize the use of MMJ by immigrants ("something used by others")
- "Because the [cannabis] plant contains chemicals that <u>may</u> help treat a range of illnesses and symptoms, many people argue that it <u>should</u> be legal for <u>medicinal</u> purposes..."

Anthony et al., 2017 Curr Pharm Des; Mead 2017 EB

Pacher and Kunos, FEBS Journal 2013

"...Modulating the endocannabinoid system (ECS) holds therapeutic potential in a broad range of diseases affecting humans..."

"... modulating endocannabinoid activity may have therapeutic potential in almost all disease affecting humans including obesity/metabolic syndrome, diabetes and diabetic complications, <u>neurodegenerative</u>, <u>inflammatory</u>, cardiovascular, liver, gastrointestinal, skin diseases, pain, <u>psychiatric disorders</u>, cachexia, cancer, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, among many others... (p. 1918)

Endocannabinoid System Group of receptors and lipid neurotransmitters involved in physiological processes: Appetite, pair/sensation, mood, memory, immune function, femaie reproduction, sleep... Appetite, pair/sensation, mood, memory, immune function, femaie reproduction, sleep... Appetite, pair/sensation, mood, memory, immune function, femaie reproduction, sleep... Appetite, pair/sensation, mood, memory, immune function, femaie reproduction, sleep... Cannabinoid receptors: CB1 and CB2 CB1, - Central^{*} and CB1, - "peripheral" (mainly located on blood cells and in immune tissue) CB2, - Central^{*} and CB1, - "peripheral" (mainly located on blood cells and in immune tissue) CB3, - Central^{*} and CB1, - "peripheral" (mainly located on blood cells and in immune tissue) CB4, - Central^{*} and CB1, - "peripheral" (mainly located on blood cells and in immune tissue) CB4, - Central^{*} and CB1, - "peripheral" (mainly located on blood cells and in immune tissue) CB5, - Central^{*} and CB1, - "peripheral" (mainly located on blood cells and in immune tissue) CB4, - Central^{*} and CB1, - "peripheral" (mainly located on blood cells and in immune tissue) Appendix and and the mechanisms) Appendix and the mechanisms Ap























Equippedar all deservations

Overall MOA CBD and Δ -9 THC

omigi et al., 2010 Epilepsia: Ludanvi et al., 2008 J N

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• Δ-9 THC
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    CB1R and CB2R
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- CBD
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- Transient receptor potential (TRP) of vanilloid type-1 (TPRV1)
- •G-protein coupled receptor (GPR55)
- A1R and A2R
- ECS modulation (allosteric CB1R and CB2R)

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Cannabis Withdrawal

- Abrupt withdrawal may cause:
 - Jitteriness/irritability
 - Anorexia, cravings, and GI upset
 - Anxiety
 - Insomnia
- Testing for use:
 - Plasma half-life is ~56 hours in occasional users and ~28 hours in chronic users
 - + THC can be tested in blood, urine, hair, saliva or sweat
 - Concentration obtained via HPLC techniques can be helpful in distinguishing
 passive exposure and active use
 - Screening for use via Duquenois-Levine test sensitive but not very specific (many false positives and e.g., zinc supplements can mask the presence of THC); HPLC is a confirmatory test

Epigenetic effects
 Epigenetic – modulating gene expression without altering the genetic code
 DNA methylation
Histone modifications
 Noncoding RNAs (gene expression regulation at a transcriptional and post-transcriptional level)
 Sperm epigenome (DNA methylation) different between Cannabis users (active vs. abstinent) and non-users
NCT03614637 (clinicaltrials.gov) Szutorisz & Hurd 2016 Biol Psychiatry

Youth and Cannabis

- Results from this 2016 Barometer indicate that states such as Utah (4.5%), Alabama (5.2%), and Iowa (5.3%) had the lowest percentage of past-month marijuana use among youth aged 12-17 compared to the corresponding national annual average of 7.2%.
- However, states such as Colorado (11.1%), Vermont (10.9%), and Alaska (10.6%) had the highest percentage of past-month marijuana use among youth.

s/20170810

Children and Adolescents

- In animal models exposure to THC or analogues (WIN or CP-55):
 - Alterations in maturation of the ECS and dysregulation of neurotransmitter systems maturation (GABA and glutamate)
 - · May predispose to psychotic-like symptoms in adulthood
 - Long-term impairment in learning and memory
 - · Effect on anxiety is unclear
 - Negative effect on social behavior and emergence of depression-like signs
 - End-product: picture resembling the one present in schizophrenia patients (schizophrenia-like symptoms)

Children and Adolescents

Rubino et al., 2016 Biological Psy

Volkow et al., 2014 NEJM

Short-term use

- · Impairment of memory and judgement
- · Decreased coordination (i.e., accidents)
- Paranoia and psychosis

Long-term and heavy use

- "Gateway drug": 17% of adolescent users develop addiction to other drugs
- · Cognitive impairment including loss of IQ points
- Diminished lifetime satisfaction and achievement
- Increased risk of anxiety and depression
- · Increased risk of psychosis and schizophrenia-like symptoms in persons with predisposition

Neurologic complications of Cannabis

- Cognition and behavior
 - Controversial in adults but there is mounting evidence that marijuana use in children and adolescents damages the brain. In-utero exposure can cause long-lasting executive dysfunction

Stroke

- 98 (13 synthetic e.g., spice or K2) marijuana-related strokes reported with 5x higher incidence in men, there were 9 hemorrhagic and 5 undetermined strokes
- Only one study suggested the relationship may be coincidental b/o prevalence of marijuana
- · Vascular events within 30-60 minutes of marijuana use are likely not coincidental
- · Mechanism: likely reversible cerebral angiopathy (or vasoconstriction syndrome; RCVS)
 - RCVS thunderclap HA with or without other neurological symptoms, resolves gradually over 1-3 months
- Seizures

MEDICINE





CBD vs. THC

Effects on mood are divergent (2008)

- Hair samples of 54 individuals who screened (+) for cannabis
- 3 groups THC only; THC+CBD; negative hair testing
- THC only showed higher schizophrenia-like symptoms than THC+CBD or negative group

Effects on memory are divergent (2010)

- 134 cannabis smokers (own supply)
- THC:CBD content measured in own supply and saliva
- Independent of THC content, high CBD content was associated with no memory impairment

Morgan et al, 2008, 2010 B J Psychiatry

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· 2018 – cannabidiol (CBD)



























Author (reference	e)	Number of participants	Age of participants	Diagnosis	Preparation	Dosage	Response
Ames and Cridland [60] Conha et al. [61] Davis and Ramory [62] GW Phaema [57] Kenna [63] Mechoularn and Catlini [54] Porter and Jacobion [65]		12" 15" 5 27 6" 9" 19"	Adults Adults Children Children Children Adults Children	Epilepsy and MR Focal-unset epilepsy Epilepsy and MR Epilepsy Epilepsy and MR Temporal lobe epilepsy Catastrophic epilepsies	CBD capsules CBD capsules THC isomers CBD (Epidioles) THC CBD CBD/THC	Up to 600 mg day -1.5 mg kg day Up to 4 mg/day - Up to 0.12 mg kg day 200 mg day CBD up to 28 mg kg day THC up to 0.8 mg kg day	4.8 CED and 1.8 placebo improv 2.5 improved and 1.75 workened 13.42 improved 50% or more 4.6 improved 3.4 CED and 0.5 placebo improv 16/19 improved
	• 69	/102 p	patients r	received C	annabi	s products	
	• 69 • 42	/102 p /69 w	oatients r ere "resp	received C oonders" (6	Cannabi 61%)	s products	

Szaflarski & Bebin, 2014 EB; Gloss and Vickerey, 2014 Cochrane Review



A cas	se for a p	harmac	eutical g pro	rade duct
	Canophidial Extract Prod	or to	-	
	Oil (n = 40)	Tincture (n = 20)	Vaporization Liquid (n = 2	4) Total (N = 54)
Label accuracy, No. of products (%) [95% CI]				
Accurate ^a	18 (45.00) [30.71-60.17]	5 (25.00) [11.19-46.87]		
Under ^b	10 (25.00) [14.19-40.19]	8 (40.00) [21.88-61.34]	1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-	
Over	12 (30.00) [18.07-45.43]	7 (35.00) [18.12-56.71]		
Labeled concentration, mg/mL			391 0	
Mean (95% CI)	56.15 (14.23-98.07)	11.14 (5.60-16.60)		HALL MALL
Median (range)	22.26 (2.50-800.00)	8.33 (1.33-50.00)	CBD CBD	And and a state of the state of
Deviation of labeled content from tested value, mg/mL			Alter Sa ASOre	
Mean (95% CI) [% of deviation]	10.34 (4.95-15.74) [29.01]	3.94 (2.74-5.14) [220.62]	UNAL USE	[300.40]
Median (range) [% of deviation]	2.76 (0.13-144.73)	1.48 (0.01-22.30) [19.12]	4.62 (0.14-66.07) [67.34]	3.17 (0.10-144.73) [20.42]



Perspective US: 3.4M people have epilepsy (1.2%) ~1M are medically intractable despite best medical and surgical treatment ~Worldwide, ~70M people have epilepsy 20-30M medically intractable 20-30M medically intractable Intractable epilepsy is <u>under-recognized</u> and <u>undertreated</u> Efficacious treatments are needed Is there a role for *Cannabinoids*?

Englot et al., 2012, Neurology; CDC 2017





Reference Number of Partisipants Artisanal (various or not to Sulak et al 272 [27] Press et al 75 [28] Hussain et 117 crossi et al 17	Age of Participants ested ratios of CBD: Adults and Children Children and Adults rents	Diagnosis THC) TRE, LGS, Dravet Syndrome, Rett Syndrome	Preparation Varied	Dosage Varied	Response 61% reduction in seizures
Artisanal (various or not te Sulak et al 272 [27] Press et al 75 [28] Hussain et 117	ested ratios of CBD: Adults and Children Children and Adolescents	TRE, LGS, Dravet Syndrome, Rett Syndrome	Varied	Varied	61% reduction in seizures
Sulak et al 272 [27] Press et al 75 [28] Hussain et 117	Adults and Children Children and	TRE, LGS, Dravet Syndrome, Rett Syndrome	Varied	Varied	61% reduction in seizures
Press et al 75 [28] Hussain et 117	Children and Adolescents	TRE			
Hussain et 117	HOUR ACCENT	THE .	"Oral Cannabis Extracts"	Varied	57% reported improvement in seizure frequency
al [30]	Children	TRE, LGS, Epileptic Spasms	Unknown, if reported 15:1 CBD:THC	Median dose 4.3 mg/kg/day	85% reported improvement in seizure frequency; survey
Tzadok et al 74 [31]	Children	TRE	20:1 CBD:THC	1-20 mg/kg/day	Significant decrease in seizures in 89% of participants
Hausman- 46 Kedem et al [32]	Adults and Children	TRE	20:1 CBD:THC	11.4 mg/kg/day (average dose)	80% reduction in patients taking >11 mg/kg/day, 50% reduction <11 mg/kg/day
Suraev et al 976 [33]	Adults and Children	TRE	Varied	Varied	90% adults and 71% children reported seizure improvement]; survey
Suraev et al 41 [34]	Children	Mostly TRE	Varied	Varied	38/51 products were considered efficacious by the users; survey

Treatment duration and expectation of efficacy

- Artisanal Oral Cannabis Extracts (OCEs)
- Press et al.
 - 75 children (57% improvement; 33% responders)
 - RR 22% "locals" vs. 47% "transplants"
- Treat et al.
 - Of 119 children 71% terminated use
 - Average treatment duration 11.7 months (0.3-57)
 - Relocation to CO associated with perceived benefit (65% vs. 38%; p=0.01)
- Espay et al.
 - FMRI PD study
 - Expectation of efficacy was associated with 28% improvement (not different from levodopa response)

Press et al., 2015 EB; Treat et al., 2016 Epilepsia; Espay et al., 2015 Neurol

Gaston and Szaflarski., 2018 CNNR

	Op	en-la	bel stu	dies o	t highly	y-purified CBD (Epidiolex®)
Reference	Number of Participants	Age of Participants	Diagnosis	Preparation	Dosage	Response
Open Label St	udies of Pharm	aceutical Grade	Cannabidiol (Epidiole	x*)		
Devinsky et al [36]	162	Adults and children	TRE	Highly purified CBD oral solution	2-50 mg/kg/day	34.6% median seizure reduction
Szaflarski et al [37]	580	Adults and children	TRE	Highly purified CBD oral solution	2-50 mg/kg/day	48% total seizure reduction
Szaflarski et al [38]	132	Adults and children	TRE	Highly purified CBD oral solution	5-50 mg/kg/day	63.6.% mean seizure reduction at 12 weeks
Hess et at [39]	18	Adults and children	Tuberous Sclerosis	Highly purified CBD oral solution	5-50 mg/kg/day	48.8% median seizure reduction at 12 weeks
Devinsky et al [40]	55	Adults and children	Epileptic Encephalopathies	Highly purified CBD oral solution	5-50 mg/kg/day	51.4% mean seizure reduction at 12 weeks
Gofshteyn et al [41]	7	Children	FIRES	Highly purified CBD oral solution	5-25 mg/kg/day	6/7 had improved seizure frequency
u	BMEI	CINE				

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"CBD products"

- Porcari et al., 2018 (Tennessee)
 - "CBD-containing product"
 - 39% >50% improvement (N=133)
 - No difference between patients on CBD vs. CBD+CLB
- Pietrafusa et al., 2019 (Italy)
 - Crystalline CBD (98-99%)
 - 37% >50% improvement (N=29)
 - No difference between patients on CBD vs. CBD+CLB

McCoy et al., 2018

- Pharmaceutical grade <u>CBD:THC (50:1)</u>
- Tilray (The Little Rocky Project)
- 20 patients with DS
- Dose
 - CBD 2 to 16 mg/kg/day • THC 0.04 to 0.32 mg/kg/day
- 19/20 completed
- Improved QOL, EEG biomarker, motor seizure frequency (70.6%) with 50% RR of 63%

RCT – Dravet Syndrome

- First CBT Phase III RCT reported
- 120 patients (61 received CBD at 20 mg/kg/d vs. 60 PCBO)
 - Added to current regimen of up to 3 AEDs
 - Average age 9.8 ± 4.8 years
 - * Average number of previously failed AEDs = 4.6 \pm 3.8 and concurrent 2.9 \pm 1.0
- Reduction in convulsive seizures over the treatment period compared to placebo
 - Baseline 12.4 vs. 14.9
 - Treatment period 5.9 vs. 14.1
- Percentage change p=0.01 84% reported mild side effects
- MEDICINE

nsky et al., 2017 NEJ

End Point	Cannabidi	ol vs. Placebo	P Value
	Difference (95% CI)	Odds Ratio (95% CI):	
Change from baseline in CGIC score	-1.0 (-1.0 to 0.0)§		0.02
Reduction in convulsive seizures from baseline¶			
a25% reduction		2.10 (1.01 to 4.35)	0.05
=50% reduction: key secondary end point		2.00 (0.93 to 4.30)	0.08
a75% reduction		2.21 (0.82 to 5.95)	0.11
100% reduction	4.9 (-0.5 to 10.3)		0.08
Percentage change from baseline in seizure frequency**			
Total seizures	-19.20 (-39.25 to -1.17)5		0,03
Total nonconvulsive seizures	0.00 (-21.36 to 31.59)§		0.88
Reduction from baseline in duration of seizure subtypes [1]			
Tonic-clonic seizures		2.48 (0.94 to 6.51)	0.07
Tonic seizures		3.40 (0.52 to 22.23)	0.20
Clanic seizures		1.25 (0.15 to 10.57)	0.84
Atonic seizures		7.44 (0.27 to 204.96)	0.24
Myoclonic seizures		2.89 (0.58 to 14.47)	0.20
Countable partial seizures		6.01 (0.83 to 43.21)	0.08
Other partial seizures		1.00 (<0.01 to >999.99)	1.00
Absence seizures		0.61 (0.14 to 2.62)	0.50
Change from baseline in other variables:::			
Sleep-disruption score	-0.4 (-1.5 to 0.7)		0.45
Epworth Sleepiness Scale score	1.5 (-0.2 to 3.2)		0.08
Quality of Life in Childhood Epilepsy score	1.5 (-3.8 to 6.8)		0.58
Vineland-II score	-2.6 (-6.8 to 1.6)		0.21
Inpatient hospitalizations due to epilepsy	0.0 (0.0 to 0.1)		0.54















Word of caution

- CBDV IV trial (Greenwich Pharmaceuticals) not efficacious – phase I
- Synthetic CBD patch (Zynerba, Inc) phase III not efficacious
 - STAR I

- STAR II
- Synthetic CBD (INSYS Therapeutics) phase I only (interactions results only)

Real destriction of the property of the

Is the response related to interactions?

- UAB data 114/132 at 12 weeks
 - + 45 on Clobazam (24 adults/21 children)
 - No significant difference in
 - Seizure reduction (% frequency or absolute reduction)
 - Seizure severity (Chalfont) was different between groups (regression p=0.03) but paired samples T-test was not significant
 - Overall conclusion: <u>Concomitant Clobazam has no effect on seizure</u> frequency

Drug – d	rug inte	erac	tions	: UAB	Data
CBD T1/2 ~24 hours Interactions were seen	AED Level Analysis				
between CBD and topiramate,	AED	Aduits	Children	Interaction?	pvalue
clobazam, and rufinamide in adults and children, and	Clobazam/ Desmethyklobazam	12 (137)	15 (66)	¥	< 0.001
zonisamide and eslicarbazepine in	Valproate	8 (82)	14 (69)	N	NS
adults.	Levetiracetam	9 (92)	11 (54)	N	NS
 Adult subjects reported 	Phenobarbital	3 (21)	2 (9)	N	NS
sedation more frequently with	Clonazepam	11 (46)	14 (10)	N	NS
higher N-desmethylclobazam	Phenytoin	2 (19)	1 (7)	N	NS
levels (CYP2C19 and CYP2C9	Carbamazepine	4 (29)	0	N	NS
interactions)	Lamotrigine	16 (139)	14 (68)	N	NS
 AST and ALT were higher in 	Oscarbazepine	6 (60)	6 (19)	N	N5
VPA and CBD (though the	Ethosuximide	0	5 (22)	N	NS
average values were still within	Topiramate	11 (109)	9 (35)	Y	<0.001
the normal range)	Vigabetrin	0	3 (11)	N	NS
5.5.5.5.5.	Zonisamide	7 (70)	7 (40)	Y (adult)	0.017
	Eslicarbazepine	4 (25)	0	Y	0.039
	Egocabine	4 (20)	0	N	NS
	Pregabalin	2 (15)	0	N	NS
	Perampanel	3 (7)	5 (33)	N	NS
	Rufinamide	6 (62)	10 (48)	¥	0.004
	Lacosamide	12 (103)	8 (37)	N	NS
Erenisty: dornill dange geer weld:				Gaston et al.	2017 Epilepsi

Summary (Epilepsy)

Gaston et al., 2019 Epilepsy and E

- CBD has clear efficacy in the treatment of epilepsy
- Effect is likely multifactorial and includes modulation of the ECS
- Efficacy of THC or THC/CBD combinations is still unclear
- Stay tuned....

Real day for all desproyments

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