

Glaucoma

Evidence supporting the application of cannabis in treating glaucoma goes back to 1971, when Hepler and Frank reported a 25% to 30% reduction in intraocular pressure (IOP) among a small group that had smoked cannabis.¹ It has been proposed that cannabis may activate receptors in the endocannabinoid system of the eye. (Decreased levels of endocannabinoids have been observed in glaucoma patients post-mortem.²) Subsequent clinical testing has confirmed that application of cannabinoids reduces IOP, but that effects are relatively short in duration.³

While the exact mechanism causing the pressure reduction has not yet been confirmed,⁴ it has been proposed that a reduction of capillary pressure, decreased aqueous humour production and improved aqueous humour uveoscleral outflow may be involved.^{5, 6, 7, 8}

“Aside from lowering IOP, cannabinoids such as Δ -THC and CBD may also have neuroprotective effects which could also be useful in the management of glaucoma.”³

- Health Canada

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