

Chronic pain

A large and growing body of clinical and anecdotal evidence supports the efficacy of cannabis as an analgesic.^{1,2,3,4} Unlike other common pharmaceutical analgesics, there appears to be no risk of overdose.⁵

Cannabis has been shown to interact with endocannabinoid receptors, unique from those activated by opioids. Accordingly, cannabis can supplement the use of opioids^{6,7} and studies show an improvement in pain relief with patients taking morphine and oxycodone when their treatment was supplemented with vaporized cannabis.⁸

Reports indicate that cannabis reduced pain and improved sleep patterns of patients suffering from post-traumatic or postsurgical pain.¹

Reported side effects of cannabis include but are not limited to: sedation, confusion, dizziness, anxiety, dry eyes and dry mouth. The degree of side effects may be dependent on quantity of dose and strain of cannabis.⁹

"[I]t is difficult to compare studies of interventions for chronic pain with studies of experimentally-induced pain because of fundamental differences in the physiological state of the subjects, differences in the stimulus conditions and experimental protocols employed in the studies, and differences in the outcomes which are measured."⁶

- Health Canada

"Pharmacokinetic investigations revealed no significant change in the area under the plasma concentration-time curves for either morphine or oxycodone after exposure to cannabis. Pain was significantly decreased (average 27%, 95% confidence interval (CI) 9, 46) after the addition of vaporized cannabis."⁸

- D. I. Abrams et al.

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