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MARIJUANA AS MEDICINE – PART 4

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In Part 1 of this series we discuss the potential for harm when ingesting marijuana grown with Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs.) This is a problem seriously underestimated by both growers and consumers of cannabis products.

In Part 2 we explained the history of the politics justifying why marijuana is listed as a Schedule 1 Narcotic with no accepted medical use.

In Part 3 we explain the components that create the medicinal value of marijuana.

In this Part 4 we explain the benefits of marijuana for specific health issues.

MARIJUANA AND CANCER

Some of the most important research is on the topic of cannabis and the treatment of cancer.

Repeatedly, we are seeing how the various medicinal compounds in cannabis can be used to halt tumor growth, kill tumor cells, and do so without the negative side effects so often associated with conventional cancer treatments.

Dr. Christina Sanchez has been studying the anti-tumor effects of THC – the main psychoactive component of cannabis – for over a decade. She has demonstrated exactly how THC kills cancer cells without adverse effects to healthy cells.

Her research adds to the work done by the British scientist, Wai Liu, an oncologist at the University of London's St. George's medical school. Liu's research reveals how THC has "potent anti-cancer activity," and can significantly "target and switch off" pathways that allow cancers to grow.

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This comes at an important time when states are legalizing medical marijuana and the federal government is receiving pressure to de-list cannabis as an illegal drug – an archaic and erroneous definition of a plant which the Feds say “has no medicinal value”, even though they hold numerous patents on the plant.

In fact, in the abstract — or summary — of the government findings submitted with the patent application, three scientists from the Department of Health and Human Services said:

“The cannabinoids are found to have particular application as neuroprotectants, for example in limiting neurological damage following ischemic insults, such as stroke or trauma, or the treatment of neurological diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and HIV dementia.”

For those who want further proof, below are 4 studies proving that marijuana can be used to treat brain cancer:

1. Italian researchers published a study in *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, which tested cannabidiol on human brain tumor cells. Their conclusion was that “Nonpsychoactive CBD was able to produce significant antitumor activity” – They found this non-psychoactive cannabis compound to have detrimental effects on the viability of cancer cells, inhibiting their growth “significantly.”

Read: Marijuana Oil Helps 3-Year-Old Beat Cancer at <http://naturalsociety.com/marijuana-oil-helps-3-year-old-son-beat-cancer-dad-says/>

2. Another study, published in the journal *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, states that “The combined administration of TMZ and cannabinoids could be therapeutically exploited for the management of GBM”

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This study was built off the knowledge of cannabis having anti-tumor effects and confirmed it could be the answer to the increasing number of treatment-resistant cancers.

3. *The Journal of Neuroscience* contains another study from 2001 in which THC-treated rats received neuro-protective benefits. That study found that “The cannabinoid system can serve to protect the brain against neuro-degeneration.”

Neuro-degeneration refers to progressively worsening brain function commonly found in age-related dementia but also when the brain is damaged. The researchers found that rats treated with THC were protected against such damage, indicating it as a potential solution for slowly progressive neurodegenerative disease and also acute damage that could occur as a result of directed tumor treatment.

4. Finally, a study found in the *British Journal of Cancer* found that THC and other cannabinoids were able to inhibit the growth of brain tumors. That study concludes: “The fair safety profile of THC... with its possible antiproliferative action on tumour cells... may set the basis for evaluating the potential antitumoral activity of cannabinoids.”

In two out of nine patients, the compounds were able to decrease the number of tumor cells, all without psychoactive effects.

Read: Marijuana Kills Leukemia Cancer Cells at <http://naturalsociety.com/cannabinoids-marijuana-kill-leukemia-cancer-cells/>

These four studies are a small sample of those demonstrating the healing powers of cannabis. Other research has linked the plant to breast and prostate cancers, seizure disorders, Alzheimer’s, depression and anxiety, and even drug treatment.

FEDERAL GOVT ADMITS MARIJUANA KILLS BRAIN TUMORS, BUT YOU STILL CAN'T HAVE IT

The federal government admits in newly funded research that compounds found in marijuana have an unprecedented ability to go in and kill brain tumors without any negative side effects. But you're still going to jail if you try to use it to cure your cancer.

As reported by Raw Story on the latest study:

“In a report issued by a U.S. government-funded research group tasked with studying drug abuse and addiction, researchers are admitting that marijuana is useful in killing off specific types of brain tumors. The report — coming from a government-backed group with annual budget of over \$1 billion — arrives at an awkward time for the administration following an announcement by the Department of Justice this week that it will continue to prosecute medical marijuana cases against individuals in defiance of Congress.”

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MARIJUANA AND ALCOHOLISM

Excessive alcohol consumption takes a toll on your health in various ways. It's linked to a variety of health ailments including liver disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and even brain damage. But a recent study from the Universities of Maryland and Kentucky indicates a special potential treatment for warding off and even reversing such brain damage caused by alcohol. That treatment is cannabidiol (CBD).

The neuroprotective effects of CBD observed during binge alcohol induced neurodegeneration are thought to be due to its high antioxidant capacity.

MARIJUANA AND GI DISORDERS

The effectiveness of cannabis for treating symptoms related to gastrointestinal disorders is widely recognized. Its value as an anti-emetic and analgesic has been proven in numerous studies and has been acknowledged by several comprehensive, government-sponsored reviews, including those conducted by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the U.K. House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, the Australian National Task Force on Cannabis, and others. The IOM concluded, "For patients . . . who suffer simultaneously from severe pain, nausea, and appetite loss, cannabinoid drugs might offer broad-spectrum relief not found in any other single medication."¹²

The most common gastrointestinal disorders – Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Inflammatory Bowel Disease – affect millions of people. The disorders are different, but each causes a great deal of discomfort and distress and both can be disabling. Painful cramping, chronic diarrhea or constipation, nausea, and inflammation of the intestines are all symptoms of these GI disorders that can be alleviated by cannabis.

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder of the intestines that leads to stomach pain, gassiness, bloating, constipation, diarrhea or both. Chronic, painful abdominal cramping is common. The cause of IBS is not known, and there is no cure. Researchers have found that the colon muscle of a person with IBS begins to spasm after only mild stimulation. IBS is at least partly a disorder affecting colon motility and sensation.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) refers to both Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease. Ulcerative colitis causes inflammation of the lining of the large intestine, while Crohn's disease causes inflammation of the lining and wall of the large and/or small intestine.

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The most common symptoms of Crohn's Disease are pain in the abdomen, diarrhea, and weight loss. There may also be rectal bleeding and fever. The most common complications of Crohn's Disease are blockage of the intestine and ulceration that breaks through into surrounding tissues. Surgery is sometimes required.

The symptoms of Ulcerative Colitis include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and rectal bleeding. Some people may be very tired and have weight loss, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, and loss of body fluids and nutrients. Joint pain, liver problems, and redness and swelling of the eyes can also occur. Hospitalization and surgery are sometimes needed.

RESEARCH ON CANNABIS AND GI DISORDERS

Research suggests that cannabis is effective in treating the symptoms of these GI disorders in part because it interacts with the endogenous cannabinoid receptors in the digestive tract, which can result in calming spasms, assuaging pain, and improving motility. Cannabis has also been shown to have anti-inflammatory properties, and recent research has demonstrated that cannabinoids play crucial neuromodulatory roles in controlling the operation of the gastrointestinal system, with synthetic and natural cannabinoids acting powerfully to control gastrointestinal motility and inflammation.

Cannabinoids have a demonstrated ability to block spinal, peripheral and gastrointestinal mechanisms that promote pain in IBS and related disorders. Animal research also indicates that cannabinoids work well in controlling gastroesophageal reflux disease, a condition in which gastric acids attack the esophagus and for which commonly prescribed medications, such as atropine, have serious adverse side effects.

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From this evidence, many researchers have concluded that more research on the endogenous cannabinoid system will provide new treatment options for a number of difficult gastrointestinal diseases, including nausea and vomiting, gastric ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease, secretory diarrhea, paralytic ileus and gastroesophageal reflux disease.

The experience of patients with these GI disorders shows that for broad-spectrum relief, cannabis is highly effective and frequently helps when other treatment options prove ineffective.

“For patients, such as those with AIDS or those who are undergoing chemotherapy, or those who suffer simultaneously from severe pain, nausea, and appetite loss, cannabinoid drugs might offer broad spectrum relief not found in any other single medication.” - Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base, 1999

CONCLUSION

Despite the overwhelming body of evidence to the contrary, marijuana continues to be vilified by those who stubbornly support the failed War on Drugs. The US government labels cannabis a “schedule one narcotic” alongside heroin and LSD.

They also say it has no medicinal value – all while holding patents on cannabis constituents.

Though science has repeatedly demonstrated its health benefits and limited risks, those who oppose the plant cling steadfastly to flawed and dated anti-marijuana arguments.

The truth? The therapeutic benefits of marijuana are backed by more clinical research than most pharmaceutical drugs.

The average drug label contains 70 side effects, and has not been thoroughly studied for long-term effects in most cases.

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Many popular pharmaceuticals have even been found to contain 100 to 125 side effects. Some pharmaceuticals come with over 525 negative reactions.

Yet the compounds in marijuana are easily tolerated, highly therapeutic, and proven to be extremely safe. In that light it is hard to understand how those who are supposed to be scientists and other health care professionals interested in the well-being of patients are so prejudiced against the use of non-psychoactive CBD.

Please consider donating to our Compassionate Care Program. Many ill people are in need of high quality marijuana for the treatment of their cancers and other serious illnesses but they can't afford the expense. Your donations go to a 501(c)3 Foundation and are completely tax deductible. 100% of the proceeds go to benefit the patient.

Another way you can help is to consider an investment in a program that will lease a medical hemp and marijuana grow and processing facility to Eagle's Nest Wellness Center, LLC. Accredited investors who can afford a minimum \$25,000 for 5 years will earn 12% per year secured by real estate.

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