

SURVEY OF PATIENTS EMPLOYING CANNABIGEROL PREDOMINANT CANNABIS PREPARATIONS: PERCEIVED MEDICAL EFFECTS, ADVERSE EVENTS, AND WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

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INTRODUCTION

- Within the past decade there has been an increase in cannabis use in North America. Research on cannabinoids has largely focused on THC and CBD
- Cannabigerol (CBG), as well as its precursor, cannabigerolic acid have gained attention within the last few years and CBG is sometimes labeled the “mother of all cannabinoids”
- In the US Pacific Northwest CBG-predominant cannabis flower and extract have begun to increase in popularity among cannabis users

PURPOSE

- Assess conditions treated with CBG-predominant cannabis
- Examine perceived efficacy, adverse reactions, and withdrawal symptoms associated with the use of CBG

METHOD

- To be eligible, participants had to be 21+ years of age, reside in the US, and have experience with CBG-predominant (containing >50% CBG) cannabis in the past 6 months
- 127 participants who met these criteria were recruited via listservs related to cannabis research and social media
- Participants completed an online survey assessing CBG use patterns, health conditions CBG is used to treat, perceived efficacy, adverse reactions, and withdrawal symptoms

RESULTS

Medical Condition	% Endorsed	Range	Mean	Standard Error
Anxiety	51.2	1 – 5	2.02	0.11
Chronic pain	40.9	1 – 4	2.15	0.11
Depression	33.1	1 – 4	2.13	0.14
Insomnia/disturbed sleep	30.7	1 – 4	2.22	0.15
Migraine/headaches	18.1	1 – 4	2.23	0.20
Other inflammatory problems	18.1	1 – 3	2.14	0.17
Acute pain	16.5	1 – 4	2.25	0.18
Nausea	14.2	1 – 3	2.06	0.20
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	13.4	1 – 3	1.88	0.21
Cancer treatment	7.1	1 – 4	2.11	0.42
Autoimmune disease	7.1	1 – 4	2.89	0.31
Bacterial infection/antibiotic	6.3	1 – 4	2.14	0.40
High blood pressure	6.3	1 – 4	2.50	0.46
Osteoarthritis	5.5	2 – 3	2.50	0.22
Menstrual cramps	4.7	1 – 3	2.33	0.33
Pre-Menstrual Syndrome	3.9	2 – 3	2.40	0.24
Crohn’s/ulcerative Colitis	3.1	1 – 3	1.75	0.48
Glaucoma	3.1	1 – 4	2.67	0.88

Adverse Reaction	% Endorsed	Range	Mean %	Standard Error
Dry mouth	16.5	9 – 100	52.71	5.66
Sleepiness	15	11 – 90	52.89	5.75
Increased appetite	11.8	9 – 90	51.14	6.42
Dry eyes	8.7	25 – 90	49.82	6.77
Nervousness	6.3	5 – 58	26.25	6.04
Difficulty concentrating	6.3	30 – 100	59.18	10.44
Headrush	6.3	2 – 74	28.57	11.49
Headache	5.5	2 – 60	21.57	7.91
More high	4.7	10 – 100	60.3	12.33
Heart palpitations	3.1	30 – 51	40.33	6.06
Off-balance	2.4	46 – 50	48	2
Paranoia	1.6	14 – 30	22	8
Hot flashes	0.8	91 – 91	91	0
Coughing fit	0			
Hallucinations	0			
Vomiting	0			
Other	9.4	10 -100	46.55	10.57

DISCUSSION

- This is the largest patient survey of CBG-predominant cannabis use to date, and the first to document self-reported efficacy of CBG-predominant products, particularly for anxiety, chronic pain, depression, and insomnia
- Most respondents indicated that CBG-predominant cannabis “very much improved” or “improved” their conditions and claimed greater efficacy of CBG-predominant cannabis over conventional pharmacotherapy
- CBG-predominant cannabis is associated with a very benign adverse event profile and negligible withdrawal symptoms
- This study establishes that humans are employing CBG and suggests that CBG-predominant cannabis-based medicines can be safely utilized in randomized controlled trials

