

MEDICAL MARIJUANA: WHAT WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW

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This lecture will present a broad overview of the science of medical marijuana, focusing on the evidence of risks associated with cannabis use and potential problems with the conception of smoked marijuana as a medicine. We will also discuss evolving policy regarding marijuana and how that may impact the medical field. At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the mechanism of action of marijuana.
- Discuss marijuana's effects on health and its potential for addiction.
- Explain the problems with the current system of medical marijuana.
- Discuss alternatives to using medical marijuana.

Suggested Readings

1. Whiting PF, Wolff RF, Deshpande S, Di Nisio M, Duffy S, Hernandez AV, Keurentjes JC, Lang S, Misso K, Ryder S, Schmidtkofer S, Westwood M, Kleijnen J. Cannabinoids for Medical Use: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *JAMA* 2015
2. Miller JL (1999) Panel sees medical potential in standardized cannabinoids but not in smoked marijuana. *Am J Health Syst Pharm* 56:940-941.
3. Haney M. The marijuana withdrawal syndrome: diagnosis and treatment. *Curr Psychiatry Rep.* 2005 Oct;7(5):360-6.
4. Lorenzetti V, Solowij N, Fornito A, Lubman DI, Yucel M. The association between regular cannabis exposure and alterations of human brain morphology: an updated review of the literature. *Curr Pharm Des.* 2014;20(13):2138-67.
5. Bagshaw SM, Hagen NA. Medical efficacy of cannabinoids and marijuana: a comprehensive review of the literature. *J Palliat Care* 2002;18:111-122.
6. Degenhardt L, Hall WD (2008) The adverse effects of cannabinoids: implications for use of medical marijuana. *CMAJ* 178:1685-1686.