

The Efficacy and Patient Perception of Medical Marijuana

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INTRODUCTION

The objective of this research study was to assess the efficacy of the use of cannabis and its derivatives for medicinal purposes. The survey-structured study aimed to examine two primary aspects. First, this study sought to investigate patients' perspectives on utilizing medical marijuana versus FDA-approved medications for their medical condition. Second, this study also sought to evaluate patient perception on the public policies that regulate medical marijuana.

METHODS

A preliminary literary review was conducted to assess the current uses of cannabis for medicinal purposes. The knowledge gained from this literature was then used to create a Qualtrics questionnaire containing ten questions on cannabis use for mental health conditions, chronic pain, digestive issues, and a slew of various debilitating disorders. The questionnaire was administered via email to 30 participants who were recruited from an online medical marijuana support group. In order to be eligible to participate in the study, participants must have a current medical marijuana card in the United States. After expressing interest in joining the study, participants were screened, and informed consent was provided to them explaining the goals of this study and reassuring anonymity. Following the completion of the questionnaire, the information was reviewed, and the data was extrapolated to analyze the efficacy of cannabis product use for individuals with a diagnosed medical condition.

The results show that *nearly every participant* is a proponent for the utilization of *cannabis* for their medical condition rather than an *FDA-approved pharmaceutical*. Furthermore, medical marijuana patients reported that more states in *America* should implement regulations that allow cannabis to be used to treat *BOTH* emotional and physical conditions.



RESULTS

The results indicate that medical marijuana patients prefer cannabis products and its derivatives over FDA-regulated pharmaceuticals. Secondly, the results also show that those with a medical marijuana card believe policies should be implemented in more states to make cannabis accessible to those battling various medical conditions. Although the laws and regulations of cannabis differ from state to state, the use of medical marijuana has been shown to be an effective method of treatment for an array of both emotional and physical conditions.

DISCUSSION

Despite limitations such as long-term effects on patients and the wide variety of health conditions of the participants, cannabis used for medicinal reasons has been shown to be an effective method of treatment. Furthermore, participants believe that more states should adopt similar policies to Massachusetts and make medical marijuana accessible to patients with emotional and/or physical conditions that cause a decrease in their functionality and quality of life.

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