

Can medical marijuana or cannabidiol be recommended for treatment of epilepsy-con...not yet

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Medical Marijuana (MM) or cannabidiol (CBD) are two different concepts. MM includes the psychoactive component THC as well as CBD, while the CBD products being developed for epilepsy are often restricted to 2 or 3 specific CBDs which have only very minimal amounts of THC. To what extent the CB receptors 1 and 2 are affected is also very important for each preparation. Probably THC is more active on the CB receptors than CBD. Recently one synthetic compound that modulates CBD under development as a medical product was so toxic that the volunteers in the Phase 1 study developed serious neurological deficits and one even died. There is successful ongoing development in clinical trials of a CBD drug for Dravets syndrome, infantile spasms and Lennox Gastaut, and more than 1000 people have used these specific CBD preparations. Still until clinical trials are completed and the side effect profiles of each separate compound is determined as well as interactions, CBD and MM drugs should not be encouraged.. MM is not recommended for people under 15 years of age due to the binding capacity of MM to CB receptors. It is thought that in adolescent years the brain is not adequately developed and potential permanent damage can occur. There is evidence that starting young and using frequently may disrupt brain development. So NO-MM and CBD should not be recommended as yet. We need to be careful and watchful. First do no harm.