

Medical Marijuana ‘Highly Effective’



Israeli oncologists point to marijuana as a leading treatment in palliative care.

Medical marijuana is becoming a popular treatment for cancer. Yet most studies have focused on synthetic preparations like Marinol rather than the real thing.

Now researchers from Israel’s Rambam Health Care Campus have confirmed what many patients figured out long ago: Natural cannabis works too.

Published in the annual issue of [Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine](#), researchers found that marijuana was “highly effective for many symptoms” of cancer.

“All cancer or anti-cancer treatment-related symptoms, including nausea, vomiting, mood disorders, fatigue, weight loss, anorexia, constipation, sexual function, sleep disorders, itching, and pain had significant improvement.”

The results “should push the use of cannabis in the practice of oncology palliative treatment,” they concluded.

Although noticeable memory impairments – the only side effect identified by the study – were observed in some patients, the authors suggest that this may have resulted from interactions with other medications that patients were taking – which included painkillers and antidepressants.

The study involved over 200 cancer patients who received marijuana licenses from Israel’s Ministry of Health between 2011 and 2012.

Unfortunately, 25% of patients died before the end of the two month study. The researchers point out that this “raises the question of whether physicians are prescribing the cannabis too late, and if so, why?”

Marijuana is known to have very few side effects compared to other drugs – especially those taken in cancer – and, according to the authors, is considered “medically safe.”

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