

THE PHASES OF RESEARCH



One of the longstanding arguments around Medical Cannabis is the lack of research. Patents for plant derived compounds are hard to come by and this removes the financial incentive for research.

Despite this, there is a raft of preclinical work indicating that cannabinoids could work for a huge range of conditions, and at the opposite end of the pipeline there are hundreds of thousands of patients worldwide confirming it does work, matching the clinical rationale from preclinical work. There is emerging phase 2 research for a broad range of conditions, however it will likely take decades for a satisfactory body of phase 3 research to be completed for a broad range of conditions.

A "top tier" Canadian cannabis producer services **22,000** patients monthly for **168** separate medical conditions.

Due to the huge raft of preclinical and phase 1-2 studies on chronic pain, a leading scientific institution reviewed over 10k articles and came to the opposite conclusion of our Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), which has directly led to tens of thousands of patients to operate outside the law needlessly. Our faculty based its assumption on the lack of phase 3 trials, and its position is cited as a reason to deny treatments through legal channels. MCANZ challenges the FPMs findings as intellectually dishonest, and is out of sync with the Ministry of Health approving the use of cannabis in cases of severe pain. *

Opposing Views

"With the possible exception of pain and spasticity in Multiple Sclerosis, there is little evidence for the effectiveness of cannabinoids in chronic non-cancer pain situations, whether or not the pain attracts the descriptor "neuropathic". *

"There is substantial evidence that cannabis is an effective treatment for chronic pain in adults." **



* Faculty of Pain Medicine ANZCA PM10 April 2015

<http://fpm.anzca.edu.au/documents/pm10-april-2015.pdf>



** National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/24625>.

Evidence vs Efficacy, an NZ example

100%

Success rate treating severe Tourette's with Sativex in NZ.

0

Phased clinical trials of Sativex for Tourette's syndrome.

"There is limited evidence that THC capsules are an effective treatment for improving symptoms of Tourette syndrome." **



Low Dose Naltrexone has similar hurdles to medical cannabis. It is an older drug outside of patents, and is available as an unregistered medicine. Despite this it holds promise in a broad range of conditions but is held back by

the lack of research. As it has no cultural hang-ups like cannabis, it is being used comparatively frequently, and successfully in NZ despite not having the gold standard phase 3 trials for the conditions it is treating.



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