Is there an effective treatment to prevent recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis?

**Clinical Question**
Are cannabinoids including synthetic, or herbal and plant-derived cannabinoids, beneficial for symptomatic treatment in multiple sclerosis (MS)?

**Bottom Line**
This review found that nabiximols (Sativex®) probably reduce spasticity severity as perceived by patients at time points up to 14 weeks (moderate-quality evidence). Nabiximols were likely to increase the number of participants reporting a clinically important reduction of perceived severity of spasticity, and lead to improve average spasticity scores compared with placebo. There was low-certainty evidence that nabiximols, Cannabis extract or synthetic THC cannabinoids were more effective than placebo in mean change in chronic neuropathic pain relief at time points up to 16 weeks. For the outcome Patient Global Impression of Change (PGIC) the review found moderate-certainty evidence of the benefit of nabiximols, Cannabis extract, or synthetic THC cannabinoids over placebo. There was evidence that cannabinoids were likely to increase the number of participants reporting much, or very much improvement in the PGIC at time points up to 48 weeks. We are uncertain about the effect of cannabinoids on HRQoL at time points up to 16 weeks (very low-certainty evidence).

**Caveat**
Cannabinoid-based medicines may have increased slightly the number of participants who withdrew due to adverse events (low-certainty evidence). The review did not find any significant differences between cannabinoids and placebo in terms of serious adverse effects, but this was likely due to the small amount of data available for this outcome (low-certainty evidence). Cannabinoids may increase nervous system adverse events and psychiatric disorders slightly (low-certainty evidence).

**Context**
Spasticity and chronic neuropathic pain are common and serious symptoms in people with MS. These symptoms increase with disease progression and lead to worsening disability, impaired activities of daily living and quality of life. Anti-spasticity medications and analgesics are of limited benefit or poorly tolerated. Cannabinoids may reduce spasticity and pain in people with MS. This review sought to assess the current body of evidence regarding benefits and harms of these drugs.

**Cochrane Systematic Review**

**Pearls No. 701, May 2022, written by Assoc Professor Vanessa MB Jordan.**

Systematic review link: