

**Lack of evidence for cannabis in adults with chronic neuropathic pain**

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<b>Clinical Question</b>	Compared to placebo or conventional drugs, how effective are cannabis-based medicines (CBMs) for conditions with chronic neuropathic pain in adults?
<b>Bottom Line</b>	There was no high-quality evidence for the efficacy of any CBM (herbal cannabis, plant-derived tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) (dronabinol), synthetic THC (nabilone), plant-derived THC/cannabidiol (CBD) combination) in any condition with chronic neuropathic pain. The studies were two to 26 weeks long and compared an oromucosal spray with a plant-derived combination of THC and CBD (10 studies), a synthetic cannabinoid mimicking THC (nabilone) (two studies), inhaled herbal cannabis (two studies) and plant-derived THC (dronabinol) (two studies) against placebo (15 studies) and an analgesic (dihydrocodeine) (one study). Herbal cannabis was not different from placebo in reducing pain and the number of people who dropped out due to side effects. Some adverse events (particularly somnolence or sedation, confusion, psychosis) might limit the clinical usefulness of cannabis-based medicines.
<b>Caveat</b>	The quality of evidence for pain relief outcomes reflects the exclusion of participants with a history of substance abuse and other significant comorbidities from the studies, together with their small sample sizes.
<b>Context</b>	Estimates of the population prevalence of chronic pain with neuropathic components range between 6% and 10%. Cannabis has been used for millennia to reduce pain. Herbal cannabis is currently strongly promoted by some patients and their advocates to treat any type of chronic pain.
<b>Cochrane Systematic Review</b>	Mucke M et al. Cannabis-based medicines for chronic neuropathic pain in adults. Cochrane Reviews, 2018, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD012182.DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012182.pub2. This review contains 16 studies involving 1,750 participants.

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Cochrane systematic review link: <http://cochranelibrary-wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD012182.pub2/full>