



## AAN 71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING ABSTRACT

**Abstract Title:** Medical Cannabis treatment in Patients with Trigeminal Neuralgia

**Objective:** The purpose of this study is to assess medical cannabis' (MC) efficacy, reported adverse effects (AE), and dosages used in the treatment of patients with Trigeminal Neuralgia (TN).

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**Background:** Few treatments currently exist for the treatment of TN, and up to half of patients become refractory to those medications making surgical intervention as the next best option. A growing amount of evidence suggests that MC may be effective in alleviating neuropathic pain, making it a potentially valuable treatment option for TN.

**Design/Methods:** A retrospective analysis of patients with trigeminal neuralgia that were treated with MC through the NYS Medical Marijuana program was conducted

**Results:** Of 42 patients (10=male 32=female) included in the study, 81% reported improvement in their TN symptoms. AE were reported in 40% and only two patients discontinued because of the AE. The most common side effects were fatigue, somnolence, nausea, and dizziness. Out of the 16 patients who reported greater than 50% improvement in TN symptoms, 69% used only one product and 50% used a 1:1 ratio of tetrahydrocannabinol to cannabidiol. Of all patients included in the study 55% used a 1:1 ratio. Of 16 patients reporting opioid use at the beginning of MC treatment, nearly half were able to reduce their opioid consumption.

**Conclusions:** This study finds that MC is well tolerated in the treatment of TN, with the majority of patients reporting improvement. This study also finds that the most common efficacious dosage for these patients is a 1:1 ratio of THC to CBD, and almost half of patients using opioids are able to reduce their opioid consumption using MC treatment. These results suggest MC is a useful part of a comprehensive pain management plan for patients with TN, but future randomized placebo controlled trials are required.

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