



## AAN 73<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING ABSTRACT

**Abstract Title:** Medical Cannabis in the Treatment of Neuropathy

**Objective:** To evaluate the efficacy and adverse effects of medical cannabis (MC) in the treatment of neuropathy

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**Background:** According to the National Institutes of Health, more than 20 million Americans suffer from neuropathy. With MC now legal in 33 states, MC presents as an anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective agent that may help in treating neuropathy and associated symptoms.

**Design/Methods:** This retrospective chart analysis was conducted on patients with neuropathy as diagnosed by a board-certified neurologist in a comprehensive, neurologic outpatient setting in New York State. All patients were subsequently certified to use MC as part of New York State's Medical Marijuana Program.

**Results:** 503 (247=male, 255= female) patients age 22-99 years with neuropathy were included for this analysis. 85.1% of the study population reported benefit from using MC, with 82.5% percent of patient population (n=415) reporting a decrease in neuropathic pain/symptoms. 77.3% of the study population was able to achieve these results using only one MC product. The majority of patients used MC in tincture form (77.1%), with ratios of 20:1 (THC:CBD) and 1:1 (THC:CBD) representing 79.5% of MC products. Average daily exposures to THC and CBD were 27.2mg and 19.4mg respectively. We found that 28.0% (n=141) of the population reported side effects which were generally mild in nature. The most commonly reported side effects were fatigue (n=29), increased appetite (n=24), drowsiness (n=20), and dizziness (n=19). Less than 1.0% (n=2) chose to stop MC treatment due to side effects. No severe AE were reported.

**Conclusion:** MC as a part of a comprehensive neuropathic pain care is well tolerated and may play a role in advancing conventional care plans. The most common MC ratios used to achieve such results were 20:1 (THC:CBD) and 1:1 (THC:CBD). Further investigations, including randomized placebo-controlled trials are needed to confirm these promising results in the treatment of neuropathy.

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