Symptom Benefits of Cannabis

Medical Cannabis Use in Cancer

- Average age 59 years
- 54% female
- 26% previous recreational users
- Symptoms - sleep (78%), pain (78%), weakness (73%), nausea (65%), anorexia (49%)
- Discontinuation -19% by 6 months
- Most - subjective improvement (96%)

Bar-Lev Schleider (2018) Eur J Intern Med


NAUSEA

Nausea-Chemotherapy

- 30 RCT
- NNT nausea - 6
- NNT vomiting - 3
- Nabilone > prochlorperazine, domperidone, alizapride
- THC = metoclopramide, haloperidol, chlorpromazine
- THC did not add to ondansetron as prophylaxis
- Mechanism - 5HT3 receptor antagonist

Tramer, (2001) .BMJ 323;16-21

Nausea-Chemotherapy

- Rotation to smoked cannabis from THC
- Response 25% Dose
- Nabilone 1-2mg twice daily
- Dronabinol 5mg q2-4h

Ware (2008). Ther Clin Risk Manag .
Davis (2008). Expert Opin Investig Drugs .

Management of CINV

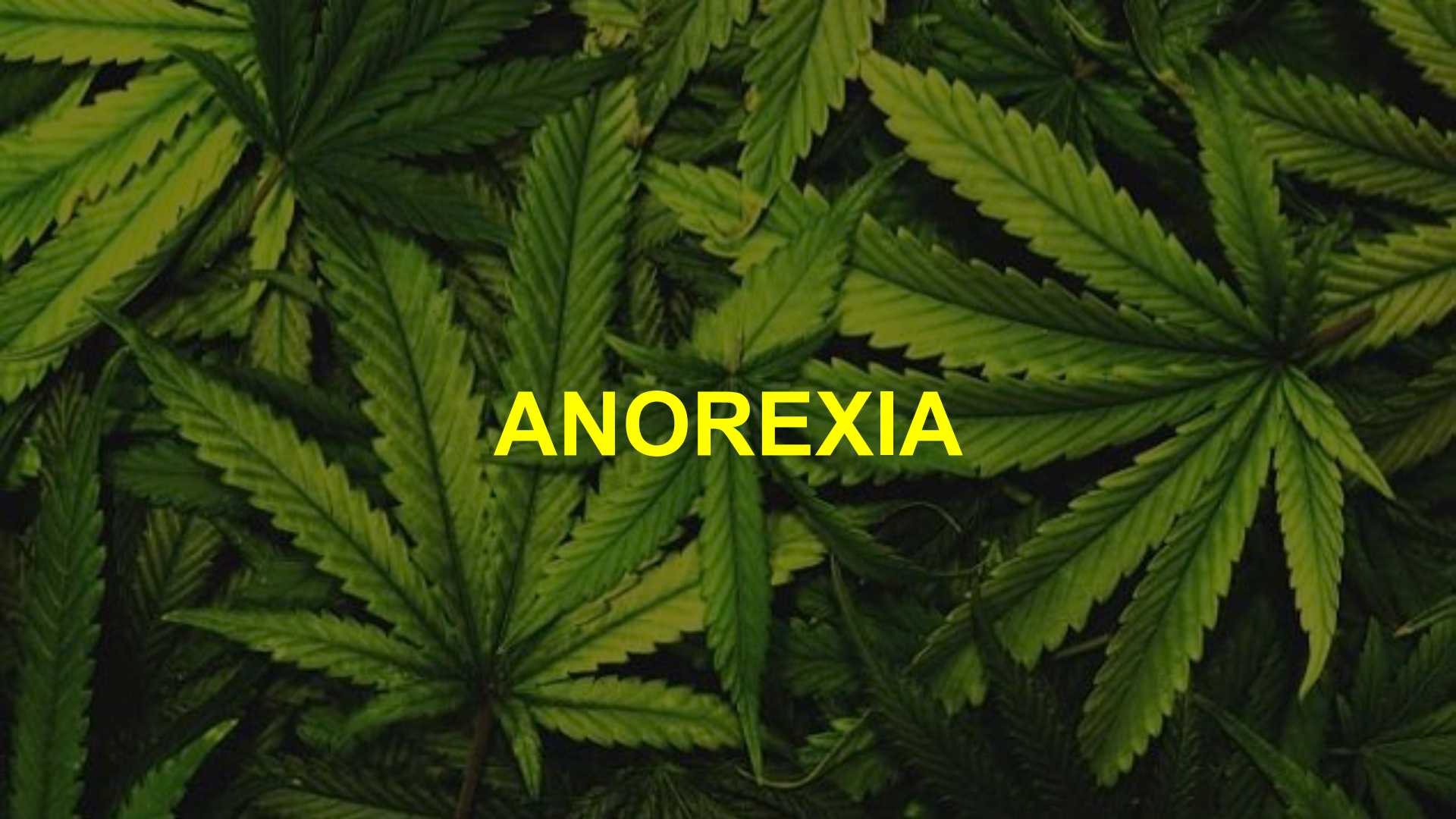
- Olanzapine, NK1 inhibitors, 5HT3 receptor antagonists, corticosteroids
- Little mentioned or rescue
- Paradoxical hyperemesis may mimic CINV
- Pain trials in cancer had emesis as S/E of cannabis

Roila, (2016)
Ann Oncol .

Advanced Cancer

- Case report GI metastases
- Isolated case series
- No RCT

Walsh, D. (2017). Support Care Cancer


ANOREXIA

Anorexia

- Reduced food intake, early satiety, diurnal intake variations, hypogeusia & dysgeusia
- D-RCT: 3 arms - megestrol acetate, THC , combination

75% megestrol v 49% THC

- Cannabis did not add to megestrol

Jatoi, (2002). J Clin Oncol

Anorexia

- Cannabis-In-Cachexia Group
- RCT: 3-arm, placebo, THC, THC/CBD
- Results- No improvement in appetite, nausea, wt, QOL

Cannabis In Cachexia Study, (2006). J Clin Oncol

Dysgeusia

- D-RCT: 2-arm placebo v dronabinol 2.5mg bid
- Dronabinol improved taste, pre-meal appetite, increased calories from protein

Brisbois (2011) Ann Oncol

Survey Medical Cannabis: Appetite in Cancer

- Prospective survey in 8 adult outpatient and/or cancer services
- 204 patients
- Results
  - 13% use cannabis
  - 71% preferred tablets or capsules
  - 42% would use spray
  - 41% would used vaporized
  - 6% believed cannabis will cure cancer

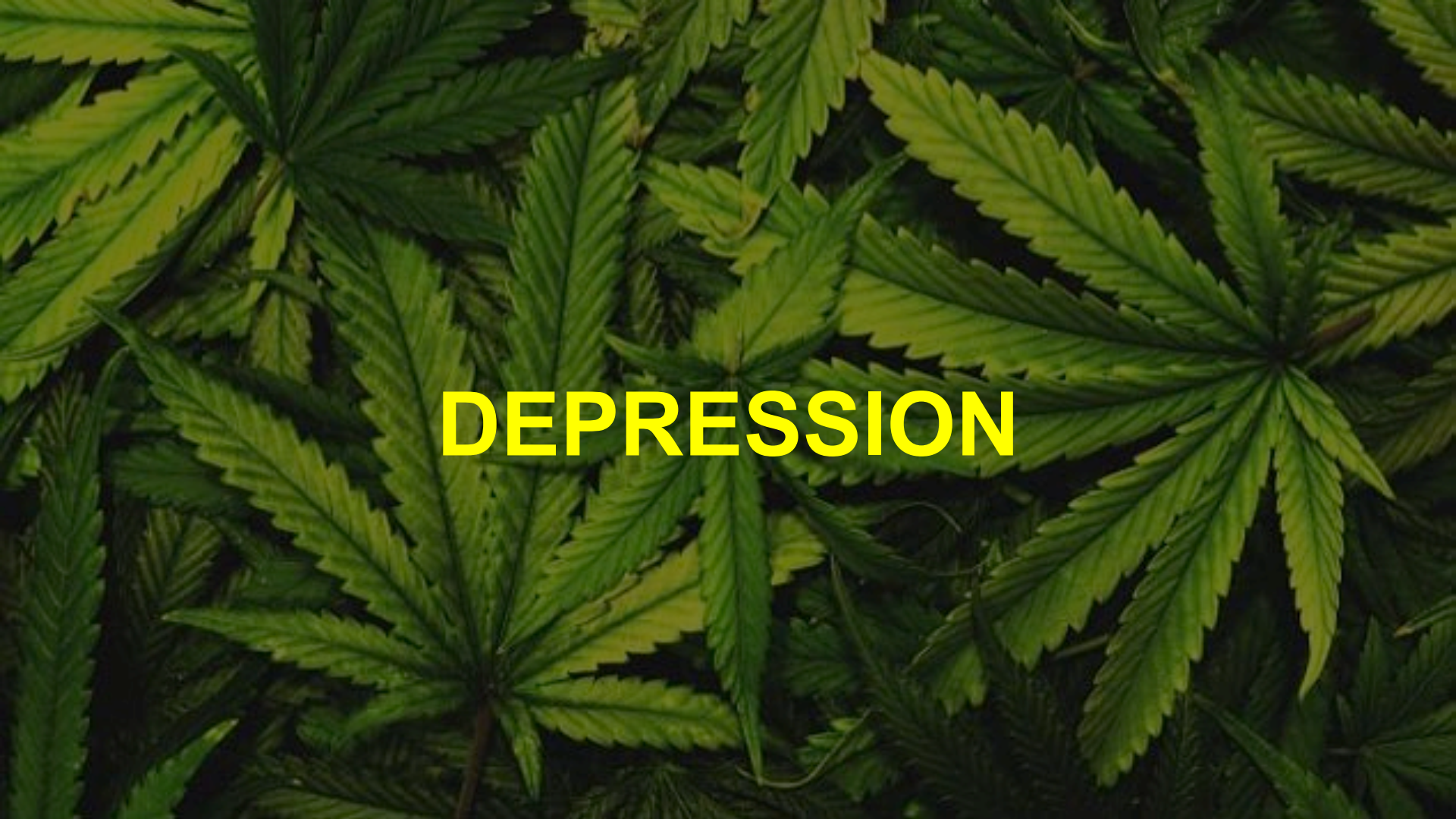
Luckett, (2016) Intern Med J


ANXIETY

Anxiety

- Meta-analysis - 5 RCT, 38 patients and 44 healthy individuals
- Nabilone 1mg bid reduced anxiety
- Cannabidiol reduced anxiety from THC
- Cannabidiol 600mg (relative to placebo) reduced social anxiety disorders

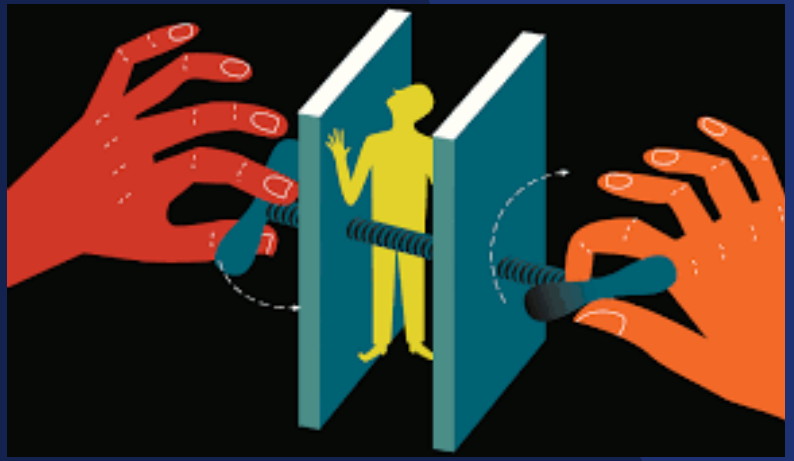
Bergamaschi. (2011) Neuropsychopharmacology
Zuardi (1982). Psychopharmacology (Berl)


DEPRESSION

Depression

- Meta-analysis

- 5 RCT in patients without cancer found cannabis “no better than placebo”



Whiting, (2015) JAMA

Psychotic Symptoms

Psychotic Symptoms

- RCT: cannabidiol 200-800mg/d v amisulpride
- Brief Psychotic Rating Scale
- Results - equal efficacy

  - fewer side effects with cannabidiol
  - smaller weight gain
  - less prolactin elevation
  - fewer e/p side effects

Rohleder, (2016), Front Pharmacol

Sleep and Insomnia

Sleep and Insomnia

- Cannabis reduces sleep latency; increases slow wave sleep
- Habituation & tolerance develop
- Cannabis withdrawal: vivid dreams, insomnia
- Often leads to relapse in cannabis use disorder

Babson, (2017), Curr Psychiatry Rep

Sleep and Insomnia

- Meta-analysis 19 studies with sleep one outcome + 2 with sleep as the primary outcome
- Results: Sleep improved in most trials
- In pain trials improved sleep may be the indirect analgesic effect

Whiting, (2015), JAMA

Insomnia and Sleep

- Cannabidiol improves REM behavior disorders
- Nabilone improves PTSD-related nightmares
- Nabiximols improves sleep in chronic pain

Jetly, (2015). Psychoneuroendocrinology

Babson, (2017) Curr Psychiatry Rep

Insomnia and Sleep

- Association between multiple medical conditions, psychiatric illness, narcolepsy. obstructive sleep apnea
- Individuals on THC more likely to have narcolepsy
- Cannabidiol counteracts THC somnolence and may counter daytime somnolence

Murillo-Rodriguez (2014) Curr Neuropharmacol

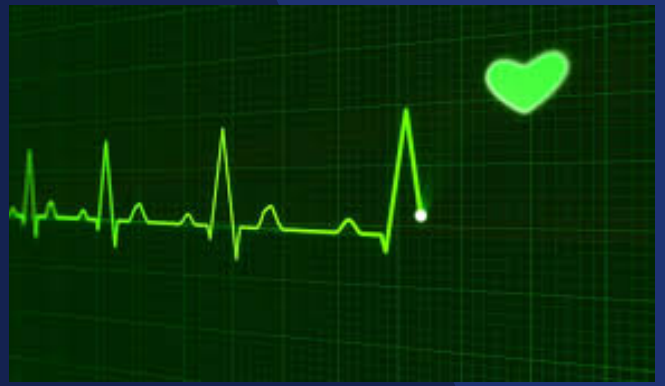
Insomnia and Sleep

- THC blocks serotonin induced obstructive sleep apnea animals
- Dronabinol 2.5 - 5mg reduces apnea in adults with obstructive sleep apnea

Prasad, (2013) Front Psychiatry
Farabi, (2014) J Clin Sleep Med

Sleep, Pain, Cannabis Use

- Sleep problems in patients with pain commonly associated with cannabis use
- 59% in chronic pain meet criteria for a sleep disorder
- 86% attribute sleep disorder to pain
- 80% in pain who use cannabis use it for sleep disturbances
- 65% who abstain will develop sleep-related cannabis withdrawal symptoms



Babson, (2017) Curr Psychiatry Rep .


SEIZURES

Seizures

- High quality randomized trials of cannabadiol
- Reduces seizures
- Direct effect or indirect by increasing clobazam metabolite n-desmethylclobazam
- Will cannabidiol become a antiseizure medication for acquired seizure disorders?

Perucca, (2017) J Epilepsy Res

SUMMARY

- Widespread “Medical” Use
- CINV
- Anorexia
- Dysgeusia
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Psychosis
- Sleep
- Seizures