

Marijuana/Cannabis – Good? Bad? – You Be The Judge

Compiled by Charles (Chuck) Maack – Prostate Cancer Activist/Mentor

DISCLAIMER: Please recognize that I am not a Medical Doctor. I have been an avid student researching and studying prostate cancer as a survivor and continuing patient since 1992. I have dedicated my retirement years to continued research and study in order to serve as an advocate for prostate cancer awareness, and, from a activist patient's viewpoint, to voluntarily help patients, caregivers, and others interested develop an understanding of prostate cancer, its treatment options, and the treatment of the side effects that often accompany treatment. There is absolutely no charge for my mentoring – I provide this free service as one who has been there and hoping to make your journey one with better understanding and knowledge than was available to me when I was diagnosed so many years ago. Readers of this paper must understand that the comments or recommendations I make are not intended to be the procedure to blindly follow; rather, they are to be reviewed as my opinion, then used for further personal research, study, and subsequent discussion with the medical professional/physician providing your prostate cancer care.

Before reading any further, I encourage all readers interested in this subject first consider the following: Readers who partake of, or are considering, the use of Medical Marijuana should avail themselves of the very comprehensive paper identified below extensively studying the events that can be expected by doing so. There is always controversy regarding this subject and I am always looking for more to add to my personal paper regarding the use of Marijuana/Cannabis, and certainly this will be added to that paper. This is important stuff and should not be simply dismissed without first reading and understanding.

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Medical Marijuana: A View Beyond the Smoke

Mark P Brady, MS, PA-C; Michael E Schatman, PhD, CPE April 27, 2016

http://reference.medscape.com/features/slideshow/med-marijuana?src=wnl_edit_tpal&uac=86632FR

If the above url breaks up in sending, try this: <http://tinyurl.com/j6d8p3j>

Now, on to the information I provided prior to the above more recent paper:

Some consideration as to the value – or not – of marijuana/cannabis. Please review the following references, and my remarks following.

<http://tinyurl.com/owwszhj>

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/cam/cannabis/healthprofessional/page4>

I've been aware of cannabis having attributes that could have a significant effect on reining in cancer as well as reducing pain. Problem is getting the product to trial wherein big-business will be interested only if they can make a huge profit. Trials cost a few million bucks and this research, though very promising, may get stalled if there isn't any return in profit for those who could otherwise support such trials.

Despite all I have read, I doubt we can conclude that cannabis can “cure” prostate cancer. Aid in its slowing growth? Yes. Aid in comforting painful side effects? Yes. But absolute “cure?” At least to date, doubtful.

Since the subject of Cannabis/Marijuana frequently comes up, here are a couple pro's and con's from my files to consider:

Pro:

Cannabis has been found to have an anti-tumor effect and can be therapeutic for pain.

"What is obvious is that certain societal misgivings about the use and abuse of psychotropic drugs is getting in the way of research, development and proper public health policy. The current government's ignorance of the positive findings at the Safe-injection Site in Vancouver, the probable prosecution of (name removed) should he return to Canada, and the continued illegality of marijuana despite public pressure to decriminalize it, all are hot-potatoes, politically, and may be impeding the availability of funding to properly study cannabis. In the meantime, advocates like (name removed) are not helping matters by making wild claims using anecdotal evidence. (Name removed) and his followers, which appear to be many, do have something: there is a lot of very interesting research. However we need science to help us navigate the hyperbole, and making claims for all-powerful wonder cures only ensures greater confusion in the matter."

But I'll follow the foregoing with a couple papers I have on file:

Marijuana shows potential in treating autoimmune disease

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140602150914.htm>

This is interesting provided me in 2009 by advocate/mentor Jacquie Strax and administrator of the website PSA Rising regarding the law: The Obama administration has changed Federal policies on regulation of medical marijuana use under state law.

<http://www.psa-rising.com/blog/2009/10/feds-halt-medical-marijuana-prosectutions/>

There are several papers in this regard on her website; see:

<http://tinyurl.com/p868ytr>

The new guidelines order federal drug agents to stop arresting or charging patients, caregivers or suppliers who are dispensing, buying or using marijuana for medical purposes allowed by state law.

At the time of this compilation there are 23 states who have legalized medical marijuana:

<http://medicalmarijuana.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000881>

ANOTHER PRO:

Cannabinoids and the skeleton: From marijuana to reversal of bone loss

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19634029>

ANOTHER PRO (but must consider the source):

Marijuana proven effective in treating different types of cancers

<http://www.hemp.org/news/marijuana-proven-effective-fighting-cancers>

AND MORE PROs:

The role of cannabinoids in prostate cancer: Basic science perspective and potential clinical applications

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3339795/>

Non-THC cannabinoids inhibit prostate carcinoma growth in vitro and in vivo: pro-apoptotic effects and underlying mechanisms.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22594963>

Proapoptotic effect of endocannabinoids in prostate cancer cells.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25606819>

Towards the use of non-psychoactive cannabinoids for prostate cancer.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22849856>

BUT, WHOOPS, WHAT ABOUT THIS CON – and be sure to continue to page two:

Cannabis smoke damages DNA – cancer risks

Or try: <http://tinyurl.com/m2pm83>

There was a presentation on Medpage February 2016 regarding concern that over time, use can lead to damaging cognitive functioning.

So, if you live in a state that authorizes Marijuana for medical purposes, you be the judge of whether this might be good – or harmful.

IMPORTANT: Be very careful where you obtain any product. Good idea to purchase a book that explains the use of Cannabis/Marijuana for medicinal purposes in order to learn to be safe as well as have a good idea how to use, and even better if there are physicians in your area knowledgeable in the administration of cannabis for medicinal purposes to whom you could make an appointment for appropriate care.