



Dr Giresh Kanji

Musculoskeletal Pain Specialist
Auckland

Saturday, August 10, 2019

(Plenary)

12:10 - 12:20 Where's the Data?

Medicinal Cannabis

Where is the data



Dr Giresh Kanji
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CB1/CB2 receptors

CB1 Brain CB2 immune/Haemopoetic



Difficulties with data collection

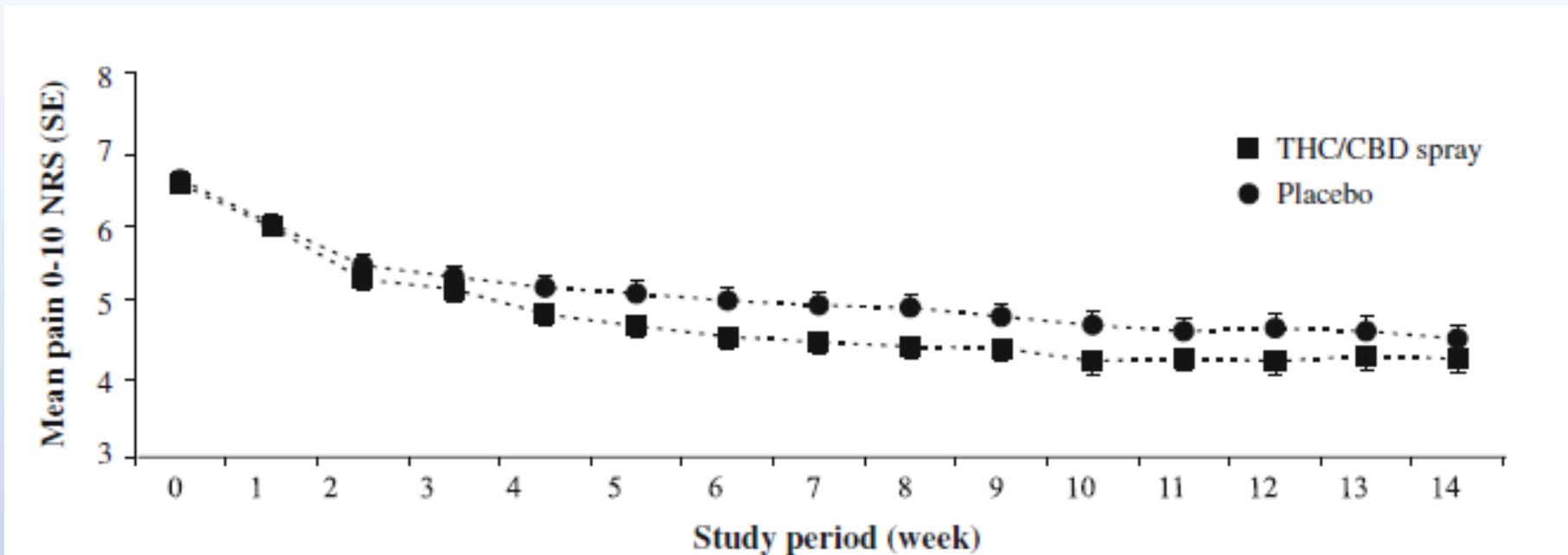


Homogenous patients

A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study of THC/CBD oromucosal spray in combination with the existing treatment regimen, in the relief of central neuropathic pain in patients with multiple sclerosis

R. M. Langford • J. Mares • A. Novotna •
M. Vachova • I. Novakova • W. Notcutt •
S. Ratcliffe

- MS with Central pain
- How do you diagnose? No gold standard or test to diagnose.
- Leads to variable sample



- 30% reduction in pain
- THC/CBD 50%
- Placebo spray 45%
- THC/CBD 1.93/10 Placebo 1.76/10

Industry Sponsorship



Systematic confusion merging flawed data



Smoked Medicinal Cannabis for Neuropathic Pain in HIV: A Randomized, Crossover Clinical Trial

Ronald J Ellis^{*,1}, Will Toperoff¹, Florin Vaida², Geoffrey van den Brande³, James Gonzales⁴, Ben Gouaux⁵, Heather Bentley⁵, and J Hampton Atkinson⁵

Pain score 11.1/20

Cannabis Reduction	4.1/20	37%
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Placebo Reduction	0.96/20	8.6%
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Cannabis 46% achieved 30% reduction pain

Placebo 18% achieved 30% reduction in pain

N = 28 - 64% took opioids, 36% NSAIDS, 29% TCAs, 64% anticonvulsants
Neuropathic pain in HIV

Smoked cannabis for chronic neuropathic pain: a randomized controlled trial

Mark A. Ware MBBS, Tongtong Wang PhD, Stan Shapiro PhD, Ann Robinson RN, Thierry Ducruet MSc, Thao Huynh MD, Ann Gamsa PhD, Gary J. Bennett PhD, Jean-Paul Collet MD PhD

Average daily pain at baseline	
Mean (SD)	6.89 (1.37)
Range	4.0–9.2

Table 3: Effects of smoked cannabis and secondary outcomes, by potency of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) received

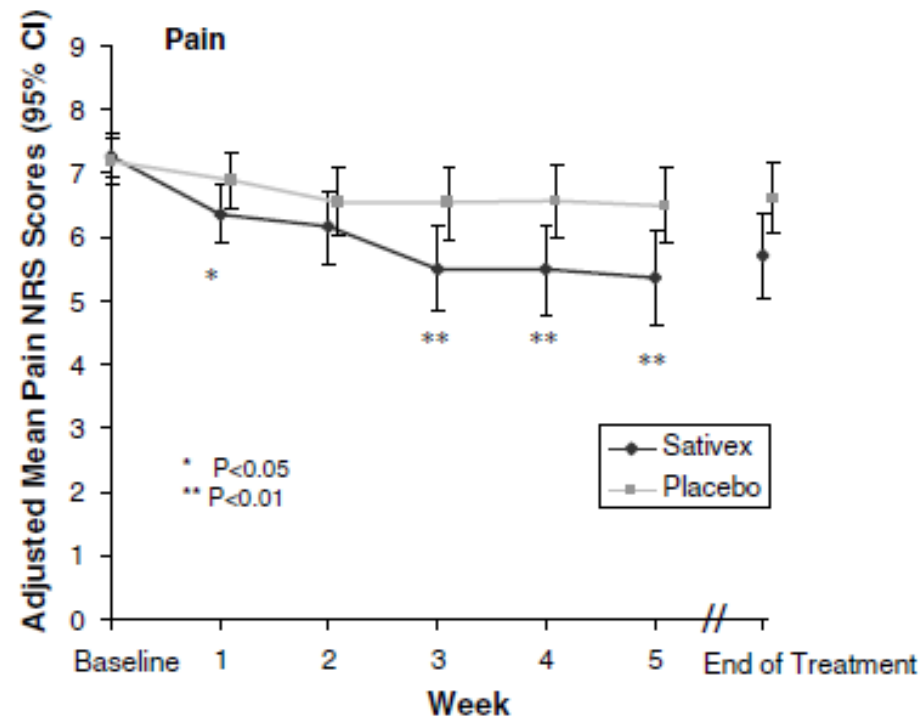
Outcome	Potency of THC, %; outcome measure, mean (SD)*			
	0	2.5	6.0	9.4
Pain intensity				
Average daily pain	6.1 (1.6)	5.9 (1.9)	6.0 (1.8)	5.4 (1.7)†

Post traumatic and post surgical neuropathic pain
N= 23 cross over trial 22% reduction pain intensity 1.49/10



Sativex successfully treats neuropathic pain characterised by allodynia: A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial

Turo J. Nurmikko ^{a,*}, Mick G. Serpell ^b, Barbara Hoggart ^c, Peter J. Toomey ^d,
Bart J. Morlion ^e, Derek Haines ^f



N = 125
6.3 years
Sativex -1.48
Placebo -0.52

Original Article

A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel group study of THC/CBD spray in peripheral neuropathic pain treatment

M. Serpell , S. Ratcliffe, J. Hovorka, M. Schofield, L. Taylor, H. Lauder, E. Ehler

First published: 13 January 2014 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1532-2149.2013.00445.x> | Cited by: 30

- N = 303
- Neuropathic pain with allodynia - 6 years
- THC/CBD Spray in addition to usual analgesia
- 30% reduction VAS 28% vs 16%

2017 review



Cochrane
Library

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

Cannabis-based medicines for chronic neuropathic pain in adults (Review)

Mücke M, Phillips T, Radbruch L, Petzke F, Häuser W

30% reduction pain

- 10 studies with 1586 participants.
- 323 of 819 (39.4%) CBD/THC
- 251 of 767 (32.7%) placebo group
- (RD 0.09, 95% CI 0.03 to 0.15; P value 0.004; $I^2 = 34\%$). NNTB was 11 (7 to 33).

Original Article

Multicenter, Double-Blind, Randomized,
Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Group Study
of the Efficacy, Safety, and Tolerability
of THC:CBD Extract and THC Extract in
Patients with Intractable Cancer-Related Pain

- 2.7THC & 2.5 CBD (Sativex)
- Incurable malignancy using strong opioids
- 2 week trial
- NPRS>4/10
- N = 192

Response Rate

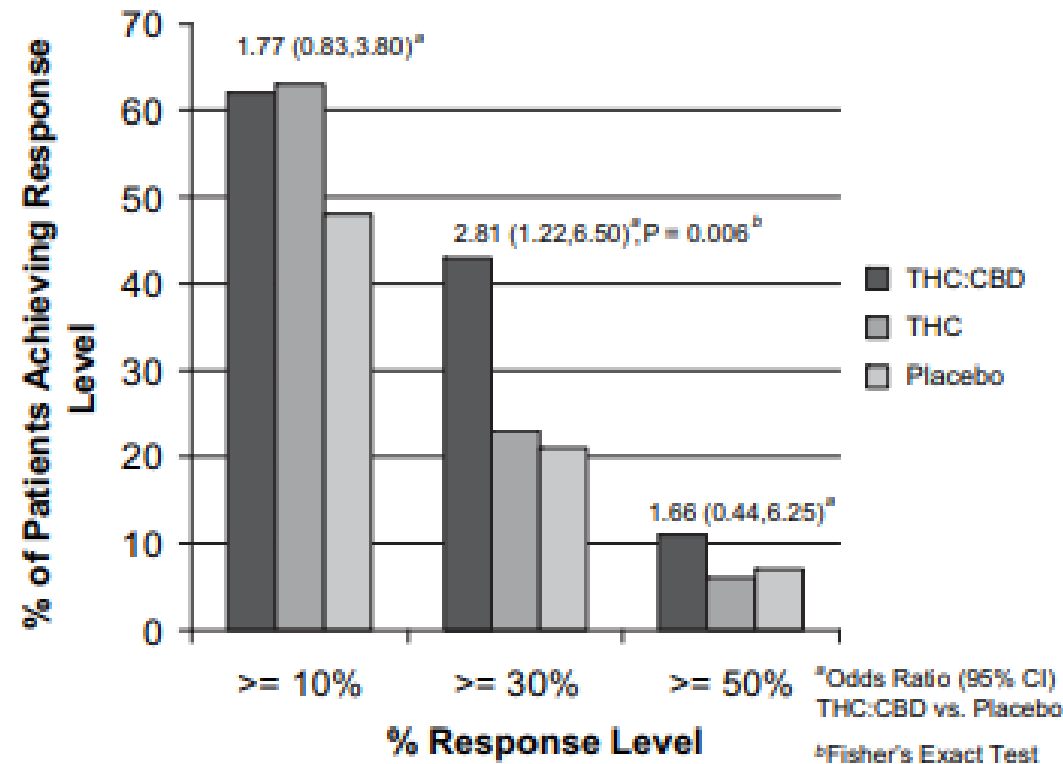


Fig. 3. Pain 0–10 Numerical Rating Scale scores: responder analysis (ITT analysis). ^aOdds ratio (95% CI) THC:CBD vs. placebo; ^bFisher's exact test.

Side Effects (60%)

- Somnolence
- Nausea
- Dizziness

Table 4
**Most Common Treatment-Related Adverse
Events (Reported by Three or More Patients)**

Description of Event	THC:CBD <i>n</i> (%)	THC extract <i>n</i> (%)	Placebo <i>n</i> (%)
Somnolence	8 (13)	8 (14)	6 (10)
Dizziness	7 (12)	7 (12)	3 (5)
Confusion	4 (7)	1 (2)	1 (2)
Nausea	6 (10)	4 (7)	4 (7)
Vomiting	3 (5)	4 (7)	2 (3)
Raised gamma GT	2 (3)	5 (9)	1 (2)
Hypercalcemia	0	0	3 (5)
Hypotension	3 (5)	0	0

Gamma GT = gamma glutamyl transferase.

Summary

- THC/CBD
- NNT 11/12
- Neuropathic pain 45/100
- Cancer 45/100
- 50% dropout rate
- CBD 5/100
- No studies for spinal pain