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Study finds another use for Marijuana

Thursday October 12, 2006

Krystal Baugher

Marijuana advocates say the herb can treat another serious illness.

They claim the active ingredient THC has been shown to help fight Alzheimer's disease. About 4.5 million Americans suffer from the disease which gradually destroys memory. According to Fox News, cases of Alzheimer's disease are expected to triple over the next 50 years.

People with Alzheimer's have an enzyme in their brain called acetylcholinesterase or AChE for short, that does two things: first it accelerates the formation of abnormal protein clumps in the brain, and second, it breaks down a brain chemical that is linked to memory and learning. The main ingredient in marijuana, THC, inhibits this enzyme. THC could completely prevent the formation of abnormal clumping unlike the two medications already used to fight Alzheimer's – donepezil and tacrine which only reduce clumping by 22 and 7 percent, respectively.

Medical marijuana is legal in 11 states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. Marijuana is used to treat not only Alzheimer's but cancer, anorexia, AIDS, chronic pain, glaucoma, arthritis, and migraines to name a few. Most states with legalization laws allow 1 to 3 ounces to be on a person; people in California on the other hand can possess up to 8 ounces.

The ability to possess medical marijuana is important, according to the Alzheimer's Association fact sheet, "Finding a treatment that could delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease by five years could reduce the number of individuals with the disease by nearly 50 percent after 50 years." Currently there is no treatment available that can cure the disease, only medications that can slow down the deterioration process. THC is considered better at suppressing the disease than any currently approved prescription drug.

Controversy about the legalization of marijuana has been a hot-topic in recent years, especially due to the medical discoveries that have developed over this time. "I see nothing wrong with legalizing medical marijuana; doctors give out prescription drugs to patients that other people can't use on a daily basis, using marijuana as a medical drug is the same thing," Sarah Piper said.

Others have a negative view of medical marijuana, "Based on current evidence, I believe that marijuana is a dangerous drug and that there are less dangerous medicines offering the same relief from pain and other medical symptoms said," Bill Frist, M.D.

"[Marijuana] can relieve certain types of pain, nausea, vomiting and other symptoms caused by such illnesses as multiple sclerosis, cancer and AIDS—or by the harsh drugs sometimes used to treat them. And it can do so with remarkable safety. Indeed, marijuana is less toxic than many of the drugs that physicians prescribe every day," Joycelyn Elders, former U.S. Surgeon General said.

The controversy will continue, but scientific evidence has proven that marijuana can help patients that have been diagnosed with severe illnesses. Right now, marijuana is the most useful drug to patients with Alzheimer's in comparison to the two prescription drugs available. For more information about the medical marijuana debate visit

medicalmarijuanaprocon.org.

Its nice to know that at 41 years old,,I am alzheimers amune.

— [Michael B](#) Thursday October 12, 2006 <#>

i would realy like to see marijuana to become legalized so it will be off the streets and away from inocent young children. oh and please start doing more and more of those positive pot comercials it just might help even more

— [thomas ratigan](#) Thursday October 12, 2006 <#>

this site was very helpful with many things and it has much knowlage about the subject that was very helpful

— [Brittaniy](#) Thursday October 12, 2006 <#>

educational file

— [Beverly Kinard](#) Friday October 13, 2006 <#>

I wonder how long “scientists” will debate this issue. I have witnessed first hand the effects of the “Herb” Mj and it’s effects in the lives of ones dear to me in dealing with cancer, arthritis and other dizeases. I only wish my own father had learned of the new science concerning Alzheimers. You see, he died of that disease just this year. Thanks to the stupid government.

— [Dale Albertson](#) Friday October 13, 2006 <#>

Look at all the extra retires on social security- we have to keep these diseases healyhly.Canabis has never proven to cause any harm and is only illegale due to a lying federal government

— [john w black](#) Sunday October 15, 2006 <#>

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