

**Medical Marijuana:
Is Green & Leafy Really Good for You?**

Mary E. Peterson, RN, ANP-BC, AOCNP
Marci Andrejko, RN, OCN
Dr. Parag Bharadwaj, MD
Dr. Maggie McCallen, PharmD

Objectives

- Review the history of cannabis/medical marijuana
- Discuss pros & cons –
 - Insurance implications for practice
 - Infection risks
 - Dosing/administration
 - Staff concerns
 - Use in pediatrics
 - Addiction

**Do you live in a state where medical
Marijuana is legal?**

- 1) Yes, I live in a State with Medical Marijuana
- 2) No, I do not live in a State with Medical Marijuana
- 3) I do not know if my state has legalized medial marijuana

[Results](#)

How Many States Currently have Medical Marijuana Laws?

- 1) 28
- 2) 32
- 3) 23
- 4) 18

[Results](#)

Do you currently support the use of medical marijuana?

- 1) Yes, I support its use
- 2) No, I do not support its use
- 3) I am undecided

[Results](#)

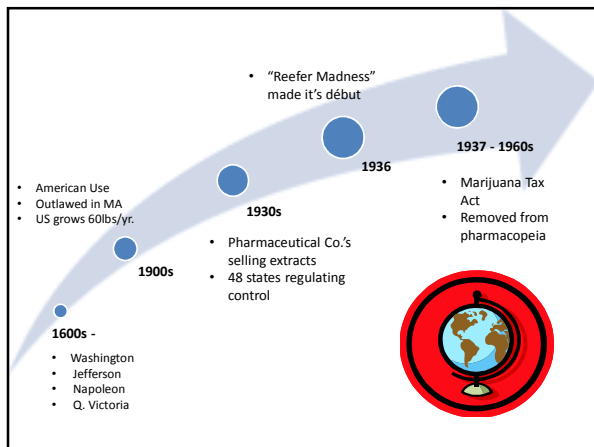
What do you feel are the biggest barriers to medical marijuana use in Stem Cell Transplant patients?

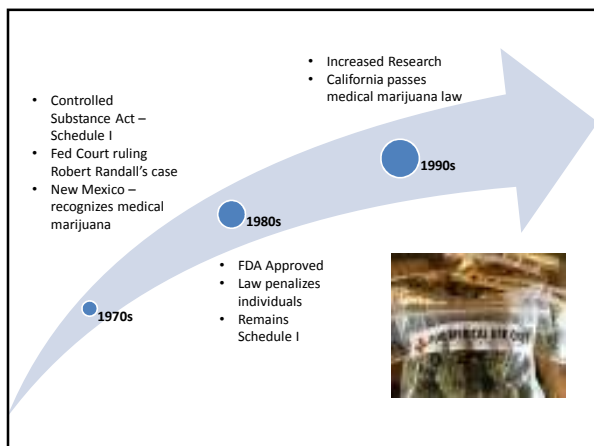
- 1) Cost/Insurance
- 2) Legalization
- 3) Infection Risks
- 4) Lack of Education
- 5) Personal bias against use

[Results](#)


Origins

- Plant Name
 - Cannabis
- First use
 - Chinese medicine more than 10,000 years ago





- Courts Favor Use
 - Federal Govt. Cannot Revoke Licenses for Recommending Medical Marijuana
 - Justice Department will not Challenge State Medical Marijuana Laws
- AMA Softens Position
- Endorsed by Chief Medical Correspondent for CNN



23 States with Medical Marijuana laws

California	New Mexico
Alaska	Michigan
Oregon	New Jersey
Washington	Arizona
Maine	Delaware
Hawaii	Connecticut
Colorado	Massachusetts
Nevada	New Hampshire
Montana	Illinois
Vermont	Maryland
Rhode Island	Minnesota
	New York

Introduction of Speakers

- Dr. Maggie McCallen, PharmD
- Dr. Parag Bharadwaj, MD

How well received is Medical Marijuana by insurance companies, and how will positive testing reflect eligibility for Stem Cell Transplant?

Insurance and Testing

- Health insurance
- \$\$\$\$
- Prescription?
 - Dronabinol
 - Nabilone



INSURANCE AND TESTING

- Health insurance
- Testing




How will the use of medical marijuana and its potential benefits outweigh the infection risk its use poses in our SCT?

What is the infection risk?


Is there a difference in risk associated with inhaled vs edibles?

BENEFITS AND RISKS

- Benefits



- Risks




Risks

- Mold
- Pesticides
- Edibles
- Smoking
- Drug interactions



Substance	Annual Deaths
Tobacco	44,000
Heart Disease	36,000
Alcohol	30,000
Stroke	23,000
Motor Vehicle Crashes	16,000
Firearms	15,000
Drugs	14,000
Poisoning	10,000
Respiratory	8,000



Do standards exist for dosing and administration?

50 Shades of Green

- Dosing?
- Administration?



DOSING AND ADMINISTRATION

- Dosing : start low, go slow



- Administration
 - Routes

Since by federal law marijuana still remains an illegal drug, how do you support staff who may be resistant to prescribing?

SUPPORTIVE PRACTICE

- Address questions and concerns
- Consider it as an option
- Physicians authorize its use
 - Not prescribed
- Refer to the experts



Staff Hesitancy

- Prescribe vs Certify



Should there be an age requirement for pediatric use?

Pediatrics

- Restrictions
- Route of administration



PEDIATRICS

- American Academy of Pediatrics



What are the long term affects and how to deal with concerns regarding addiction?

SUMMARY

- History
- Science
- Ongoing Education
- Experience
- Politics



Do you currently support the use of medical marijuana?

- 1) Yes, I support its use
- 2) No, I do not support its use
- 3) I am undecided

[Results](#)

Did you find the debate format a good way of learning?

- 1) Yes, I liked the debate format
- 2) No, I would prefer a straight lecture

[Results](#)
