

## Should Marijuana Be Legalized for Medical Purposes?

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### Introduction

Marijuana legalization is one of the catchiest legal, social, and politico-medical debates that have been going on in the health sector due to its sensitivity nature. Should marijuana be legalized for medical purposes? Based on the empirical evidence regarding the immense medical benefits of marijuana, it would be wise for drug administration agency to legalize the use of the drug though for medical use only. The current occurrence of acute and chronic diseases and the ability of medical marijuana to control them necessitates the legalization of the drug. The classification of marijuana as an illegal substance limits research on the drug and its prescription to patients. The legalization of marijuana should be done for medical and not for recreational purposes to avert the side effects associated with the drug. The current medical situation and the need for seeking alternative medical intervention programs for various conditions needs to be

evaluated and medical marijuana should be legalized to enhance the medication of chronic and acute cases before their actual cure is determined.

#### Legalization of Medical Marijuana: Considerations

In the current world, where acute and chronic diseases are the order of the day, it would be crucial to allow the use of medical marijuana as an intervention program. In the US, for instance, a number of states have legalized the use of medical marijuana though it has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration as a medicinal drug (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2017). This revelation indicates that the benefits of medical marijuana cannot be underwritten. Rappold (2014) indicates that American doctors are advocating for the legalization of medical marijuana as an option for patients across board though solid data regarding its health benefits lacked due to the restriction and classification of the plant by the federal government.

The classification of marijuana as an illegal drug has limited its use in the medical setting. Clark, Capuzzi, and Fick (2011) indicated that the Drug Enforcement Authority of the US had classified marijuana as a Schedule I drug with no medicinal use though studies have shown that medical marijuana has an effective way of controlling various condition including chemotherapy side effects. It is recommended that marijuana should be legalized for medical purposes only and should be administered to patients who fail to positively react to other therapies (Clark, Capuzzi, & Fick, 2010). The lack of reclassification of marijuana as another form of drug has prevented doctors from prescribing it to their patients. A review of crucial scientific data regarding the drug and considering the non-maleficence and beneficence ethical principles, it has been argued that legalizing medical marijuana outweighs the negative effects of the projected abuse. At this point, it should be understood that the abuse that the government is trying to prevent by terming the drug illicit still exists and would probably reduce by legalizing it medically.

It should be noted that the legalization of medical marijuana should be done on medical and not recreational purposes and should only be administered by health practitioners. Recreational use of marijuana poses the risk of impairing, intoxicating and psychoactive effects, which indicates that its use should still be controlled even after legitimization. Bridgeman and Abazia (2017) note that medical cannabis could positively affect the acute care services though, physicians need to do more research regarding its pharmacokinetics and administration to alleviate any side effects that could be associated with the drug. Bifulco and Pisanti (2015) reiterate that the medical use of marijuana has been hampered by the classification of drug as illegal since it limits research on its treatment of chronic pains among individuals.

#### Conclusion

While most governments are worried about the potential abuse associated with medical marijuana legalization, positing data and facts regarding its therapeutic efficacy could possibly enhance the chances of the drugs' legitimization. It should be noted that though the drug has immense advantages, its overdose and abuse effects should not be underwritten and should be intrinsically considered during its legalization. However, as it stands, medical marijuana should be legalized with stringent legal controls to ensure that the acute care services are improved while also providing an intervention program for various complicated conditions.

## References

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