



## Use of CBD oil in treating cancer patients: An ongoing policy debate around licit/illicit use of cannabis oil.

### Overview:

Cannabis has been used in medicine for thousands of years prior to achieving its current illicit substance status. Cannabinoids (THC and CBD), the active components of *Cannabis sativa*, mimic the effects of the endogenous cannabinoids (endocannabinoids), activating specific cannabinoid receptors, particularly CB1 found predominantly in the central nervous system and CB2 found predominantly in cells involved with immune function. Recently cannabinoids have been shown to be of benefit in the treatment of epilepsy and currently implemented by NHS in England. Previous research suggest that there is a benefit in using THC and CBD providing the correct dosage prescribed, however there is an ongoing tension in debate of licit and illicit drug use.

### Aim:

Based on the most recent statistics every second citizen in UK will develop cancer in their lifetime. Progress in medicine helps to prolong life of the patients, meaning that life with cancer has become a chronic condition. My main objective is to investigate the benefits and effects of Cannabinoids (CBD and THC components) in pain management, nausea, insomnia, mental health and other side effects of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and post operation recovery in cancer patients.

### Debate:

Due to currently ongoing debate around licit/illicit use of drugs and the policy debate over cannabis oil, it is essential to produce a research where qualitative and quantitative data is an accurate representation of all prone and cons of CBD and THC use in cancer patients. Once data from this project is analysed, then it will be worth arguing over whether to produce and prescribe CBD and THC oils or not, but until then nobody knows for sure.

