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Therapeutic Potential of Cannabis in Cancer: Advances in Clinical Research and Pharmacogenomic Aspects

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Abstract: Medical cannabis has been cultivated and used in many countries around the world. The story of the use of cannabis as a therapeutic agent is difficult to trace, in particular, because the laws regulating its production, distribution, possession, and consumption are relatively recent. Nowadays, in countries where it is authorized, medical cannabis is used in a very wide variety of illnesses and pathologies, particularly in cancer cures. Presently, cannabinoid receptor agonists (like nabilone and dronabinol) are used for reducing chemotherapy induced vomiting. This review aims to discuss a recent finding on the use of therapeutic cannabis in patients with cancer. First, this work addresses the progress made in the use of cannabinoids as therapeutic agent and their application in the treatment of different types of cancer. Secondly, a detailed analysis of the pharmacogenetic aspect of cannabis will be discussed.

Keywords: cannabinoids, endocannabinoids system, cancer treatment, cannabinoid receptors, genetic polymorphism, pharmacogenomics

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