

Exploring Cannabis for Cancer Symptom Relief: An Australian Perspective

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Abstract : Background: The therapeutic use of cannabis for cancer symptom control in Australia is gaining momentum, reflecting a broader global acceptance of its medicinal potential. Objective: This overview examines the historical context, current regulations, and clinical applications of cannabis in oncology within Australia. Methods: A historical analysis outlines the ancient and 19th-century medicinal uses of cannabis, followed by its prohibition in the early 20th century and subsequent resurgence in the late 20th century. The current legal framework under the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is discussed. Results: Research indicates that cannabinoids, particularly THC and CBD, effectively alleviate pain, reduce chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, stimulate appetite, and enhance overall quality of life for cancer patients. Despite these benefits, challenges such as dosing standardization, stigma, and access barriers persist. Conclusion: Continued clinical research, policy development, and educational initiatives are essential to optimize the use of cannabis in cancer care. A patient-centred approach, emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration and informed decision-making, is crucial for improving therapeutic outcomes in this evolving field.

Keywords : historical context of cannabis, symptom control in oncology patients, therapeutic benefits, outcome and future

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