

# Complementary and Alternative Medicine in IBD

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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

# Disclosures in the past 2 yrs:

- Advisory Boards for Abbvie Canada, Janssen Canada, Pfizer Canada, Shire Canada, Takeda Canada
- Consulted to Mylan Pharmaceuticals
- Educational grants from Abbvie Canada, Janssen Canada, Pfizer Canada, Shire Canada, Takeda Canada
- Research grants/contracts from Abbvie, Abbvie Canada, Janssen, Celgene, Boehringer Ingelheim, Roche, Pfizer

# **CAM**

**A group of diverse medical and health care systems,  
practices and products that are not generally considered  
part of conventional medicine**

*US National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine*

# **CAM use in different IBD populations**

**Winnipeg 57%    Cork 31%    Stockholm 32%**

**Los Angeles 68%    Overall average: 51%**

**Predictors use:**

**Single, LA, Wpg, increase use of 2.7%/M.D. visit**

**Subjects were more likely to use CAM if:**

- were not satisfied with conventional therapy,**
- viewed hospitals as dangerous places,**
- thought that alt med practitioners should have a role in hospitals**
- felt their medical situation was hopeless.**

# **CAM use in different IBD populations**

**New Zealand**

**Population-based (n=1291)**

**Prior year use of CAM 44%**

**No diff vs controls**

**Predictors of use: Female and higher education**

# **CAM use in different IBD populations**

**Norway**

**Population based; Inception cohort (n=517)**

**Use at some time over 10 y =30%**

**Current use= 7.5%**

**Regular use =3.1%**

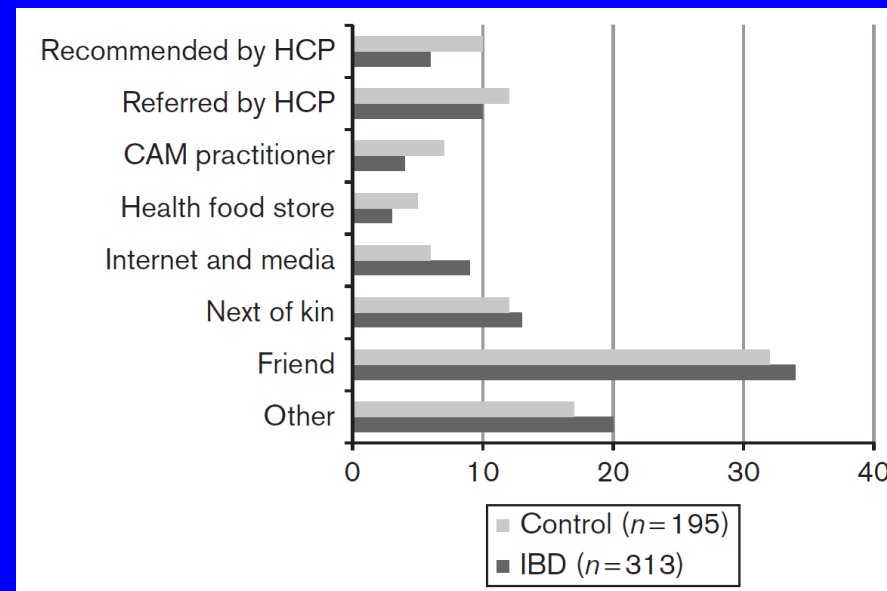
**Predictors of use: Female, higher education,  
younger age**

# CAM use in different IBD populations

## Sweden

12 centre (n=648 vs controls, n=440)

48.3% v control 53.5% (p=0.025)



# **The Manitoba IBD Cohort Study: Prospective longitudinal evaluation of use of CAM**

## **Methods**

- **12 types of CAM service providers**
- **13 CAM products**
- **based on items from a national survey (CCHS)**
- **Months 0, 12, 30 and 54**



# **The Manitoba IBD Cohort Study: Prospective longitudinal evaluation of use of CAM**

## **Results**

- 74% used CAM service or product at some time**
- 40% used CAM at each timepoint**
- 50% used  $\geq$  2 timepoints**
- 14% used CAM consistently at every time point**
- 18% of users used it for IBD**

# **The Manitoba IBD Cohort Study: Prospective longitudinal evaluation of use of CAM**

## **Results**

### **Most often used Service:**

- Massage (30%)**
- Chiropractic (14%)**
- Physiotherapy (4%)**
- Acupuncture (3.5%)**
- Naturopath/homeopath (3.5%)**

# **The Manitoba IBD Cohort Study: Prospective longitudinal evaluation of use of CAM**

## **Results**

### **Most often used Product:**

- lactobacillus/acidophilus (8%)**
- fish and other oils (5.5%)**
- glucosamine (4%)**
- chamomile (3.5%)**

# **The Manitoba IBD Cohort Study: Prospective longitudinal evaluation of use of CAM**

## **Results**

### **Only predictors of CAM use**

- **Sex (F>M)**
- **Lifetime hx of major depression (CIDI)**

# **The Manitoba IBD Cohort Study: Prospective longitudinal evaluation of use of CAM**

## **Results**

### **Non predictors of CAM use**

- **Age**
- **Education**
- **Income**
- **Employment status**
- **QOL (IBDQ)**
- **Disease (UC vs CD)**
- **Disease duration**
- **Disease activity (MIBDI)**
- **Past hospitalizations or surgeries for IBD**

# **The Manitoba IBD Cohort Study: Prospective longitudinal evaluation of use of CAM**

## **Results**

### **Non predictors of CAM use**

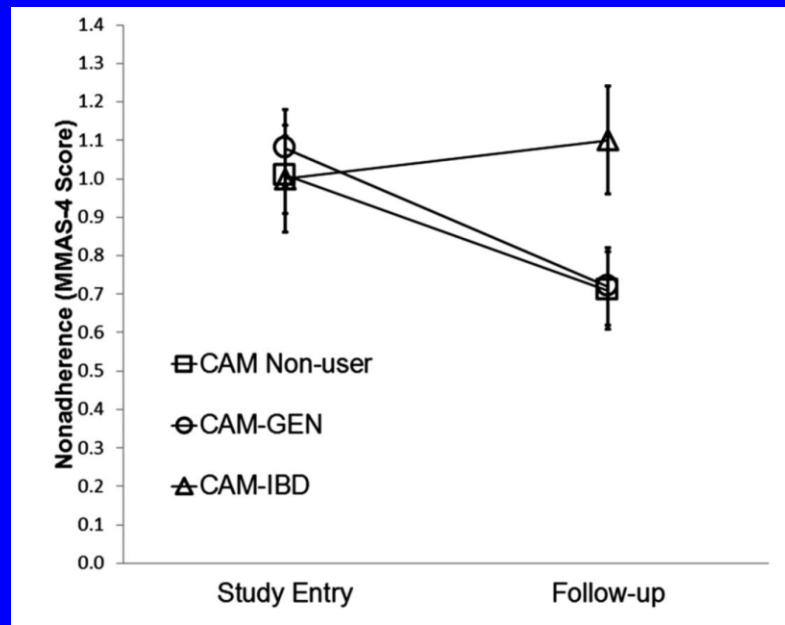
- **Other psychiatric diagnoses**
- **Mastery**
- **Perceived stress**
- **Health anxiety**
- **Personality characteristics (NEO-FFI)**
- **Medication adherence (MARS)**
- **Beliefs about medications (BMQ)**

# Is CAM just a benign add on?

- Medication adherence-Morisky (MMAS-4)
- CAM-IBD (70%) CAM-nonuse (84%,  $p=0.02$ )  
CAM-GEN (82%)
- Adjusted OR for adherence

CAM-IBD vs CAM-nonuse 0.47 (0.22-0.96)

CAM-GEN vs CAM-nonuse 0.85 (0.44-1.66)



*Nguyen IBDJ 2016*

# Qualitative study on CAM use

- **Sweden (n=15)**
- **Nurses easier to discuss than MDs**
- **IBD patients want to be asked about CAM**
- **Can be treated disparagingly if raised**
- **Used when conventional Rx is failing**



# Systematic review of RCT

- Herbal therapy in induction of remission for UC (n=11) for CD (n=4)
- Herbal therapy in maintenance of remission in UC (n=2) in CD(n=1)
- Prevent post op recurrence in CD (n=2)
- vs placebo (n=10), vs 5ASA/steroid enema (n=8), + conventional therapy (n=3)

# Systematic review of RCT

## Winners:

- Aloe vera gel
- *Triticum aestivum* -Wheat grass juice
- *Boswellia serrata* gum resin (UC not CD)
- Bovine colostrum enemas
- Xilei-San suppositories
- *Plantago ovata* seeds (butyrate)
- *Artemisia absinthium* (wormwood)
- *Trypterygium wilfordii* (GTW)
- ***Andrographis paniculata* extract**
- ***Curcuma longa* (Curcumin)**

# Systematic review of RCT

## Winners:

- Myrrh, chamomile and coffee charcoal combo
- Wheat grass juice
- Aloe vera gel
- *Artemisia absinthium* (wormwood) **mixed quality**
- Lifestyle modification program **psych health**
- Hypnotherapy **risk of flare but not psych health**
- Mindfulness **better for those with high stress**
- Moxibustion and acupuncture
- *Trichuris suis ova* **response/not remission at 12 wks**
- *Andrographis paniculata* extract
- *Curcuma longa* Curcumin

# Probiotics

**“live microorganisms that when administered in adequate amounts confer a health benefit on the host”**

# E coli Nissle and remitted UC

				Relapse rate
UC remission	E coli Nissle 1917	5ASA 1500 mg/d	12 wks	14% v 16%
UC remission	E coli Nissle 1917	5ASA 1500 mg/d	12 mos	36% v 34%
UC undergoing remittive RX	E coli Nissle 1917	5ASA 2400 mg/d then 1200 mg/d	12 mos	32% v 25%

# VSL#3 and active UC

				Remission rate
UC active (n=147)	VSL#3 96% on 5ASA	placebo	12 wks	43% v 12% (p<0.001) 32% v 15% MH (p<0.03)
UC active (n=144)	VSL#3 All on 5ASA	placebo	8 wks	44% v 32% (p=0.13)
UC active peds (n=29)	VSL#3 Steroids +5ASA	placebo	12 mos	79% v 27%

# Other probiotics and active UC

				Remission rate
UC active	<i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> La-5 and <i>Bifidobacterium animalis</i> subsp. <i>lactis</i> BB-12	placebo	12 mos	8% v 25% (p=0.37)
UC active Steroid induced remission	<i>Lactobacillus salivarius</i> subsp <i>Salivarius</i> UCC118 or a <i>Bifidobacterium infantis</i> 35624 (50%) on 5ASA	placebo	12 mos	50% v 50% unpublished
UC active (n=20)	bifidobacteria-fermented milk (containing a bifidobacterium and lactobacillus supplement +5ASA	placebo	12 wk	40% v 30%

# Probiotics and CD

- **No role in CD**

- 1 study in active CD

- Maintenance of remission post op-4 studies

*Lactobacillus GG, Lactobacillus johnsonii x2, VSL#3*

- Maintenance of remission-peds

*Lactobacillus GG*



# Curcumin

- **Main active component of turmeric**
- **Free radical scavenger and kinase inhibitor**
- **Inhibit NFkB-reduce proinflammatory cytokines**
- **Can increase sulfasalazine levels 3.2x**
- **Can enhance MTX reduce liver toxicity**
- **Abdominal distention; N/V**

# Curcumin enemas-induction

- RCT; Curcumin v placebo +5ASA
- ITT; (n=45) no stat diff for response, remission, endoscopy at 8 weeks
- PP (n=30); Response 92% vs 50% (p=0.01)  
Remission 71% vs 31% (p=0.03)  
Endoscopy 85% vs 50% (p=0.04)

# Oral Curcumin-induction

- RCT; Curcumin 3 g OD v placebo +5ASA
- 4 weeks
- ITT; (n=26 v 24)
- Remission 53% v 0% (p=0.001)
- Response , 65% v 12.5% (p<0.001)
- Endoscopy remission, 36% v 0 (p=0.043)

# Oral Curcumin-maintenance

- RCT; Curcumin 1 g BID v placebo +5ASA
- 6 mo f/u (n=81);
- Relapse 4.7% v 20.5% (p=0.04)
- Significantly improved Endoscopic Index at 6 months

# **RCT: Oral Curcumin v Placebo in Preventing Recurrence of Post Op CD**

- **AZA (2.5 mg/kg) and oral curcumin (3g/day, n=31) or an identical placebo (n=31) for 6 months**
- **Colonoscopy; (Rutgeerts' index score  $\geq 2$ ) at month 6 (determined by central reading).**
- **Recurrence occurred in curcumin (58%) v placebo (68%) (P=.60).**
- **Severe recurrence of CD (Rutgeerts' index score  $\geq 3$ ) curcumin (55%) v placebo (26%) (P=.034).**
- **Clinical recurrence of CD (CDAI > 150) curcumin (30%) v placebo and 45% (P=.80).**
- **No diff in IBDQ or severe AE**



# Andrographia-induction

- RCT 1200 mg A vs 4500 mg 5ASA
- N=108, 8 weeks
- Remission 21% (A) v 16% (5ASA)
- Response 76% (A) v 82% (5ASA)
- Endo remission 28% (A) v 24% (5ASA)

# Andrographia-induction

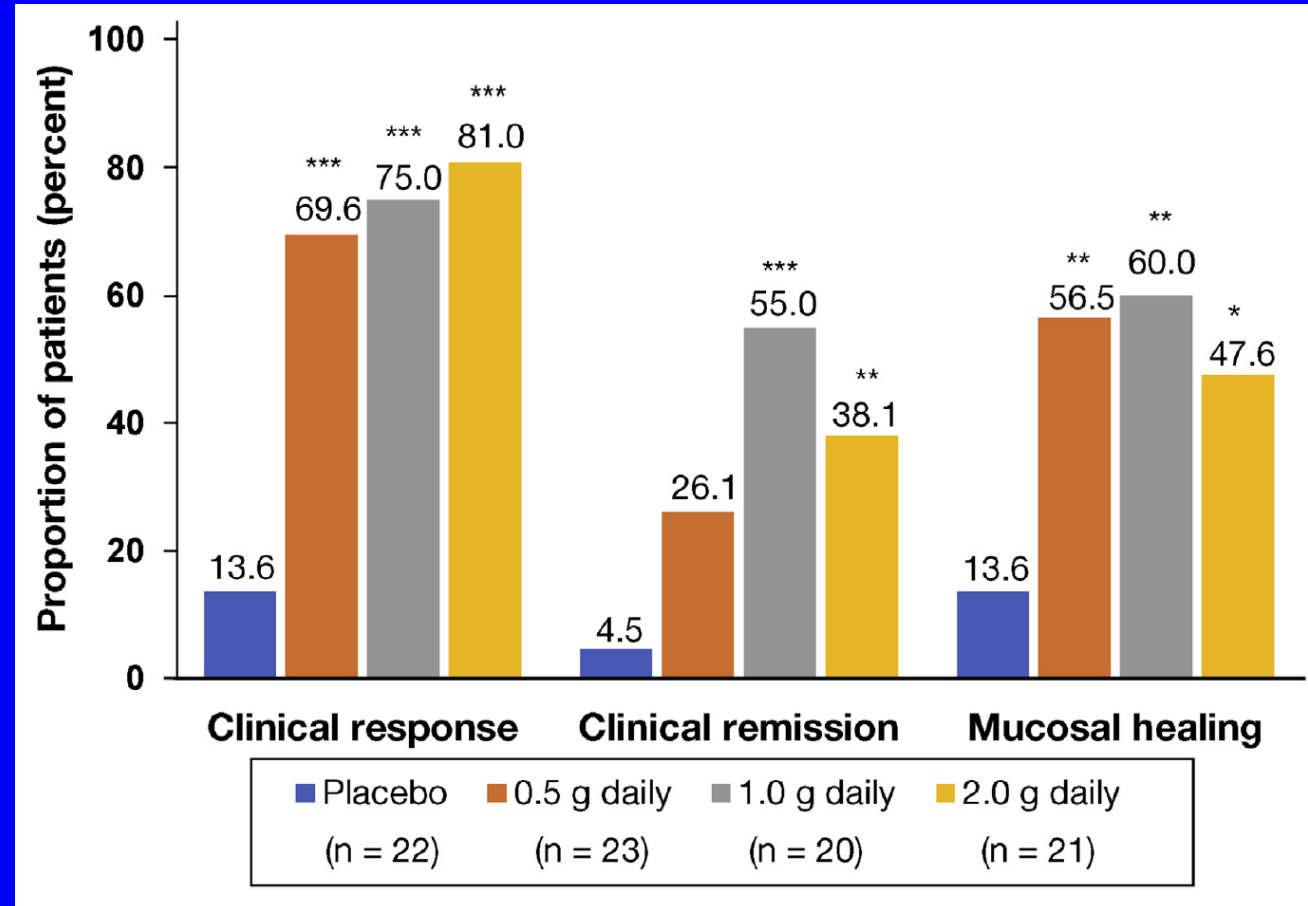
- RCT 1200 mg A vs 1800 mg A v placebo
- N=224, 8 weeks
- Response 45% (A) 60% (A) 40% (p)  $p < 0.02$
- Remission 34% (A) 38% (A) 25% (p)  $p = 0.1$
- Muc heal 38% (A) 50% (A) 33% (p)  $p = 0.04$



# Indigo naturalis (Qing Dai)

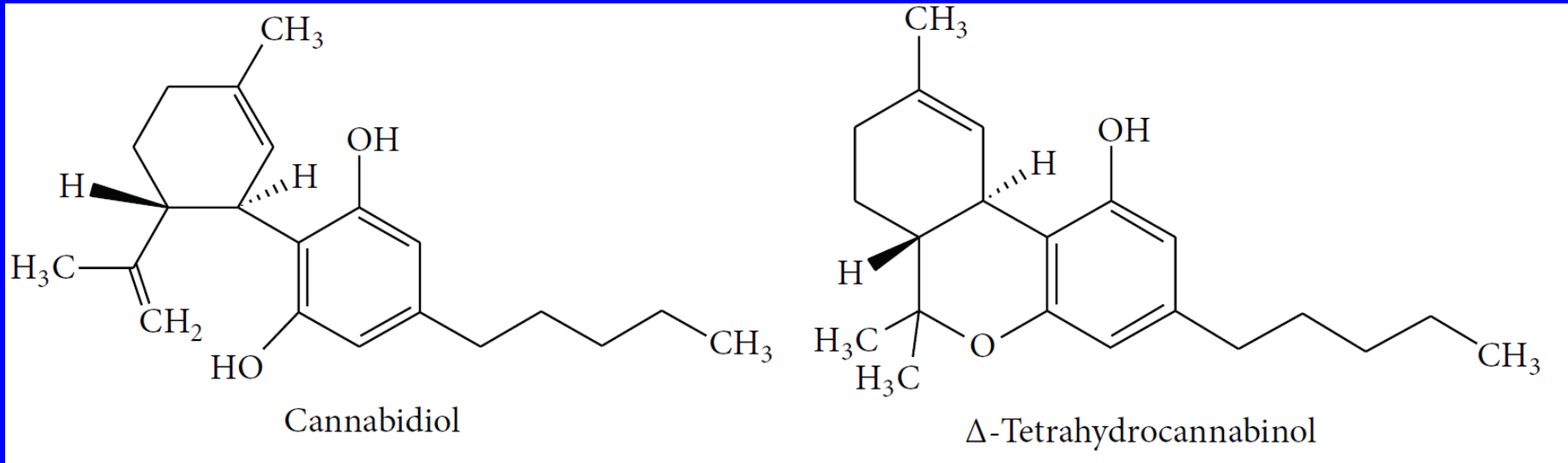
- **Stimulates aryl hydrocarbon receptor signalling**
- **Promotes IL-22 production**
- **0.5g, 1g, 2g, p**
- **N=86**
- **15.6% liver test abnormalities**
- **PAH in person with UC using own 2 g IN for 6 mos (not in trial)**

# Indigo



# Indigo naturalis is effective even in Rx-refractory colitis: post hoc analysis from the INDIGO study

- The rates of CR were higher in IN group even in patients with steroid-dependent disease ( $p < 0.001$ ),
  - previous use of anti-TNF- $\alpha$  ( $p = 0.002$ ),
  - concomitant use of IM ( $p = 0.013$ ).
- The rates of MH in IN group were significantly higher in IN group in steroid-dependent disease ( $p = 0.009$ ).
- INDIGO AS COMPLEMENTARY OR ALTERNATIVE?.



# Endocannabinoid receptors

CB1 receptors	CB2 receptors	Other EC receptors
ENS, epithelial lining, blood vessels of colon	Immunocytes, myenteric plexus neurons Absent in the brain	G protein receptor coupled receptor (GPR55)
Depresses excitatory transmitter release Leads to decrease Ach and decrease motility	Reduce pain thresholds	Transient receptor potential cation channel subfamily V member 1 (TRPV1)
Reduce gastric acid secretion		PPAR $\alpha$ and PPAR $\gamma$
Present in DVC and area postrema		
Upregulated in inflammation		
THC partial CB1/2 agonist known for psychotropic effects CBD little to no CB1 or CB2 affinity has anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects		

**When did CBD, the voguish cannabis derivative, go from being a fidget spinner alternative for stoners to a mainstream panacea (sic).**

- **Maybe it was in January, when Mandy Moore, hours before the Golden Globes, told Coveteur that she was experimenting with CBD oil to relieve the pain from wearing high heels. “It could be a really exciting evening,” she said. “I could be floating this year.”**

***Alex Williams NY Times Oct 27 2018***

- Maybe it was in July, when Willie Nelson introduced a line of CBD-infused coffee beans called [Willie's Remedy](#).
- Or maybe it was earlier this month, when Dr. Sanjay Gupta gave a qualified endorsement of CBD on ["The Dr. Oz Show"](#). "I think there is a legitimate medicine here," he said. "We're talking about something that could really help people."

*Alex Williams NY Times Oct 27 2018*

**“Among beauty products alone, CBD has already achieved cliché status, popping up in blemish cream, sleeping masks, shampoos, hair conditioners, eye serums, anti-acne lotions, mascaras, massage oils, soaps, lip balms, bath bombs, anti-wrinkle serums, muscle rubs and a Sephora aisle’s worth of moisturizers, face lotions and body creams. Even the bedroom is not safe from the CBD invasion, to judge by the spate of CBD sexual lubricants on shelves.”**

**NY Times Oct 27 2018**



- **In June, 2018, the FDA approved a cannabidiol-based drug called Epidiolex as a treatment for severe forms of epilepsy, representing the first government-sanctioned medical use of CBD oil.**

# Prevalence of MJ use

- ~20%, US-wide report using in the past 30 d
- ~4-6% use daily or almost daily. This suggests 20-25% of adolescents who do use cannabis, use it habitually, an increasing trend over the past 10 years.
- Steady decline in perception of risk with regular use. Regular use of cannabis is perceived as not having great risk by 60% of high school seniors, increasing since 2004.
- ***20% of users meet def'n for cannabis use disorder***

*Schuermeier Drug Alc Depend 2014 Hasin Neuropsychopharmacol Rev 2018  
Johnstone Nat Instit on Drug Abuse at the NIH 2016.*

# NHANES IBD vs controls

- MJ/hash use 67% v 60% (OR 1.37, 1.37-1.38)
- Onset of use 15.7 y vs 19.6 y
- $\geq 3$  joints/d 65% vs 20% (OR 7.97, 7.9-8.05)

## **1666 participants CCFA Partners**

- 4.4% using prescribed marijuana**
- 14% lived where both medical and recreational marijuana is legal**
- Of 14%, 21% reported recreational marijuana specifically for IBD**
- 12.8% asked their MD about use**
- Users reported positive benefits (81%), but users also reported more depression, anxiety, pain interference, and lower social satisfaction than non-users.**

# 201 Manitobans surveyed on Lifestyle

## Aims:

- **To determine what % of IBD use cannabis to treat IBD-related sx vs recreationally.**
- **To assess risk factors for substance use in individuals with IBD using cannabis to manage their IBD symptoms.**
- **To determine whether the prevalence of substance misuse risk factors differed between medicinal versus recreational users.**

# 201 Manitobans surveyed on Lifestyle

**46% never used cannabis.**

**Users (n=108): 59% CD, 52% UC**

**43% of users used to Rx IBD sx  
(CD 53%, UC 28%)**

**Medicinal users:**

**Higher pain disability index**

**More likely to use for coping;**

**Less likely to get “high”**

*Hansen IBDJ 2020*

**More likely to score high on impulsivity**

**More likely to have higher depression scores**

# 201 Manitobans surveyed on Lifestyle

Recreational users were more likely to use it for social reasons ( $p=0.014$ ).

**predictors of using cannabis to Rx IBD sx (LRA)**

**smokers 4.1X**

**those with moderate-severe depressive sx 3.7x**

**score above the median on impulsivity as measured by the SURPS 4.1x**

# MJ Issues

- Increase in potency of THC content in marijuana from 3% (1980s) to 12% (2012) may potentiate adverse effects.
- Cannabis ingested in an edible form is more difficult to titrate, unlike vaping or inhaling, as the effect may be delayed, and therefore higher doses may be consumed leading to intoxication.
- Heavy use may cause impaired memory for >1 week after abstinence, hyperemesis and W/D sx
- Addiction risk may be higher for those beginning heavy use in adolescence, and this behavior may predict progression to harder drugs.



# Addiction; Adverse effects

- **Prolonged use of Cannabis has shown neurological changes in adolescents including a decrease in gray matter volume in certain brain areas** *Battistella Neuropsychopharmacology 2014*
- **Population-based studies have demonstrated an increased risk for MVA** *Li Epidemiol Rev 2012*
- **Cannabis hyperemesis syndrome**
- *Allen Gut 2004, Wang CMAJ 2008*

# MJ Issues

- **American Academy of Pediatrics and the Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry oppose marijuana legalization.**

*Pediatrics 2015;135:584-7.*

*AACAP Marijuana Legalization Policy Statement:  
Committee on Substance Abuse American  
Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry,  
2014.*

# HRQOL

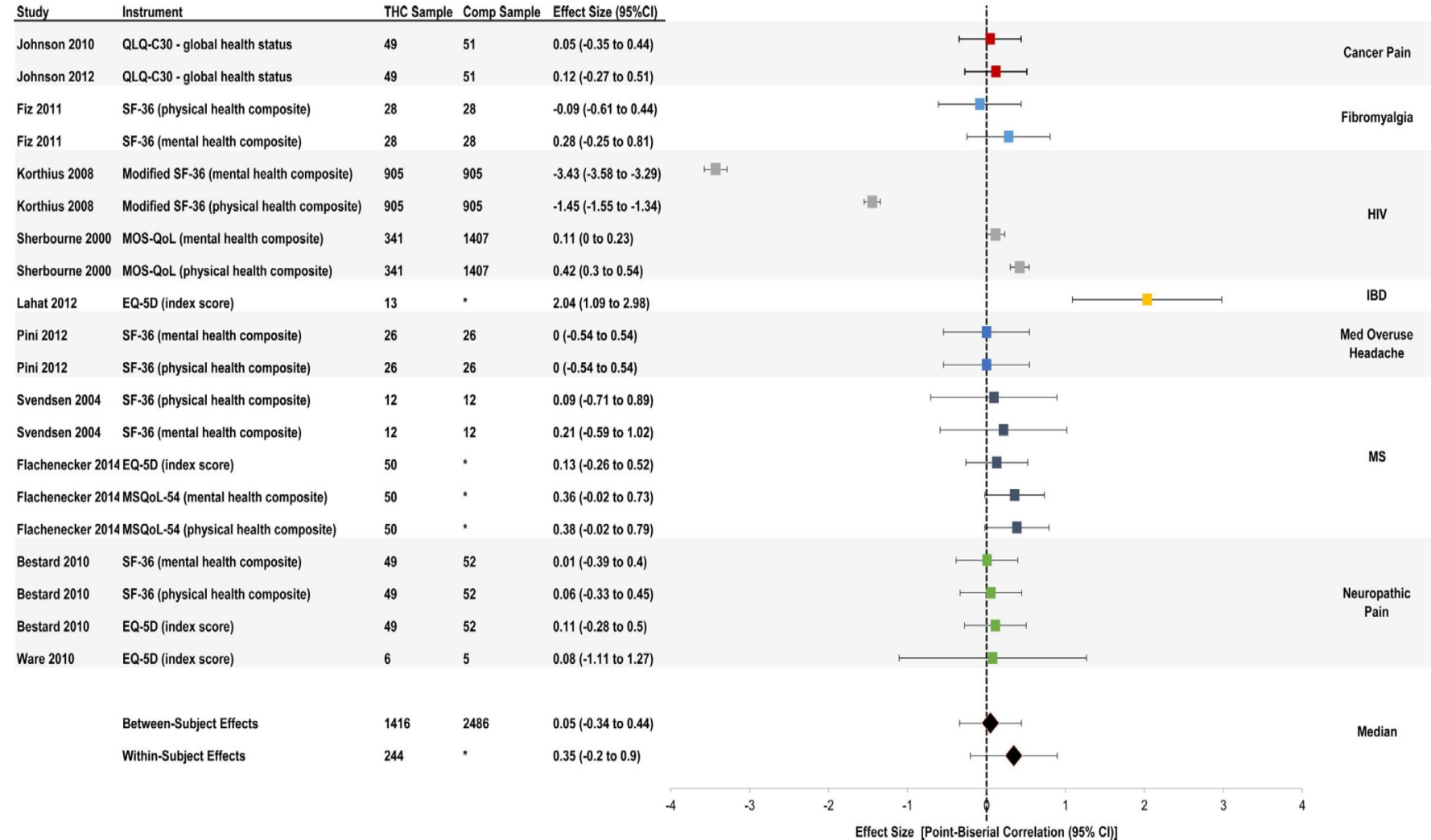


Fig. 2. Meta-Analysis Results: The Effect of Cannabis and Cannabinoids on HRQOL.

# THC in chronic pain

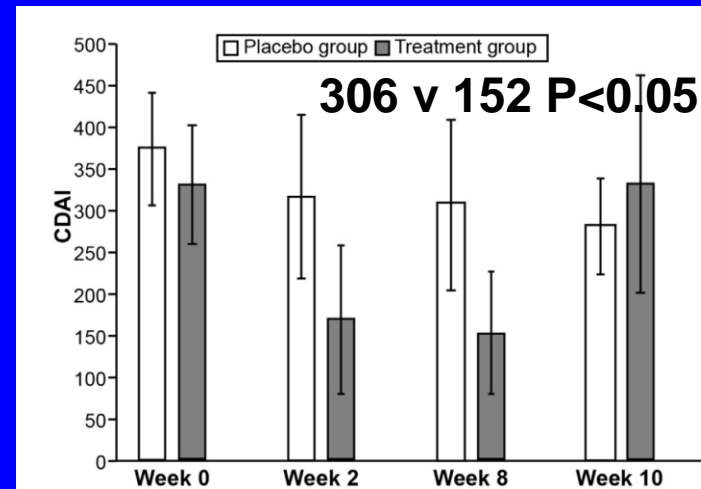
## RCT vs placebo

- 3 months of chronic pain post op or chronic pancreatitis
- THC 9 mg x 5d, 15 mg x 5d, 24 mg x 40d
- 65 subjects; VAS pain
- **NO DIFFERENCES** in:
- **VAS (40% vs 37% improvement)**
- **Global impression of pain, pain catastrophizing, pain related and generalized anxiety, QOL, alertness, mood, psychedelic effects**
- **Decreased appetite, dizziness, dry mouth, nausea**

# MJ in CD

## RCT vs placebo

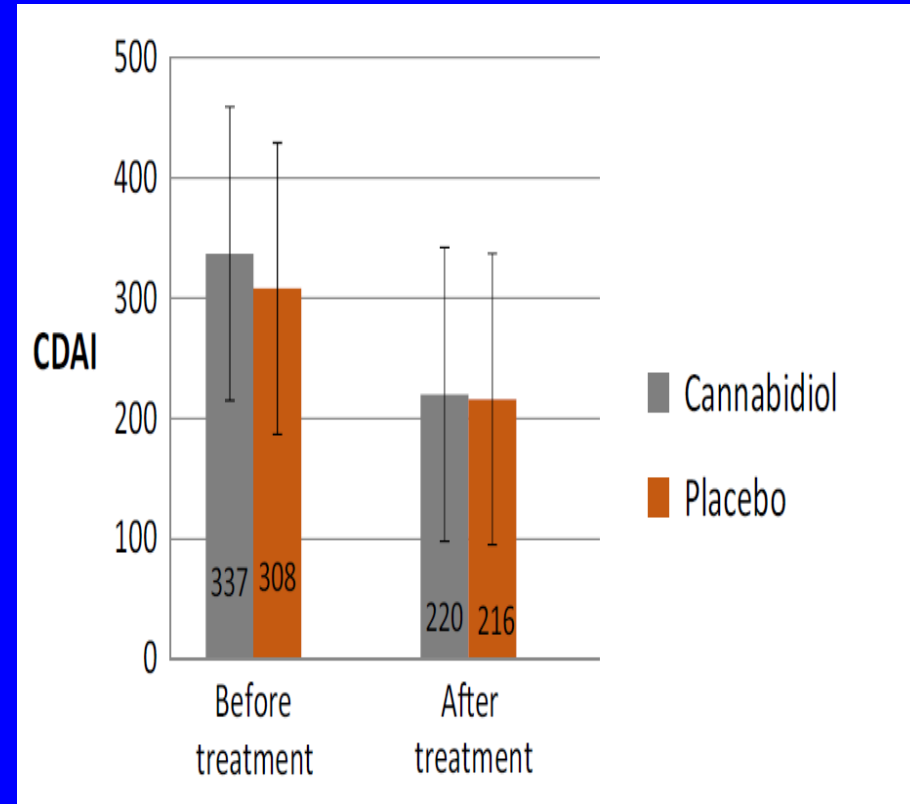
- N=21, CDAI >200, 8 wks
- Cigarettes BID; THC vs cannabis flowers (no THC)
- CDAI <150 5/11 vs 1/10 (p=0.43)
- CDAI decrease >100 10/11 vs 4/10 (p=0.028)



- Most knew if on THC or placebo
- Side effects similar

# CBD in CD

- RCT; n=20; 8 wks
- 10 mg BID vs placebo
- 11/20 failed anti TNF
- No difference in SE



# **“Complementary”**

- **Only properly conducted studies will advance the use of CAM**
- **Studies should use agents as complementary agents rather than for primary therapy**