



Could Marijuana Help Alleviate CLL Treatment Side Effects?

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Andrew Schorr:

What is the role of any of the components of marijuana where you could get it with a medical card, or whatever it is in some of the states? Increasingly, I think 25 states, a bunch of states now, what is the role of whether, would it help with nausea if you were going through certain treatments, or what's its role?

Dr. Sharman:

For a long time, we have had prescription THC, a drug called dronabinol (Marinol) that is available and able to be prescribed. In the state of Oregon, we don't prescribe marijuana, but we can verify that someone has a cancerous condition that can enable them to get that. THC, there's no question, does have some impacts. I mean, it is a drug, but it is not the same drug that it was 30 years ago. It's a very different drug—a lot more potent in a lot of the marijuana strains right now. We do know that there are cannabinoid receptors on CLL cells.

We don't know what they do. There's very limited biologic insight. I don't know if it's good or bad. I probably get asked two to three times a day about Rick Simpson oil and various marijuana derivatives, because there must be some really fabulous Internet sources that claim that it cures everything. I have yet to see that.

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