Midwest Dental Conference 2019
CE: Medical Marijuana: Therapeutic and Clinical Considerations for the Dental Professional
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Articles for review:


Process for obtaining medical marijuana (where allowed, may vary by state)

- Physician, registered with state DOH, determines if patient's condition may be improved with medical marijuana and provides certification to patient
- Patient registers with the state DOH and receives ID for medical marijuana
- Patient may obtain medical marijuana in approved state dispensaries
### Patient considerations in the dental/DH process of care\(^1,2,\ast\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step in process of care</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
<th>Suggested actions</th>
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| 1. Medical history       | - Past or present marijuana use  
- General health  
- Concurrent medications | Questions to ask:  
1. Medical or recreational use?  
2. Recommending physician info  
3. Purpose  
4. Effectiveness  
5. Form, frequency, dose, last administration  
6. Adverse effects |
| 2. Informed consent      | Is patient capable to give informed consent? | Evaluate physical and behavioral signs of intoxication/cognitive impairment |
| 3. Assessment            | - Chief complaint  
- Vital signs  
- Adverse oral and general effects of marijuana use | - Determine urgency of treatment  
- Measure BP, pulse, respiration  
- Assess oral adverse effects depending on method of administration (oral, topical, smoked, vaporized) |
| 4. Planning              | Can treatment be offered based on steps 1-3? | Proceed with planned treatment or reschedule |
| 5. Treatment             | - Local anesthesia  
- Nitrous oxide analgesia  
- Patient education | - No contraindications for local anesthesia with or w/o vasoconstrictors IF patient doesn’t exhibit signs of intoxication and properly consents to treatment  
- Effects of N\(_2\)O analgesia may be additive with medical marijuana if specific agent has psychoactive effects  
- Patient education should focus on 1) presenting condition; 2) any associated problems; 3) possible adverse effects of marijuana use |

\(\ast\)Please Note: No current professional guidelines for dental considerations which specifically address medical cannabis use have been identified.