

June 2022

Incidence of Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome in an Urban Emergency Department Setting

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Recommended Citation

Ahmed, Muhammad and Paxton, James, "Incidence of Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome in an Urban Emergency Department Setting" (2022). *Medical Student Research Symposium*. 149.
https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/som_srs/149

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Title

Incidence of Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome in an Urban Emergency Department Setting

Introduction

Cannabis is a psychoactive drug that is widely used for both medicinal and recreational purposes. Despite its traditional use as an antiemetic, emerging evidence suggests a possible association between excessive cannabis usage and the incidence of Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS), a condition characterized by otherwise unexplained cyclic abdominal pain and vomiting. Although previous studies have been done in mixed-race or primarily Caucasian populations, our study focuses on an urban, predominantly African-American population. We aim to measure the incidence of CHS among patients presenting to two urban Detroit emergency departments, including a descriptive analysis on apparent demographic and behavioral risk factors for CHS.

Methods

We propose a retrospective review of adults aged 18-55 years presenting to the ED between 2014 and 2016. Subjects must report regular marijuana use, present with a relevant chief complaint, and meet one of the following criteria: ED diagnosis of cyclical vomiting syndrome, intractable vomiting with unknown cause, or at least three ED visits in the past twelve months in which vomiting was a symptom. Electronic medical records will be used to obtain patient demographics, diagnosis, disposition, treatment, and the presence of risk factors.

Results

Data collection is in process and will be reported in the upcoming publication.

Conclusion

We will describe the prevalence of CHS in a Detroit patient population, during the years of 2014-2016, during which a three-fold increase in medical marijuana licenses has been reported. We hypothesize that the data obtained in this study will provide additional insight into how CHS may differently affect this urban population.