



A Large Phase III Trial of Cannabis Extract for Chronic Low Back Pain

Chronic low back pain affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, and existing medications often provide incomplete relief.

A large multicenter phase III randomized trial published in 2025 studied a standardized full-spectrum Cannabis sativa extract called VER-01 in 820 adults with chronic low back pain.

After 12 weeks, mean pain intensity decreased by 1.9 points in the VER-01 group. The difference compared with placebo was 0.6 points on the numerical pain scale and was statistically significant. Participants with a neuropathic pain component also showed improvement on a neuropathic pain symptom measure. Adverse events were more common with VER-01, although they were mostly mild to moderate and transient.

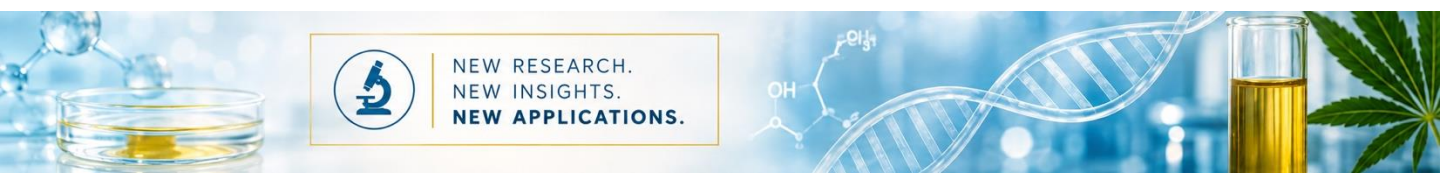
Potential application

This is notable because it moves cannabinoid pain research into a much larger phase III setting. At the same time, the average advantage over placebo was modest, making clinical relevance, tolerability and patient selection important considerations. The findings apply to this standardized full-spectrum extract, not automatically to CBD alone or other cannabis products.

Reference

Karst M, Meissner W, Sator S, Keßler J, Schoder V, Häuser W. Full-spectrum extract from Cannabis sativa DKJ127 for chronic low back pain: a phase 3 randomized placebo-controlled trial. *Nature Medicine*. 2025;31(12):4189–4196.

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