



Cannabinoids and Acute Migraine: A Remarkable Clinical Result

Can cannabinoids influence an acute migraine attack once it has already started?

A randomized, placebo-controlled crossover trial involving 92 adults investigated vaporized THC, CBD, a THC+CBD combination, and placebo across 247 migraine attacks.

The THC+CBD combination produced significantly better outcomes than placebo. Two hours after treatment, 67.2% experienced pain relief compared with 46.6% receiving placebo. Pain freedom occurred in 34.5% compared with 15.5% with placebo.

One particularly interesting detail: CBD-dominant cannabis alone was not superior to placebo for pain relief at two hours.

Potential application

The results support further investigation of cannabinoid combinations as possible acute migraine treatments. They also illustrate an important principle in cannabinoid science: results obtained with THC+CBD should not automatically be attributed to CBD alone.

Reference

Schuster NM, Wallace MS, Marcotte TD, et al. Vaporized cannabis versus placebo for acute migraine: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover trial. *Headache*. 2026;66(2):365–376.

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