



THC + CBD for Difficult-to-Control Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea

Modern anti-nausea medicines have greatly improved cancer treatment, but some patients still experience significant nausea and vomiting despite receiving standard antiemetic therapy.

A randomized phase II/III clinical trial investigated capsules containing 2.5 mg THC + 2.5 mg CBD as an additional treatment for patients whose symptoms remained inadequately controlled.

The difference was substantial.

A complete response — defined as no vomiting or retching and no need for rescue medication — occurred in 24% of patients receiving THC+CBD compared with 8% receiving placebo.

Sedation and dizziness were more common with cannabinoid treatment.

Potential application

This study illustrates an important potential role for cannabinoid medicines: not necessarily replacing conventional treatment, but potentially complementing it when standard therapy does not provide sufficient symptom control.

It also concerns a THC+CBD medicine, so its findings should not be presented as evidence for CBD alone.

Reference

Grimison P, Mersiades A, Kirby A, et al. Oral cannabis extract for secondary prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting: final results of a randomized, placebo-controlled, phase II/III trial. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. 2024;42(34):4040–4050.

Dr. Peter Verdegem, Ph.D., MBA

