

A Knowledge Gap in Medical Residents on Medical Marijuana

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Background

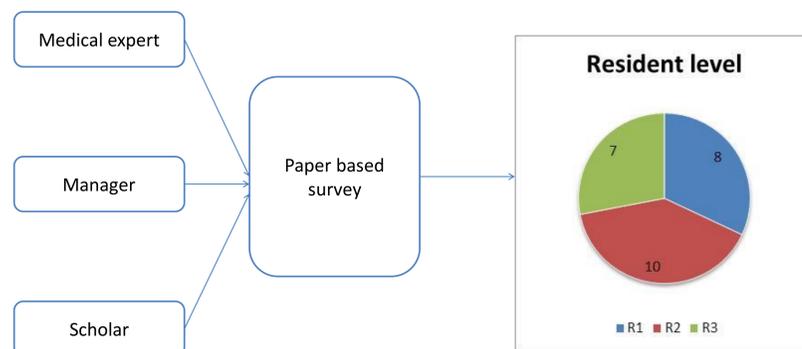
- Marijuana is the 2nd most common used drug
- 40% of Canadians are potential users
- Recreational marijuana to be legal in 2018
- Health Canada has **not approved** any indication for marijuana
- Physicians have been advocates for issues related to smoking, alcohol, and illicit drug use
- Canada stands to be a leading example of marijuana management

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge of resident physicians on how to manage marijuana use
- Hypothesis → there is a significant knowledge gap

Method

- 25 residents were enrolled in a survey addressing 3 domains
- medical expert
- manager
- scholar



Results

Medical expert

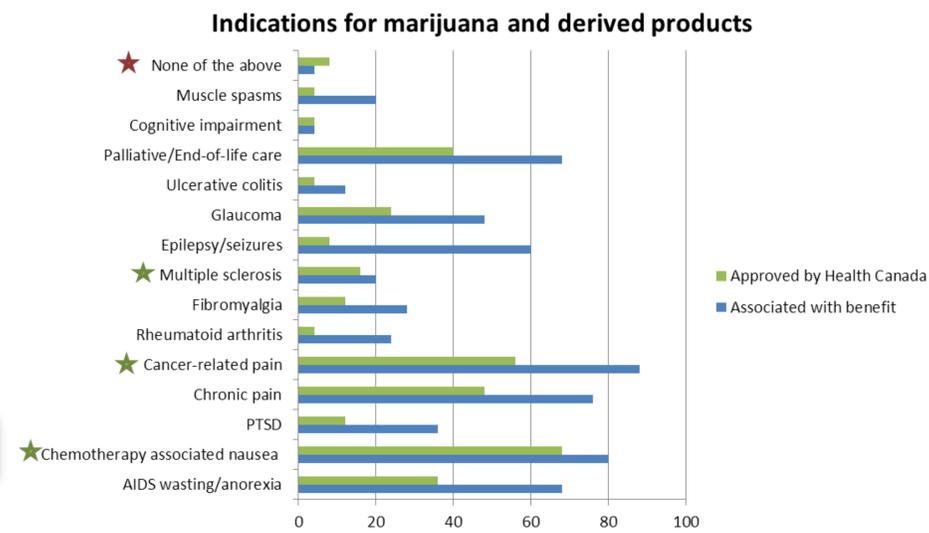
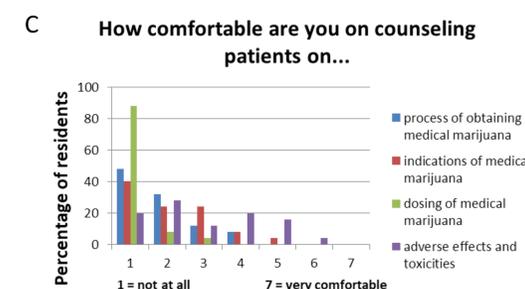
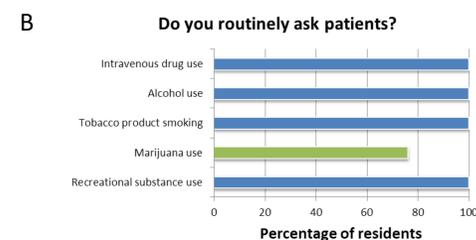
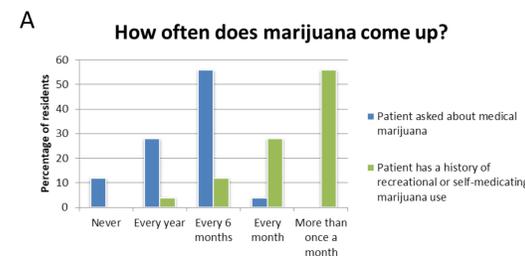


Figure 1. Resident knowledge of indications.
 - Red star indicates that medical marijuana is not an approved therapeutic agent
 - Green stars denote the indications approved for Cesamet[®] and Sativex[®]
 - Up to 40% *incorrectly* identified approved indications
 - 15-68% *correctly* identified approved indications



Manager and Medical Expert

- Figure 2.
- Encounters with patients inquiring or using
 - Frequency patients are asked about substance use
 - Residents' comfort level
- 76% routinely ask about usage
 - More than half frequently encounter users
 - Most were uncomfortable counseling patients
 - 48-60% *incorrectly* identified who was able to prescribe marijuana, the documents required for a prescription, and where medical marijuana could be obtained (not shown)

Scholar

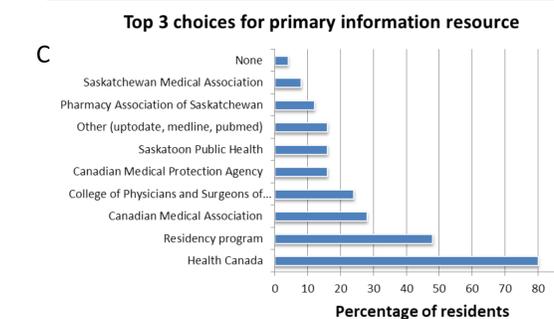
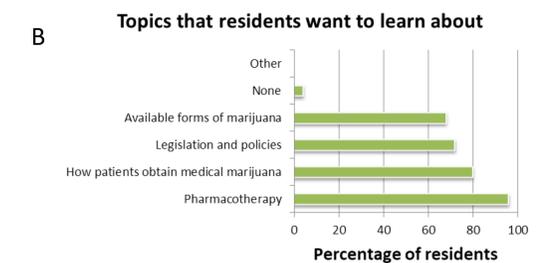
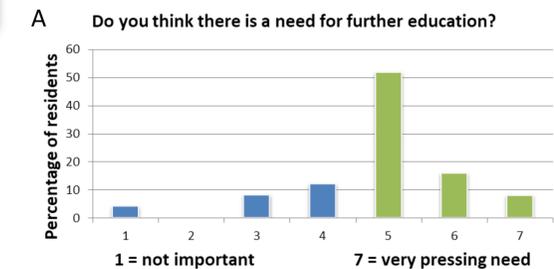


Figure 3.
 A) Residents' need for further education
 B) Topics of interest for learning
 C) Top choices for resources

- 76% indicated a need for further education
- Health Canada is the primary resource
- 48% indicated the residency program was an important resource

Discussion/Conclusion

- A significant gap exists in medical marijuana knowledge in residents
- Residents have expressed a need for further education
- Canadian medical training programs need to integrate marijuana knowledge
- This data will direct development of a resident educational program

Acknowledgements

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