



Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Saturdays & Holidays
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Sundays & Christmas
Noon to 4:00 P.M.

IT'S ABOUT PAIN

A monthly service of Kirkpatrick Family Care

Vol. 3, Number 11, November 2018

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH MARIJUANA?

Many patients are now trying various marijuana products for their chronic pain because:

- The media barrage about opioid prescriptions allegedly causing heroin/fentanyl deaths
- The fear that Government may cut off their prescriptions by criticizing doctors and pharmacists
- The natural curiosity to try anything new
- The fact that almost no patients with chronic pain have total relief from opioid prescriptions
- Friends and neighbors praise the benefits

A few are achieving meaningful improvement in their pain scores, but most are not.

Now there are six Issues coming to the forefront:

- Legalization of marijuana has led to “legitimacy” of marijuana among teenagers
- According to recent research, 8-15% of regular marijuana users under age 25 are contracting schizophrenia
- Chronic use of marijuana is now felt to be a possible cause of premature dementia
- Some black market marijuana has been laced with kratom, heroin, or even fentanyl, to make it “better and stronger,” with disastrous effects
- Corporations are trying to eliminate the small business vendors, and prices have risen such that illegal marijuana is cheaper
- The rate of motor vehicle accidents due to impaired drivers has risen since marijuana was legalized

Formerly most doctors insisted that patients taking opioids, NOT take marijuana products. The main reason was the likelihood that some patients were trading or selling their opioids, in order to acquire illegal marijuana. At this point, with marijuana legal for recreational use, most prescribers are not insisting “either, or, but not both” to patients.

But we all are concerned that marijuana and alcohol use by patients taking opioids can surely increase the problems of motor vehicle and other accidents and also tickets for Driving Under the Influence.

In my opinion, all patients should avoid using alcohol or marijuana with their opioids because of the risks of taking in combination. However, if marijuana provides MORE or BETTER relief of pain, then we should taper off opioids.



KIRKPATRICK
FAMILY CARE

Monday through Friday

8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Saturdays & Holidays

9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Sundays & Christmas

Noon to 4:00 P.M.

IT'S ABOUT PAIN

A monthly service of Kirkpatrick Family Care

Vol. 3, Number 11, November 2018
