

*Welcome!*

## **Medical Cannabis Applications**

*Mastering the delivery systems, dosages and medical applications for cannabinoid medicine*

# **CANNABINOIDS**

presented by

*Colleen Higgins, RPh*

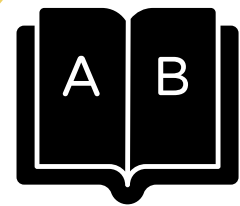




A chemical molecule,  
produced in the  
mammalian brain and the  
cannabis plant, that  
interacts with the  
endocannabinoid receptor  
system to exert an effect

# DEFINITION OF A CANNABINOID

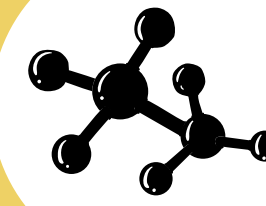
(Depends on who you ask)



Definition of  
cannabinoid using  
**Dictionary app:**  
Any of the chemical  
compounds that are  
the active principles  
of marijuana



**National Cancer  
Institute** defines  
cannabinoid:  
A type of chemical in  
marijuana that  
causes drug-like  
effects all through  
the body, including  
the central nervous  
system



**Oxford definition:**  
any of a group of  
closely related  
compounds which  
include cannabinol  
and the active  
constituents of  
cannabis



# Plant vs Human Cannabinoids

## ENDOGENOUS CANNABINOIDS (ENDOCANNABINOIDS):

- 1 **Anandamide** (arachidonoyl ethanolamide)  
Sanskrit for bliss
- 2 2-arachidonoyl glycerol (**2-AG**)

*Made on demand*

*Rapidly broken down by enzymatic reaction*

Lack of cannabinoids: fibromyalgia, seizures

## PHYTOCANNABINOIDS (PLANT CANNABINOIDS):

$\Delta$ -9-THC

CBD

CBG

CBN

THCV

CBV

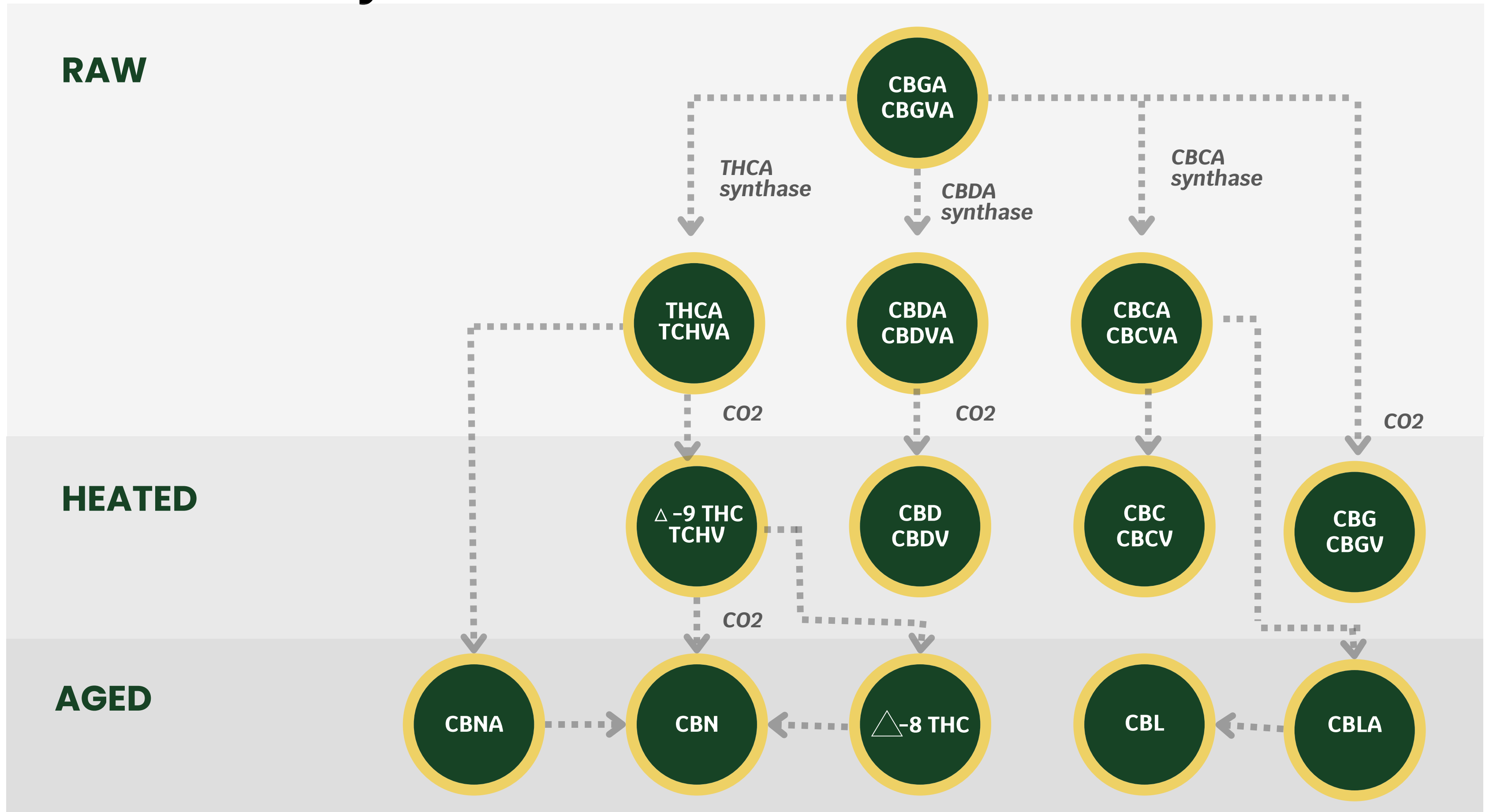
CBDV

CBE

CBL



# Cannabinoid Synthesis







# CB1 & CB2 Receptors

**CB1 receptors** found mostly in central and peripheral nerve centers (*basal ganglia, cortex, hippocampus, cerebellum*)

**CB2 receptors** occur mainly on immune and vascular cells (peripheral receptors), but have been detected in lower amounts in the CNS (microglial cells). Responsible for modulation of cytokine release and of immune cell migration.



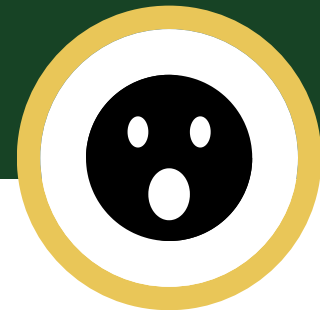
# ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM: RESPONSES IN THE BODY



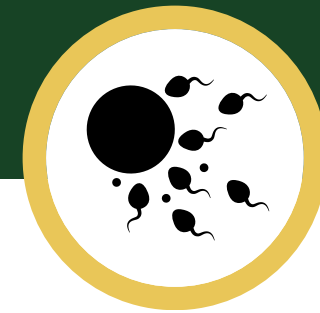
**Emotions**  
(acute and long-term depression)



**Memory**



**Fear and Stress**  
responses



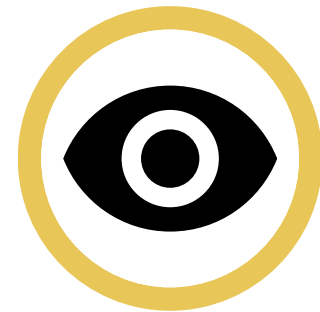
**Effects reproductive**  
function



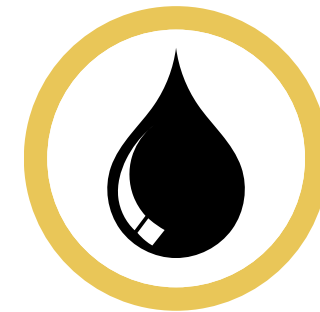
**Appetite**



**Gastrointestinal**  
activity



**Osmotic pressure**  
within the eye



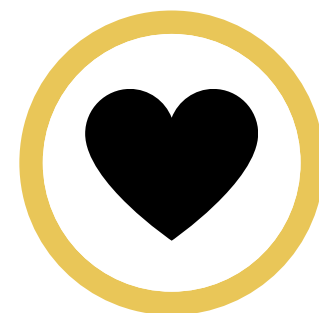
**Fat breakdown and**  
synthesis



**Central nervous**  
system



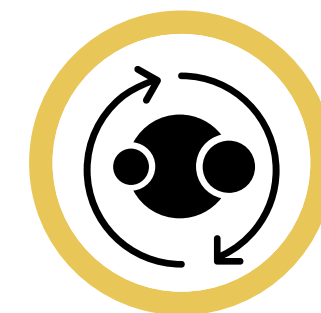
**Diabetes**  
(glucose metabolism  
in the cells)



**Cardiovascular**  
system



**Inflammatory**  
response



**Metabolism**



**Pain response**





**Trichomes:** crystals coat flowers of female cannabis plant

**Heat** - transform from solid to gas

**Extraction** - produce "cannabis oil" - further refined and made into products in the dispensary





THC

THCA

CBD

CBD A

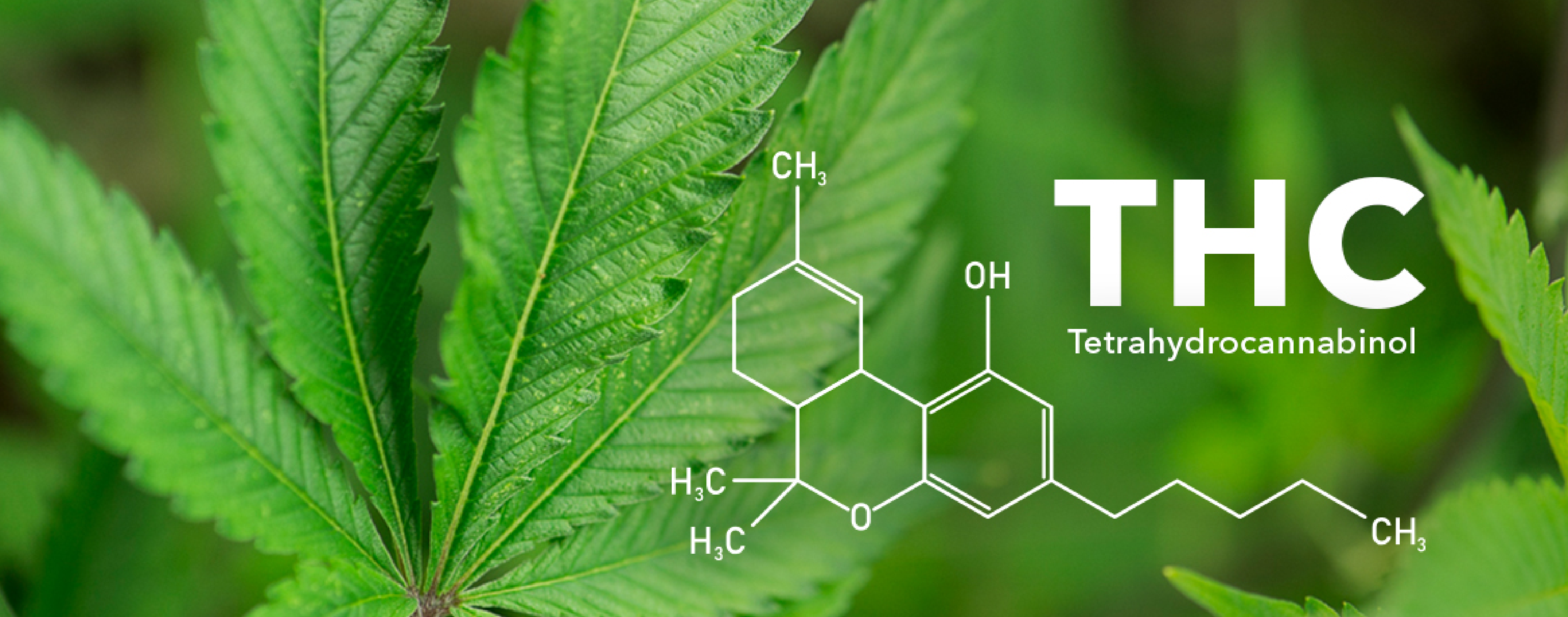
CBN

CBG

CBC

# **Cannabinoids**





**THC**

Tetrahydrocannabinol

**THC**

$\Delta$ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol

# EFFECTS

- Effects are patient-specific
- Relaxing at low doses yet can induce anxiety at higher doses
- Acute episodes of psychosis from high-dose edibles
- Increased hospital admissions were seen in Colorado from both edibles and inhaled products

**Go low and slow when medicating with THC**





# USES

- Anxiety (lower doses, relaxing terpenes and mix with CBD)
- Depression (sativa)
- **Muscle relaxation**
- Pain management
- Nightmares
- Insomnia
- **Increase appetite**
- Neuroprotectant
- Anti-bacterial
- Migraines
- Glaucoma (dose Q24H to Q12h to Q8h)





## **SIDE EFFECTS**

- Tends to happen at higher doses, (although not always)
- Racing heartbeat (even at lower doses) is common and tends to subside for most users within first 30 minutes (*more common with inhalation*)
- Vomiting, falls
- Anxiety
- Psychosis
- Sweating during use or withdrawal



**SIDE  
EFFECTS**



# DOSAGES

## Average cannabis-naive patient:

- **Oral:** starting dose: 5mg
  - **Sensitive** to meds: 2.5mg
  - **Daily** cannabis user: 10mg
  - Concentrate user or people with a **high tolerance:** 20mg
- **Inhaled:** starting dose ONE X **2-3 second puff** / second dose after 10 minutes if needed
- **Sublingual:** 2-3mg is ideal (MAX of 5mg)





# CBD

Cannabidiol



# ABOUT

- **Potent anti-inflammatory**
- Free radical scavenger – Studied for CTE (Chronic traumatic encephalopathy)
- Available everywhere! Only get from a high-quality source only – no gas stations
- Products mix CBD with other herbs and marketed for sleep or daytime use
- Great entry point for most patients to begin medicating with cannabis



# ABOUT

- People got to know with Charlotte's Web
- Weak affinity for both CB1 and CB2 receptors - may even play a role in 5HT1a receptor for depression
- Bind on areas around the receptor
- Studies show CBD may work on 5HT1a receptor for nausea (not seen in practice)
- Studies show may aid in nausea, although side effects can be appetite suppression and stomach upset so not effective in practice





# EFFECTS

## **Anti-inflammatory**

Neuroprotectant

Anti-oxidant

Free radical scavenger

- protect against chemotherapy induced nerve damage

Mild relaxation

Treat mild to moderate pain

Topical applications

- psoriasis
- epidermolysis bullosa
- pain





# USES

Inflammation

Insomnia

Psoriasis

Parkinson's

Nerve Pain

Anxiolytic

Pain

Anti-epileptic (16:1 to 20:1 CBD: THC)

Depression (increases biomarker)

Migraine prevention and treatment

PTSD

Great potential to replace chronic dosing of  
ibuprofen, naproxen and steroids





## SIDE EFFECTS

- Stomach upset or cramping
- Decreased appetite
- Headaches
- Sedation at higher doses
- Check **Epidiolex (GW Pharm)**





# DOSAGES

**10mg every 8 hours** (increase frequency to Q6h or decrease to Q12h if needed)

Increase every 3 to 5 days by around 10mg per dose to allow anti-inflammatory action

**Sweet spot 25mg to 50mg Q8 to Q12H**







**CBN**  
cannabinol



# ABOUT

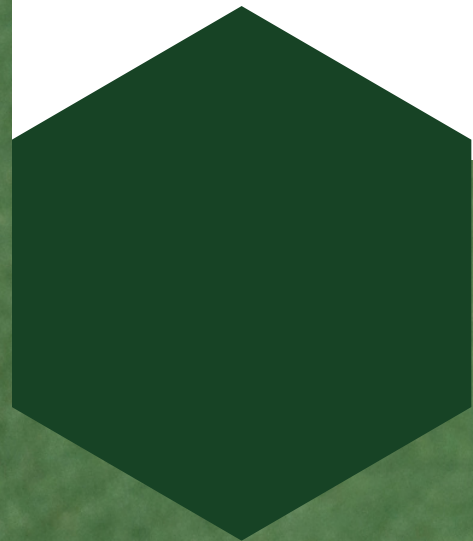
- Formed when THC degrades during the aging process
- Relaxing; may be mildly intoxicating
  - Inhalation may produce more intoxication than edibles
- Use for **anxiety, insomnia or nausea**
- **Sleep aid:** combine indica THC with CBN
- Anti-epileptic





# EFFECTS

- Mildly intoxicating when inhaled or at higher doses (?)
- Relaxing





# USES

- Anxiety
- Insomnia (combine with other cannabinoids or herbs such as Valerian root, Kava Kava)
- Nausea
- Pain
- Nerve pain
- Anti-epileptic
- Migraine treatment or prevention
- ADHD
- Autism
- Stimulate appetite
- MRSA infections



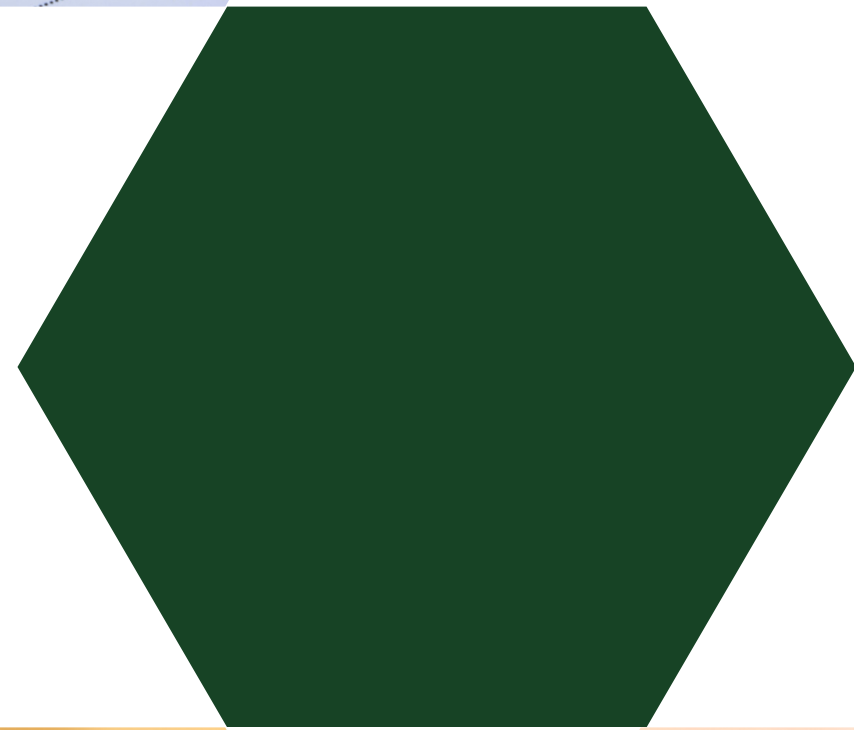


# SIDE EFFECTS

- Intoxicating (?) at very high doses or **when inhaled**
- Drowsiness
- Sedation







# CBG

cannabigerol



# ABOUT

- Known as the “Mother” cannabinoid
- Found in concentrations less than 1% in most strains
  - growers are working to increase amounts
  - flower and vapes found in "smoke shops" today
- Abundant in low-THC, high-CBD strains
- CBG reacts with CB1 receptors in the brain. It buffers the psychoactivity of THC to alleviate the paranoia caused by higher doses of THC

**ENTOURAGE EFFECT**





# ABOUT

- Great potential as **neuroprotectant** and as an anti-inflammatory molecule
- CBG may have therapeutic potential in treating neurological disorders (e.g., Huntington disease, Parkinson disease, and multiple sclerosis) and inflammatory bowel disease, as well as having antibacterial activity





## EFFECTS: CBG

- Agonist at  $\alpha$ -2 adrenergic receptor (clonidine and guanfacine) therefore may cause changes in blood pressure or induce sedation
- Antagonist at 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT<sub>1a</sub>) receptor (CBD is indirect agonist) therefore it may work to enhance the effects of other different classes of serotonergic antidepressants
- CBG and CBD have neuroprotective effects against oxidative neurotoxicity through a 5-HT<sub>1a</sub> receptor-mediated mechanism





# EFFECTS

- Dampen sympathetic nervous system activity
- Potent anti-inflammatory
- Reduces THC high
- Neuroprotectant
- Slows the proliferation of cancer cells
- Decreases eye pressure







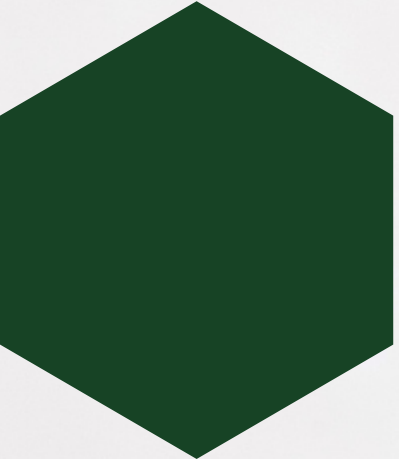
## USES

- GI inflammation (Crohn's, UC, IBS)
- Neurological disorders (Huntington's disease, MS, Parkinson's disease)
- Pain
- Nausea
- Slows the proliferation cancer cells
- Study in rats shows increases appetite in HIV patients

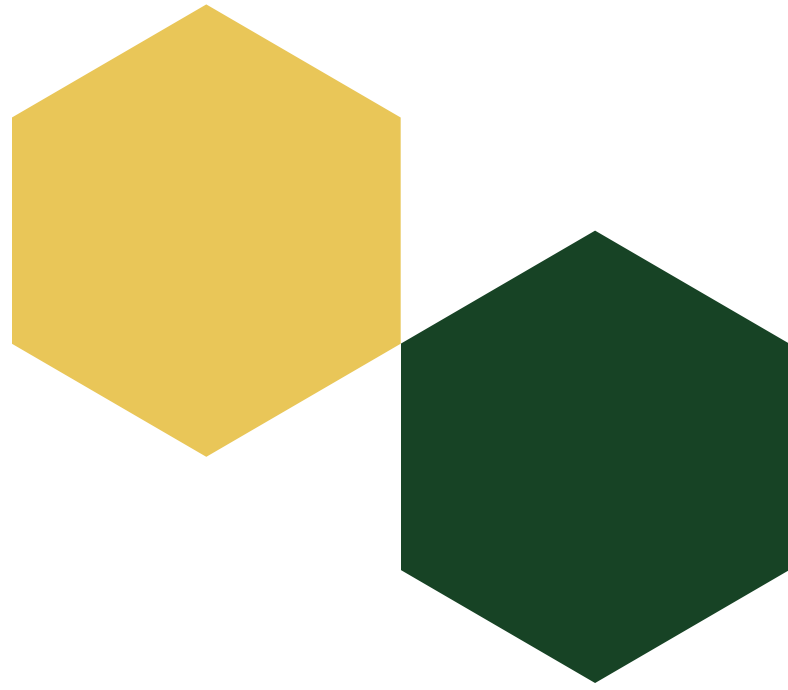




## USES

- Parkinson's
  - Dementia
  - Glaucoma
  - Antibacterial (most potent cannabinoid against MRSA)
  - Metabolic syndrome
- 





## **SIDE EFFECTS**

- Diarrhea (high dose)
- Appetite stimulant
- Sedation







## **DOSAGES**

- 5mg to start (low dose inhalation b/c sedative effects)
- Average dose 25mg
- Higher dosages may lead to stomach upset (like CBD)





# $\Delta$ -8-THC

$\Delta$ -8-tetrahydrocannabinol



# ABOUT

- $\Delta$ -8 tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as  $\Delta$ -8 THC or D8
- Not found in significant amounts in the plant
- Manufactured in a lab from CBD waste
- Mild psychoactive effects
- OTC products can contain harmful additives or by-products





# EFFECTS

- Sedating
- Relaxing
- Calming on the stomach
- Mild psychoactive feeling (dose-related?)
- Similar effects to THC without the strong psychotropic side effects
- Largest study to date reported “results suggest that  $\Delta$ -8-THC may be equally effective for desired purposes of cannabis use and lower in undesirable or adverse effects.”
- **Needs to be better regulated**







## USES

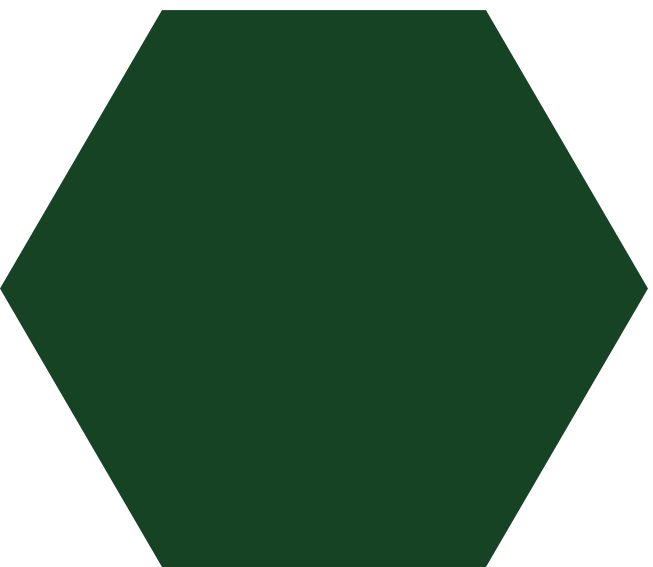
- Anxiety
- Nausea
- Pain
- Stimulate appetite
- Nerve Pain
- Insomnia





# SIDE EFFECTS

- Hallucinations
- Vomiting
- Tremor
- Anxiety
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Loss of consciousness



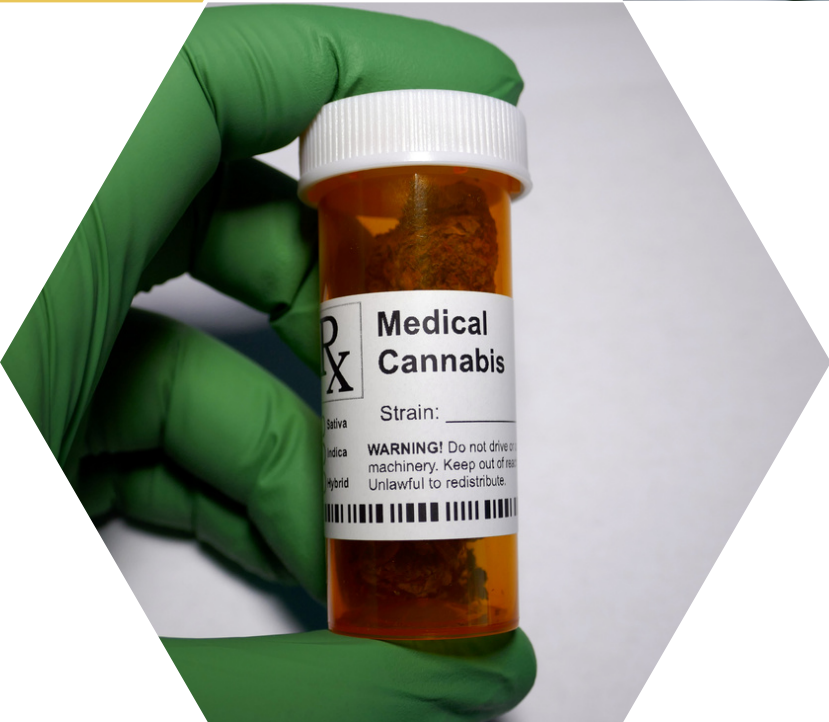


# DOSAGES

- OTC inhaled products may include other ingredients or cannabinoids
- Inhaled products should be started at 1 puff
- 2.5mg to 5mg every 4 to 6 hours







# Drug Interactions





Stay on top of emerging drug interactions

FREE App **Epocrates**:

**Epidiolex** (GW Pharmaceuticals):  
plant-based pharmaceutical **CBD** solution

**Dronabinol**:  
synthetic **THC**

**The Realm of Caring**

[RealmofCaring.org](http://RealmofCaring.org)





Cannabinoid medicine is growing and growing and  
growing....

People over 65 years old are the *fastest* group of  
new consumers of cannabis





The background of the entire image is a light blue color, decorated with several green cannabis leaves scattered around the edges. The leaves are of various sizes and orientations, some showing the characteristic serrated edges and palmate shape.

**Colleen.Higgins@mail.com (not gmail!)**

**ElevatetheCannabisExperience.com**

*Thank you!*