

Corollary of Cannabis

Cannabis is not only the most abused illicit drug in the United States, but it is also, in fact, the most abused illegal drug worldwide. In the United States, it is a schedule-I substance which means that it is legally considered as having no medical use and it is highly addictive. Experts explain that not all cannabis has abuse potential. Therefore, it is suggested to use the common terminology marijuana when referring to cannabis with abuse potential. For the sake of clarity, this term is used in this article as well.

A psychoactive substance such as THC directly affects the central nervous system (CNS). It affects a massive range of neurotransmitters and catalyzes other biochemical and enzymatic activity as well. The CNS is stimulated when the THC activates specific neuroreceptors in the brain causing the various physical and [cannabis loan](#) emotional reactions that will be expounded on more specifically further on. The only substances that can activate neurotransmitters are substances that act as a chemical that the brain produces naturally. The fact that THC stimulates brain function teaches scientists that the brain has natural cannabinoid receptors. It is still unclear why humans have natural cannabinoid receptors and how they work. What we do know is that marijuana will stimulate cannabinoid receptors up to twenty times more actively than any of the body's natural neurotransmitters ever could.

People addicted to cannabis are located throughout the brain thus affecting a wide variety of functioning. The most important impact is on the emotional level and it is the stimulation of the brain's nucleus acumen perverting the brain's natural reward centers. Another is that of the amygdala which controls one's emotions and fears.

Neurological messages between transmitters and receptors not only control emotions and psychological functioning. It is also how the body controls both volitional and non volitional functioning. The cerebellum and the basal ganglia control all bodily movement and coordination and these are two of the most abundantly stimulated areas of the brain that are triggered by marijuana. This explains marijuana's physiological effect causing altered blood pressure, and a weakening of the muscles. THC ultimately affects all neuromotor activity to some degree.

The power of marijuana is measured by the THC content within. As the market on the street becomes more competitive, the force on the street becomes purer. This has caused a trend in ever-rising potency that responds to demand. One average joint of marijuana smoked today has the equivalent THC potency as ten average joints of marijuana smoking during the 1960s.

THC levels depend mainly on what part of the cannabis leaf is being used for production. For instance, cannabis buds can be between two to nine times more potent than fully developed leaves. Hash oil, a form of marijuana developed by distilling cannabis resin, can yield higher levels of THC than even high-grade buds.

The necessity to increase the amount of weed which is being smoked or the need to intensify from low grade to high grade is known clinically as tolerance. The brain is efficient. As it recognizes that neuroreceptors are being stimulated without the neurotransmitters emitting those chemical signals, the brain resourcefully lowers its chemical output so the total levels are back to normal. The smoker will not feel the high anymore as his brain is now "tolerating" the higher levels of chemicals and he or she is back to feeling normal. The smoker now raises the dose to get the old high back and the cycle continues. The smoker may find switching up in grades effective for a while. At last, the brain can cease to produce the chemical altogether, entirely relying on the synthetic version being shown.

About the Author

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