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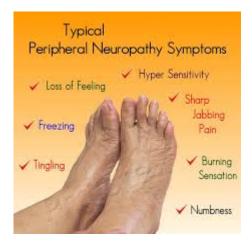
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CREATE AN ACC	OUNT		
Home > CBD News > Does Cannabidiol Help With Neuropathy?			

Does Cannabidiol Help With Neuropathy?

Posted by Seth B on Jun 13, 2016

Chronic pain is a problem for more than 50 million people in the United States. Cannabidiol (CBD) is sometimes used by people for chronic pain, and we have discussed CBD's potential for people with certain types of pain, like migraines and chronic inflammation in other articles. The majority of people

with chronic pain have a discrete physical cause for it, such as inflammation, malignancies, or swelling joints, according to the National Institutes of Health. But what about those of us who have pain that occurs without any apparent cause? Could CBD provide a way to help people who have neuropathy?



Neuropathy is a condition where the nerve cells located throughout our body become damaged, and send pain signals even if we are not exposed to anything that would cause pain. Often, this condition impacts the nerve cells make up the nervous system in our arms and legs, which is known as peripheral neuropathy. Around 20 million people experience peripheral neuropathy, and it can be caused by as many as 100 diseases, including diabetes, endocrine diseases, some cancers, kidney disease, and autoimmune diseases, such as lupus. Neuropathy can present with symptoms like constant pain, tingling, numbness, balance problems, temperature sensitivity, and sensitivity or pain from touching objects. These facts illustrate just how serious neuropathy can be.

In addition to the chronic pain and other symptoms of neuropathy, the treatment of this condition also poses a problem. Conventional treatments often involve anti-inflammatory drugs, opioid painkillers, antidepressants, and other powerful medications. Unfortunately, these drugs do not work for up to 42% of people with neuropathy. Additionally, many of the medications that are prescribed for people with neuropathy can carry risks of physical dependence, addiction, and a vast array of side effects. There is, however, a possibility that CBD might be worth trying for people with neuropathy.

A growing number of people with chronic pain choose CBD as a daily supplement, and some have reported benefits from their regimen. However, neuropathy has different causes compared to most cases of chronic pain, so it is important to consider what researchers have found regarding CBD and neuropathy. A study by Toth et al. found that CBD lowered the levels of proteins that would normally trigger nerve damage in mice in a diabetic state. In the same study, vapor CBD also prevented the growth of microglial cells that would normally be involved in diabetic neuropathy. Moreover, the researchers stated that the CBD reduced pain levels for the mice.

Another study by Hoggart et al. investigated CBD's potential for pain relief, and included 234 people with peripheral neuropathic pain. The researchers found that the participants' mean reported levels of pain decreased after 38 weeks of taking CBD, and more than half of the participants stated that their

pain had been reduced by 30% or more. Naturally, caution must be used when generalizing these results, but they do suggest that CBD may affect neuropathic pain.

If you have neuropathy from diabetes, autoimmune diseases, or other sources, you might consider CBD as a daily supplement. CBD is packaged in many ways, including dabs used with G-Pens for ease of use, or topicals that may be applied near your painful regions. Perhaps you will find that CBD has supplemental benefits.



Do you have a question or comment about CBD? Let us know, and we will respond right away. In the meantime, sign up for our newsletters and visit our website <u>DiscoverCBD.com</u> regularly for the latest updates on research, legislation, and other news impacting you and cannabidiol.

For research articles on cannabinoids and neuropathic pain check out these links:

Cannabinoids as Pharmacotherapies for Neuropathic Pain: From the Bench to the Bedside

The non-psychoactive cannabis constituent cannabidiol is an orally effective therapeutic agent in rat chronic inflammatory and neuropathic pain

Cannabidiol inhibits paclitaxel-induced neuropathic pain through 5-HT1A receptors without diminishing nervous system function or chemotherapy efficacy

Efficacy of two cannabis based medicinal extracts for relief of central neuropathic pain from brachial plexus avulsion: results of a randomised controlled trial

Cannabinoid CB2 receptors: a therapeutic target for the treatment of inflammatory and neuropathic pain

Activation of CB2 cannabinoid receptors by AM1241 inhibits experimental neuropathic pain: Pain inhibition by receptors not present in the CNS

The Analgesic Effects of a High Affinity Cannabinoid Agonist in a Rat Model of Neuropathic Pain

Oromucosal $\Delta 9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol/cannabidiol for neuropathic pain associated with multiple sclerosis: An uncontrolled, open-label, 2-year extension trial (abstract only)

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