



## Position Statement: Use of Medical Marijuana for Neurologic Disorders

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) is a professional organization of over 28,000 practicing neurologists and neuroscientists with a deep and abiding interest in assuring the best possible care of patients with all types of neurologic disorders. With officials at state and federal levels adopting policies regarding the use of medical marijuana, it is important for the AAN to have an official position on the issue that can assist policymakers.

In this position statement, the term “marijuana-based products” refers both to marijuana and to products derived from it. The **current medical marijuana legislation** being passed by policymakers across the country, which promotes marijuana-based products as treatment options for various neurologic disorders, **is not supported by high-level medical research**. In addition, there is **concern regarding the safety of marijuana-based products, especially for long term use in patients with disorders of the nervous system**. The interaction of these compounds with prescription medications is also unknown. Therefore, further research is urgently needed to determine the safety and medical benefit of various forms of marijuana in neurologic disorders, especially those where anecdotal evidence is available. Anecdotal evidence may engender public support for the use of these products but such evidence must be substantiated by rigorous research, which will in turn inform legislative policy.

...

**...The AAN does not advocate for the legalization of marijuana-based products for use in neurologic disorders at this time, as further research is needed to determine the benefits and safety of such products.** This is of paramount importance when marijuana-based products are used in patients with underlying neurologic disorders, or in children whose developing brains may be more vulnerable to the toxic effects of marijuana.

...

Effectiveness of a non-standardized product is not equal to that of standardized products that are studied in clinical trials. Additionally, most currently available marijuana-based products are not regulated by any agency and may not contain the products mentioned by labeling. Quality control is therefore impossible, raising further safety questions. Each product and formulation of cannabis should demonstrate safety and effectiveness via scientific study similar to the process required by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

...

Entire statement here: <https://goo.gl/luM0dh>

**— The AMA and most major health organizations oppose the legalization and medicalization of marijuana —**

