

# Cannabis Client Care

## Dental and Health Implications

Learn how to individualize your care:

### Xerostomia (1)

Decreased salivary flow increases the risk of dental caries due to THC binding to salivary gland receptors which obstructs parasympathetic nervous system

### Cardiovascular Effects (2)

Cannabis causes dramatic difference in blood pressure upon standing from a sitting position which can cause patients to develop a more dramatic orthostatic hypotension

### Consciousness (2)

CNS effects of marijuana include the following: panic attacks, amnesia, anxiety, delusions, hallucinations, agitation, and hypomania.

Clients may not be in the right state of mind to give informed consent.

### Local Anesthetic (3)

Epinephrine in LA may cause HR to increase because of dilation of the peripheral blood supply decreasing the oxygen saturation of the blood

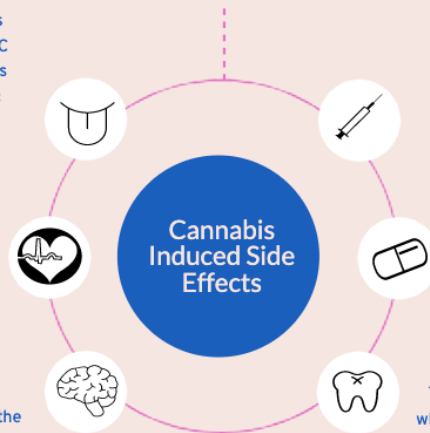
### Medications (4)

Cannabis can have serious interactions with drugs which alter their effectiveness

### Caries (5)

THC in cannabis stimulates appetite which can lead to increased snacking = more acid attacks.

THC also interferes with calcium absorption which can weaken teeth



### Always Provide a Risk Assessment (3)

Patients may be unwilling to self-report marijuana use or unable to answer reliably, but determination of intoxication may be possible during the routine risk assessment

Signs and symptoms of an active (intoxicated) cannabis user include:

- Euphoria
- Hyperactivity
- Tachycardia
- Paranoia
- Delusions
- Hallucinations

Dental findings that may indicate chronic recreational cannabis use:

- Xerostomia
- Leukoplakia
- Periodontitis
- Gingival enlargement/hyperplasia
- Increased decayed, missing or filled teeth
- Stomatitis
- Candidiasis
- Alveolar bone loss



**REMEMBER, IT IS UP TO YOU AS A DENTAL HYGIENIST TO DECIDE IF YOUR CLIENT IS FIT TO RECEIVE CARE!**

#### References:

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