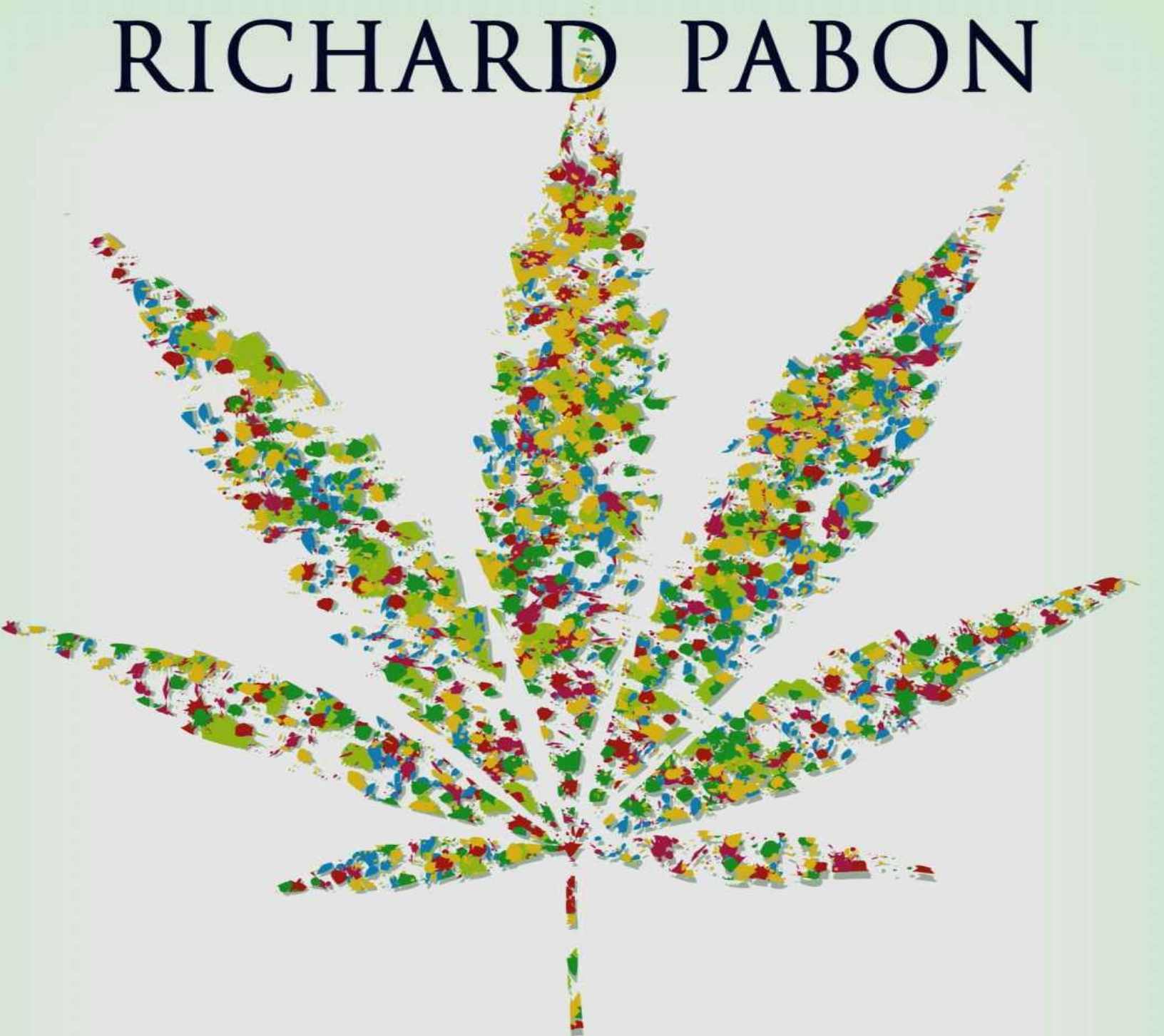


RICHARD PABON



MARIJUANA
AUTISM

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Marijuana and Autism

By Richard Pabon

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Introduction

There are millions of people all over the world who are suffering from autism. This condition albeit not critical and dangerous can sure affect the lives of kids and adults in so many ways. For parents and loved ones who have a family member suffering from this kind of disorder, it is essential that they know the right of way of dealing with it especially since people with autism have different behavior and actions compare to others.

For years, experts have been conducting studies and research to find a cure for autism. From treatments to therapies, they have tried all means possible. But one surprising result that came out was that when some parents tried marijuana for their kids who have autism. Many of them would attest for the effectiveness of marijuana. However, since there are legal issues and concerns regarding the use of marijuana for medical treatments, it is still an on-going debate for some states and countries as to whether marijuana can be deemed effective and safe for kids with autism.

Unfortunately, there are still a lot of people who are not familiar with this disorder. With the help of this eBook, you can find valuable information for you to understand more about autism. Through this material, you'll get to access simplified and well-researched information regarding autism, its causes, the different treatments available as well as the use of marijuana in treating the disorder.

Chapter 1: What is Autism?

Autism also known as autism spectrum disorder is a condition where there are disorders in brain developed. Those who are suffering from autism have a hard time in communicating themselves both verbally and non-verbally. They also have a hard time interactive with other people.

In the recent publication of the DSM-5 diagnostic manual that was released last May 2013, there are various subtypes of autism which include the following:

- Childhood disintegrative disorder
- Autistic disorder
- Pervasive Developmental disorder
- Asperger Syndrome

Autism is characterized by difficulties when it comes to motor coordination. Patients who are diagnosed with this complex disorder may also suffer from various health issues. Yet, albeit these concerns, people with ASD are known to excel in other fields. For instance, some are really good at music, art, math, etc.

According to the data from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 out of 68 Americans children are suffering from autism. It was also found out by experts that autism is more likely to occur among boys compare to girls. Based on estimates, 1 out of 42 boys and 1 out of 189 girls are autistic. In terms of global data, there are millions of people who have autism. For years, the figures continue to increase. Unfortunately, there has been no established explanation as to why the rate continues to increase.

At a young age, parents and other people can already see the difference between a normal kid and a kid that has autism. The way they move, talk or interact with others are different from other kids. For parents, it is essential that they are at least knowledgeable when it comes to possible red flags and to assess for

themselves if their child has autism.

Children with ASD Might Manifest the Following:

- Does not respond to their name by the time they reach 12 months of age.
- Isolation and avoids eye contact.
- Having difficulty in understanding other people's feelings.
- Does not point at objects to show interest by 14 mos.
- Delayed speech.
- Tendency to repeat words over and over again.
- Unusual reactions to what is going on around them.
- Easily gets upset to certain changes.

A kid who has autism might suffer from social issues as this is one of the most common symptoms. For instance, the kid might be too shy or might be having a hard time interacting and socializing with others. Parents can also notice that autistic kids have different communication since some children can only speak little while there are others who cannot speak at all.

Apart from these possible red flags, there are also other known symptoms which include the following:

- Limited and short attention span.
- May cause self-injury.
- Gets easily irritated and may have tantrums.
- Hyperactivity.
- Unusual sleeping and eating habits.
- Different emotional reactions.
- Aggression.

The signs and symptoms may vary from one child to another. But given these information and details, it makes it easier for parents to at least know if their kid might be suffering from autism. Once you notice any of these signs and symptoms, you should seek professional help so that your doctor can recommend you the available treatment or medication for such condition.

Chapter 2: Are Pharmaceutical Drugs Causing Autism?

With the increasing number of autism cases all over the world, many want to know as to which factors cause autism. One of the factors is pharmaceutical drugs can cause autism. There has been an on-going debate among health and medical experts as to whether pharmaceutical drugs can actually cause autism. Governments and drug companies just would not admit that the vaccines that are used today can actually result or cause autism. Almost all of the information and details that people know today are not free from any propaganda.

Based in the current ruling of the court, they confirmed that there is one kind of vaccine which is the MMR vaccine that can actually cause autism. The controversy regarding the possibility of this vaccine causing autism rooted out when Dr. Andrew Wakefield of Austin, Texas made known to the public that there is a positive linkage between stomach disorders and autism. Base on his studies, he was able to link the use of MMR vaccine also known as the Measles Mumps Rubella vaccine to autism.

After the results of the initial research that was released in 1996, another study was published in 1998 further establishing his claims based on scientific evidence. To date, Dr. Wakefield became the founder of the Strategic Autism Initiative and is the current Director of the Autism Media Channel.

With his findings, governments, vaccine companies and the courts have finally confirmed and ruled that the MMR could actually cause not just stomach diseases but even autism. By December 2012, the Liberty Beacon published the news confirming the studies and findings of Dr. Wakefield and the link between stomach diseases, autism and MMR vaccine.

Marijuana and Autism

Pharmaceutical drugs can cause autism. Now, the question of many is, “What

then is the treatment or cure for autism if these drugs are harmful?”

Along with the debates regarding pharmaceutical drugs causing autism, it was found out that marijuana also known as cannabis can actually be used for medical purposes. In some states in the United States and in other countries, the use of marijuana is considered to be illegal. However, there are cases wherein parents who have children suffering from autism have actually used marijuana to their kids and they were astonished with the results.

When you watch interviews, documentaries or when you read in newspapers, for sure you will come across success stories of parents who would attest for the effectiveness of medical marijuana to treat autism.

Sam's Story in Using Marijuana to Treat Autism

Sam is an 8 year old male kid who was diagnosed first with Pervasive Development Delay at the age of 2. Later on, it was found out that the kid actually has the autism spectrum disorder. The child has low cognitive and verbal abilities. According to Sam's parents, he was a healthy infant. It was only around 18 months of age when he started to manifest certain signs and symptoms for ASD. After the diagnosis, the child underwent to various treatments and followed the Defeat Autism Now protocol. This approach was created by Dr. Rimland who founded the Autism Society together with the Autism Research Institute that is based in San Diego, California.

The family recalled their difficulties as Sam had to undergo various treatments where they have to spend thousands of dollars to help the children. Finally, the parents of the child decided to try marijuana to cure Sam's autism. With the help of medical cannabis, he was able to get back. In the journal that was written by Sam's parents, they stressed out that they have conservative background and have never used marijuana or any dangerous drugs. But the effect of marijuana to finally cure Sam's disorder has been so profound that his case is worth telling and sharing to other parents who are suffering the same problem.

Nick's Success Story

Another success story is recorded when an 8 year old boy named Nick has made significant changes and improvements after using medical marijuana. According to the parents of the child, their son was non-verbal. After using marijuana, he was able to start talking, naming things, singing, etc. He can now do things that he could not do before. His motor skills have definitely improved and he does not have a hard time communicating for the things that he wants or needs to do. The parents are also shocked and surprised with the results.

Chapter 3 How Does Marijuana Treat/Cure Autism?

With the success stories that you can read in various blogs and websites where parents make use of marijuana to treat autism, there is an on-going campaign to legalize marijuana especially in states and in countries where marijuana is considered to be illegal. But before reaching that point, it is important to know as to whether marijuana can indeed cure autism. If it does, how does it help in treating the condition?

For years, medical marijuana has been receiving positive feedback and popularity not just among family and patients but as well as among medical experts. Considering the fact that there is no known cure for autism, experts have been looking for means and ways to treat the disorder.

There are two major compounds found in marijuana that are known to be the source of cure for autism. This includes the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). These two components serve as cure for autism.

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) produces psychoactivity which in turn results to analgesic effects. The other one which is the CBD compound is also known to give other benefits. For instance, it can reduce inflammation and it can also be used to combat cancer.

To date, medical marijuana can be used to treat different medical conditions. In fact, it is described to treat these diseases and illnesses. These include the following: severe pain, weight loss, AIDS, glaucoma, seizures and cancer.

But before CBD can be effectively used to treat autism, medical marijuana needs to have high CBD. Depending on the needs of the person, dosage and the extract may vary. According to experts, cannabis has a lot of benefits for patients who have ASD. There are various extractions depending on the condition of the patient. In taking cannabis, the patient can have less anxiety which may often result to seizures or tantrums. For a person manifesting milder symptoms, he or she may have liquid cannabis extractions. This extraction can be applied under the tongue. On the other hand, there are also other ways to use medical marijuana. It can be in the form of salves and balms which can be used to relieve pains and aches.

University of California Research

Medical marijuana is becoming more and more popular especially among those who are in search for a cure for autism. As this becomes widely available in the country, medical marijuana can now be accessible for those who really want to treat ASD. There are also new developments whereby cannabis is used to create a certain product to cure autism. Sativex which makes use of cannabis is still being developed and it is said to cure neuropathic pain and even cancer. Right now, the said drug is available in 11 countries. However, in the United States it is still in its trial stage.

With more experts supporting the use of medical marijuana, many want to know if there are scientific basis for such claim. Can medical marijuana really cure autism? If it can be used to cure the disorder, how does it work? What are the components found in cannabis that can be effectively used for patients suffering from autism?

According to researchers of the University of California, cannabis is used to cure different kinds of neurological diseases. This includes autism. Based on the study, CMB is proven to be useful in so many ways. For one, it improves the focus or concentration of the patient. Second, it helps regulate the emotion and can also be an effective compound to avoid brain degradation. Compare to other remedies that are prescribed, there is nothing to worry about overdosage. The dosages will just have to be regulated depending on the condition and the needs of the patient.

In terms of evidences that are documented, many studies and documented cases can be proven that cannabis is really effective in treating autism. For one, the compound CBD can reduce anxiety and rage among patients. Once a person diagnosed with ASD takes in cannabis, he or she feels relaxed and calm.

Chapter 4 The Best Marijuana Strains to Treat/Cure Autism

Now that marijuana has proven to be the real deal to cure autism. The question is what are the best marijuana strains that can cure the disorder? When you search the Internet, there are just too many options to choose from. With so many options to choose from, it can be really challenging to choose which particular strain to get. How do you know which are the best strains to use?

1. Joeys Strain

One of the most popular marijuana strains is the so-called Joeys Strain. This particular medical marijuana was popularized after Joey Hester-Perez, a 9 year old kid who was diagnosed with autism got his very own strain to cure his condition. The parents of the child decided to use medical marijuana as they believe that it's the only way to save their child's life. Prior to having his own strain, the kid had to undergo about 14 to 15 various strains. The strain was created by Kyle Kushman by using nutrients known as the Veganics which came from organic materials.

2. Northern Light Automatic

Another effective marijuana strain which is highly proven to cure autism is the Northern Light Automatic. This is considered to be one of the best strains of cannabis all over the world. It is almost the same to Northern Lights except that it can be grown indoors. The Northern Light Automatic has a lot of benefits since it can treat stress, nausea, pain, depression and can cure ASD.

3. Special Queen 1

Another quality marijuana strain to cure autism is the Special Queen 1. This is widely popular since it can easily grow even outdoors. This can grow big and strong. In fact, for one plant, it can contain about 550g. What makes it different from other cannabis is that it is easy to grow and to maintain. In terms of its efficacy, Special Queen 1 can make a person feel relaxed and it can reduce anxiety.

4. Royal Dwarf

Do not let the name trick you but royal dwarf is also a good marijuana strain for autism. It is a compressed plant and has a good autoflowering capability. It may give strong scent but one of its positive aspects is that it grows fast. For patients, vaporizing is considered to be the safest and best method.

5. White Widow

Another effective marijuana strain that is used to treat autism is the White Widow. This particular strain is popular all over the world. What makes this a popular choice is that it gives a powerful effect. It gives a person that euphoric feeling and that highly energetic feeling. As it stimulates creativity, it makes a person feel more active and creative.

6. Amnesia Haze

Among the most popular marijuana that is said to make your day start with a smile is the Amnesia Haze. Just with the sound of its name, this marijuana is a known to be effective strain that can be used to treat autism. Amnesia Haze can uplift your mood and can make your more energetic. This particular strain of marijuana has become widely popular ever since it was used mostly in coffee shops in Amsterdam.

7. Critical

Apart from being used as a marijuana strain for ASD, critical mass is popular since it can be easily produced on a large scale. It comes from fusion of Skunk number 1 and Afghani. The time to grow this type of marijuana strain would take 6 to 8 weeks and may be prone to molds. That is why critical mass is often grown indoors.

8. Special Kush 1

Special Kush 1 is a type of marijuana strain that can only be found in India. Also known as the Cannabis Sativa, this particular strain is also good to cure autism. One of the main reasons why it is one of the most popular choices is that it is not that expensive. So for patients who are in search for a medical marijuana, this is

a good choice. Flowering time takes about 6 to 8 weeks.

9. Royal AK Automatic

Royal AK Automatic which is a combination of cannabis from Mexico, Thai, Afghani and Columbia is popular for its strong effects. If you are in search for a marijuana strain that has a sweet incense and strong aroma, Royal AK Automatic can make a person high and energetic. It gives just the right balance. This particular marijuana strain is said to cure ASD as well and since it grows fast and easy, it can be a good choice.

10. O.G. Kush

O.G. Kush is a popular marijuana strain since it gives you a feeling of euphoria. In taking this marijuana strain, you get to reduce your anxiety and it can fight stress. This is one of the reasons why O.G. Kush is quite popular. Patients who have taken this strain would attest for the improvements in their condition. This is known to be effective for those who have migraines, stress disorders and lately, it is said to be a good cure for autism. The flowering time for this particular strain may take 8 to 9 weeks.

11. Royal Haze Automatic

When you visit coffee shops in Amsterdam, you will notice that they make use of Royal Haze Automatic. This particular marijuana is very uplifting and gives a fresh taste. With its effect, it is also said to be a good strain to cure ASD. The only downside is that compare to other marijuana strains, Royal Haze Automatic may take longer time to grow. Harvesting time may take about 10 to 12 weeks.

Choosing a Marijuana Strain

Given these options, you can simply choose which marijuana strain to get based on the recommendation or prescription of your doctor. There are different factors that you have to take into consideration. For instance, do you intend to buy the marijuana or you want to cultivate it. If you wish to cultivate it and you abide by the rules and the laws in your state then you would go for low priced marijuana that would easily grow and give you effective benefits to cure autism.

Chapter 5 : 15 States in the US That Allow Marijuana to Cure Autism

With the overwhelming clamor of people wanting to use marijuana to cure autism along with the support coming from experts in the field, the support to legalize marijuana grows stronger than ever. However, in the United States, not all of the states allow medical marijuana to cure autism. Some states in the US and even in other countries ban the use and the possession of marijuana.

But for states where cannabis is legal, what are the things that you should do in order for you to have legal access to marijuana. States vary when it comes to certain rules and regulation. There are states where patients are only allowed to possess or cultivate a certain amount of cannabis. On the other hand, there are states where patients would purchase cannabis from certified distributor. Knowing these details enable you to assess your options and to find out if it is legal in your area of residence.

Here are the different states that allow marijuana:

Alaska

Made effective in June 2, 1999, the use of medical marijuana to cure ASD is legal in Alaska. It can be used by patients who are suffering from ASD and other diseases and illnesses like cancer, HIV, chronic pain, glaucoma and a whole lot more. Before a patient can use medical marijuana, they need to have a valid ID and state patient registry. A patient has to undergo the registration process before he or she can get to access medical marijuana.

Arizona

With the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act which was approved in November 2, 2010 with 50.13% of votes, this allows patients to have access to medical marijuana provided that they have a written certification and that they should get marijuana from a registered provider. In order to use marijuana to cure autism, patients have to undergo a verification system.

California

Effective November 6, 1996, it is legal to possess and cultivate marijuana provided that the patient has a certified recommendation from his doctor

regarding the health benefits. For autism, marijuana can now be effectively used without legal sanctions. It is just important for individuals to follow the state guidelines set forth regarding the use and cultivation of marijuana. Patients who qualify should not have not more than 8 ounces of marijuana depending on the condition.

Connecticut

Patients who are in need of medical marijuana to cure autism need to have a valid registration certificate. With this certificate, you will not be subject to prosecution or penalty provided that the patient must be a resident of Connecticut and should at least be 18 years old. Once you have the certificate, you will have to pay for the registry fee and to abide with the rules and regulations regarding the use of medical cannabis.

Delaware

Signed into law on May 13, 2011, a patient can avoid prosecution or any legal sanction provided that he or she acquires a valid certification from a physician specifying the medical condition. Apart from acquiring a certification the patient should also send a copy to the Department of Health and Social Science. The patient will then receive an ID card.

Hawaii

Signed into law by Governor Ben Cayetano, patients who are in need of medical marijuana do not have to worry about any legal sanction since they can possess and cultivate marijuana provided that they have a certification from a physician. The patient has to follow the state guidelines when it comes to the use of marijuana. On top of that, the patient has to pay a registry fee.

Illinois

In Illinois, they have the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program. With this program, qualified patients can have access to medical marijuana without any legal penalties or sanctions. The act will then impose tax to people who cultivate medical cannabis at 7% of the sales price. Individuals should adhere to the adequate supply in terms of possession and cultivation

which means that they are only allowed to use 2.5 ounces of cannabis in 14 days.

Maine

Made into a law in April 2,2002, patients can have medical marijuana and may legally cultivate the plant provided that they follow the allowed quantity for use. A person may only have 1.25 ounces to 2.5 ounces of medical marijuana. The Department of Health and Human Services provides a registry identification program. Before you can use medical marijuana, you will have to undergo the registration process first.

Maryland

Two institutions are tasked to regulate the use of medical marijuana, the Natalie M LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Every year, the commission will provide request for application to work on medical marijuana to cure autism as well as other medical conditions. Qualified patients just have to undergo the mandatory registration procedure required by the state.

Massachusetts

Qualifying patients in need of medical marijuana get to acquire cannabis to cure certain conditions including autism. The Department will then issue registrations to 35 non-profit medical marijuana treatment centers. The patient has to undergo the required mandatory registration period and has to pay the patient registry fee amounting to \$50.

Michigan

Individuals may acquire, use and cultivate medical marijuana provided that they register and they pay a patient registry fee amounting to \$100. For Medicaid patients, they will only have to pay \$25. In terms of possession and cultivation, patients may have up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana and 12 marijuana plants kept in a facility.

Minnesota

Signed into law and became effective last May 30, 2014. It is now legal to use medical marijuana to cure different diseases and illnesses. The marijuana plants will be sourced out from 4 distribution facilities. To be able to use medical marijuana, qualified patients have to register and to pay for the patient registry fee amounting to \$200.

Montana

A patient in need of medical marijuana can possess 6 marijuana plants and 1 ounce of usable marijuana. To qualify, the patient has to undergo a registration process. You need to become a cardholder before you can use marijuana for medical purposes. The patient needs to have the state form that your doctor will fill out. Depending on the recommendation of your doctor, you may want to grow your own cannabis or you may choose a certified provider. Once you have submitted your application, the state has 30 days to process your application.

New York

Signed into law in July 5, 2014, it is now legal in New York to use medical marijuana provided that you follow the state's guidelines and procedures in acquiring and using cannabis. The state will tax a rate of 7% for the use of marijuana. In addition, the patient also has to pay a registry fee amounting to \$50. In terms of possession and cultivation, the health commission will determine the supply.

Oregon

Effective in December 3, 1998, it is now legal in Oregon to use medical marijuana to cure certain diseases and other medical conditions. To get more information regarding the complete information, interested applicant can access the website of The Oregon Medical Marijuana Dispensary Program. To possess and cultivate marijuana, the individual needs to have a registry identification cardholder and pay for the patient registry fee amounting to \$200 for new applications. For those receiving SNAP, the fee is \$100.

Chapter 6 Common Myths About Marijuana for Autism

With the several benefits that a person with ASD can get from medical marijuana, some are still hesitant to try this option. There are various reasons why they do. When you look at the Internet, there are just too many pieces of information about marijuana at autism. Some of these bits of information are positive while there are others are negative. For families who are in search for an effective cure, it is important that they are knowledgeable and that they know the common myths. These myths are not at all true and can be really misleading. Here are just some of the common myths about marijuana and autism.

Myth: Using medical marijuana can lead to drug abuse.

When a person hears the word marijuana, the very first thing that comes to mind is “addiction”. It is as if when you hear a person using marijuana, that person is already an addict. But contrary to what some people know, this is definitely not true. Of course marijuana can be abused and misused but it does not mean that it can lead to abuse of strong drugs.

In fact, according to research, it was found out that majority of those who are using marijuana would never try other illicit substances. This only goes to show that the myth is not true. A person may be using marijuana for various purposes. Like in the case of children, they use marijuana to cure autism and in other diseases and illnesses.

Myth: Marijuana can cause brain damage.

Another common myth that people attach with marijuana is that it can result to brain damage. Some parents might be recalcitrant to try cannabis for the fear that this may negatively affect the nervous system of their child. However, it is essential to take note of the fact that this is not true and it has no basis. Unlike other substances, marijuana doesn’t produce toxins. Parents do not have to worry about harmful substances that can damage brain cells. Even in studies conducted to see if marijuana can negatively impact brain receptors, it was found out that there’s no correlation. When a child uses marijuana, it can help him with his autism and can reduce the signs and symptoms of the disorder.

Myth: Marijuana can lead to overdose.

Since a lot of people think that marijuana is a highly addictive drug, they would

think that by using it to their child who has autism, their kid might experience drug overdose which is something that all parents would never want to happen. But then, there is no strong evidence to show that a person died or suffered because of marijuana overdose.

This is basically one of the reasons why states in the United States have set forth the guideline and regulation when it comes to possession and cultivation of marijuana. Before allowing a patient to use medical marijuana, the patient or the guardians have to follow certain procedures to ensure that cannabis is not abused in any way. States would also set the maximum amount of cannabis that is allowed to be possessed or cultivated. This is to ensure that patients only get to access the much needed medical marijuana for cure or treatment of certain diseases and illnesses. Parents never have to worry about using marijuana to cure their child's autism. On top of that, every intake of cannabis during the treatment is to be supervised or recommended by a doctor.

Myth: Marijuana can result to weak immune system.

With the stigma that is attached to marijuana, another common myth is that it can weaken the immune system. People think that since it is a highly addictive drug, it can affect the different parts of the system including the immune system. But the truth of the matter is that this is just a myth. The fact is that cannabis does not weaken the immune system.

Chapter 7 The Political Debate on Marijuana and Autism

With the growing popularity of marijuana highlighting the success stories of kids whose conditions have become better after taking it along with the support of experts in the medical field, there is still an on-going political debate on marijuana and autism. Some groups believe that there is no doubt cannabis is an effective and low cost alternative treatment to cure autism. On the other hand, there is an opposing group who believe otherwise. Now the question is who would prevail?

In the United States, there are already various states that have made a stand on the issue and have made the necessary move to legalize the use of cannabis to cure autism along with other medical conditions. However, there are still other states and other countries banning the use of cannabis. In other countries, even the cultivation of marijuana is not allowed and is definitely illegal.

For parents and guardians who are in dire need of alternative to cure autism, knowing the arguments of both sides can surely help in deciding as to whether marijuana is a good choice to treat autism. There are different reasons why some support the use of medical marijuana compare to those who do not.

The Benefits vs. The Risks

The group that pushes for the use of marijuana would stand on their ground saying that cannabis has a lot of benefits. Based on the success stories of kids whose conditions have improved due to use of marijuana would be the basis for such claim. According to parents and to experts supporting the use of medical marijuana, a person with autism can have several health benefits in using the plant. For one, it eases the symptoms of autism. This works not just for mild conditions but even to severe disorders. Apart from autism, cannabis can also be used to cure different diseases and illnesses. Their side of the argument is why restrict people if they can get the cure they need from medical marijuana.

On the other hand, there are also risks that have to be considered. Apart from the benefits, some experts emphasize that there are also safety concerns and risks that are involved in using medical marijuana. For one, marijuana has

intoxicating effects and this is why marijuana is considered to be a recreational drug. A person taking medical marijuana may actually be at risk of depending on this drug. There are also other negative health impacts of using medical marijuana that are not yet established for instance memory loss, reaction speed, performance, impaired learning, etc.

Some experts also say that cannabis has toxic compounds. This only means that by allowing a patient to smoke marijuana, he or she is at risk to lung cancer and other medical conditions. According to a scientist at McGill University, Mark Ware, agrees that there is still not enough studies conducted to show that marijuana is totally safe and that it has no risks.

Screening Patients and Reducing Risk Factors

Medical marijuana is widely supported despite some of its risks and safety issues. Many believe that it is the job of doctors and medical professionals to screen patients and to find ways to reduce risk factors. There is no doubt about the health benefits that a child with autism can get from using cannabis. However, it is important for regulating bodies to urge doctors to screen patients before they prescribe marijuana. It is crucial to take into consideration the known risk factors before prescribing cannabis to a patient.

In the United States, a patient has to get a medical certification from his or her doctor before being allowed to possess or to cultivate marijuana. In this case, doctors should have to be really careful and ensure that only qualified patients will get to use marijuana. Doctors are urged to take into consideration the following risk factors like past problems in using cannabis, drug abuse, age, etc. A person who happens to have risk factors should not be given any prescription. In the end, the doctor may still refuse to prescribe marijuana depending on the condition of the patient along with the other considerations.

Should marijuana be used to cure autism?

Until now, the debate as to whether marijuana should be prescribed is still ongoing. Medical marijuana as an effective and safe alternative to cure autism is not yet established. There are still few studies conducted to show that it is indeed

safe and that there are no major risks. But for families who are really in need of a good cure for their loved ones' condition, should they go for medical marijuana?

In the end, it is still a matter of taking the risk. But if there are parents who would attest for the efficacy of using medical marijuana, then there is no doubt that marijuana can offer something to patients who are suffering from autism. Parents should be knowledgeable with medical cannabis, its benefits and known risks. With the help of their trusted doctor, it is much easier to assess if using medical marijuana is a safe and feasible option.

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