

# Cannabis for the Management of Symptoms of PTSD: Surveillance – April 2022

## Objective and Search Period

This document is based on the fourth surveillance report of a living systematic evidence report, Living Systematic Review on Cannabis and Other Plant-Based Treatments for Chronic Pain, by the Evidence-based Practice Center Program at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).<sup>1</sup>

The review authors sought to identify new eligible controlled clinical trials and observational studies with comparator groups examining the treatment of chronic pain with cannabis. The search was updated from **January to the end of March 2022**.

## Surveillance Update

The review authors found 1 new eligible study, a retrospective cohort study (N = 674)<sup>2</sup> that they rated as having moderate risk of bias (RoB). In this study, participants with neuropathic pain and inadequate pain relief from other treatments took either nabiximols oromucosal spray (plant-extracted comparable THC to CBD ratio) or oral dronabinol (synthetic high-THC to CBD ratio) for 24 weeks. Nabiximols was associated with greater improvement in pain intensity and function compared with dronabinol, although the differences in effect were very small. Other outcomes also improved significantly more in the nabiximols group compared to the dronabinol group. The study did not substantively change conclusions of the living systematic review.

See Surveillance Report 4 for more details:

<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/plant-based-chronic-pain-treatment/living-review>.

## References

1. Chou R, Wagner J, Ahmed AY, et al. Living Systematic Review on Cannabis and Other Plant-Based Treatments for Chronic Pain: Surveillance Report 4. (Prepared by the Pacific Northwest Evidence-based Practice Center under Contract No. 75Q80120D00006.) AHRQ Publication No. XXX. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; June 2022. DOI: xxx. Posted final reports are located on the Effective Health Care Program search page.
2. Ueberall MA, Essner U, Vila Silván C, Mueller-Schwefe GHH. Comparison of the Effectiveness and Tolerability of Nabiximols (THC:CBD) Oromucosal Spray versus Oral Dronabinol (THC) as Add-on Treatment for Severe Neuropathic Pain in Real-World Clinical Practice: Retrospective Analysis of the German Pain e-Registry. *J Pain Res.* 2022;15:267-286.