Cannabis for the Management of Symptoms of PTSD: Surveillance Update 4 – June 2025

Objective and Search Period

To identify new eligible controlled clinical trials and observational studies with comparator groups examining the effects of cannabis on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, we searched Ovid MEDLINE ALL, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), and Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CCTR), for studies published from **February 2024 to early April 2025**.

We also searched ClinicalTrials.gov on June 9, 2025, for ongoing studies.

Surveillance Update

Our updated searches identified 50 unique citations. After review, we found no new studies that met our eligibility criteria. There are 11 ongoing studies estimated to be completed in the next 5 years (Table 1). We did find that one ongoing study we were tracking had published findings, but because of low recruitment and attrition only 5 participants completed the trial, and the authors were unable to conduct between-person analyses, and thus it did not meet our eligibility criteria.[1] The study, designed as a cross-over randomized controlled trial (RCT) sought to compare vaporized cannabis with equivalent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) with or without cannabidiol (CBD) to placebo. The pre-post results showed a trend towards improved PTSD symptoms based on the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS-5; non-significant) and PTSD Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5; significant).[1]

This is the fourth surveillance update conducted since the last full review update. The next surveillance will be conducted in April 2026 in accordance with our 1-year update interval.

Table 1. Ongoing Studies

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier	Study Title	Study Design	Estimated Enrollment	Estimated Primary Completion Date Status
NCT03248167	Cannabidiol as a Treatment for AUD Comorbid With PTSD	RCT	30 (actual)	April 2022 (actual) Results posted to CT.gov June 2023 (not yet published)
NCT05132699	Enhancing Prolonged Exposure with Cannabidiol to Treat Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	RCT	21 (actual)	June 2023 (actual) Results posted to CT.gov October 2024 (not yet published)

NCT04448808	Treating Nightmares in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder with Dronabinol	RCT	176	June 2025
NCT03518801	Cannabidiol and Prolonged Exposure (CBD-PE)	RCT	136	September 2025
NCT04080427	Effects of Delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on Retention of Memory for Fear Extinction Learning in PTSD: R33 Study	RCT	100	December 2025
EUCT number: 2024-514783-78-00	BOOSTCAMP: Boosting the endocannabinoid system before the treatment of anxiety symptoms	RCT	82	December 2025
NCT04550377	Cannabidiol for PTSD and TBI	RCT	120	June 2026
NCT06222268	Wayne State Warriors Marijuana Clinical Research Program: Cannabinoid Adjunct to Prolonged Exposure & Recovery (CAPER)	RCT	350	September 2027
NCT05269459	Safety and Efficacy of Cannabidiol (CBD) for Symptoms of PTSD in Adults	RCT	180	April 2029
NCT06381180	Warrior CARE: Cannabis Behavioral Health	RCT	500	December 2030
Not yet registered	Phase 2 Study of Cannabis for Veterans with PTSD (MJP2)[2]	RCT	TBD	Not available (status: planning)

Abbreviations. AUD: alcohol use disorder; CBD: cannabidiol; CT.gov: ClinicalTrials.gov; PTSD: posttraumatic stress disorder; RCT: randomized controlled trial; TBD: to be determined; TBI: traumatic brain injury; THC: tetrahydrocannabinol

Report Version History

Document Type	Date Presented	Search Dates	Number of new studies (total overall studies)
Surveillance Update 4	June 2025	February 2024 to April 2025	0 (7)
Surveillance Update 3	February 2024	December 2022 to February 2024	0 (7)
Surveillance Update 2	December 2022	April 2022 to December 2022	0 (7)
Surveillance Update 1	April 2022	October 2021 to April 2022	0 (7)
Systematic Review Update 1	November 2021	October 2020 to October 2021	2 (7)
Original Systematic Review	March 2021	Inception to October 2020	5

References

1. Walsh Z, Mitchell I, Crosby K, et al. A small clinical trial of vaporized cannabis for PTSD: suggestive results and directions for future study. *Trials*. 2023;24(1):578. doi: 10.1186/s13063-023-07543-2.
2. Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies. Phase 2 Study of Cannabis for Veterans with PTSD (MJP2). https://maps.org/marijuana/mjp2/.