

## Cannabinoid receptors (version 2019.4) in the IUPHAR/BPS Guide to Pharmacology Database

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### Abstract

Cannabinoid receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Cannabinoid Receptors [107]**) are activated by endogenous ligands that include N-arachidonylethanolamine (**anandamide**), **N-homo- $\gamma$ -linolenylethanolamine**, **N-docosatetra-7,10,13,16-enylethanolamine** and **2-arachidonoylglycerol**. Potency determinations of endogenous agonists at these receptors are complicated by the possibility of differential susceptibility of endogenous ligands to enzymatic conversion [4].

There are currently three licenced cannabinoid medicines each of which contains a compound that can activate CB<sub>1</sub> and CB<sub>2</sub> receptors [104]. Two of these medicines were developed to suppress nausea and vomiting produced by chemotherapy. These are **nabilone** (Cesamet®), a synthetic CB<sub>1</sub>/CB<sub>2</sub> receptor agonist, and synthetic  **$\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol** (Marinol®; dronabinol), which can also be used as an appetite stimulant. The third medicine, Sativex®, contains mainly  **$\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol** and **cannabidiol**, both extracted from cannabis, and is used to treat multiple sclerosis and cancer pain.

## Contents

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#### Receptors

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##### CB<sub>2</sub> receptor

<http://www.guidetopharmacology.org/GRAC/ObjectDisplayForward?objectId=57>

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