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How do we treat dental patients under influence of marijuana?

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Boston University

HOW DO WE TREAT DENTAL PATIENTS UNDER INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA?

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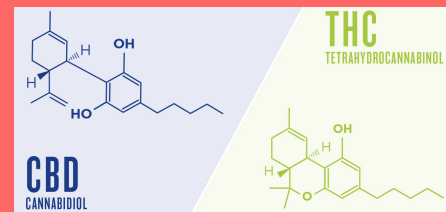
BACKGROUND

Marijuana is the third most widely used illicit substance in the United States.

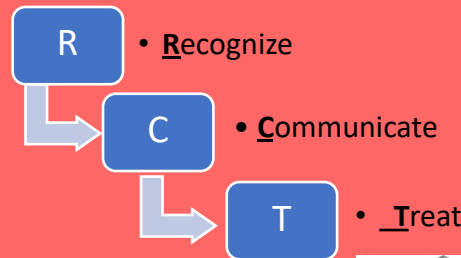
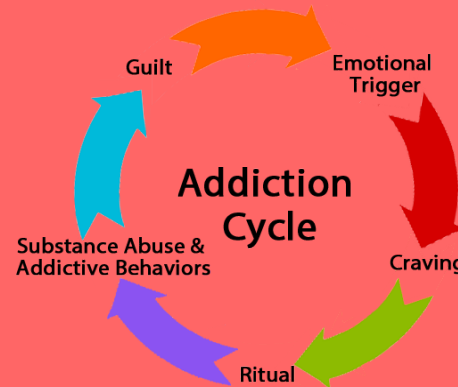
- ❑ In the past 20 years, its use has increased 30-fold;
- ❑ It is estimated that 22.2 million Americans of age 12 years and older report current marijuana use.¹
- ❑ Massachusetts reported that 45% of adults between the age of 18-25 years used marijuana along with 22% increase in marijuana consumption in 2017 after legalization.²

This review explores the latest trends in the use of marijuana and reviews oral health implications and guidelines for treating dental patients under the influence. Dental patient on marijuana use are high and impaired to provide informed consent, these patients are most often noncompliant, long term treatment prognosis are questionable. Such patients also often seek cosmetic dental treatment, such as veneers and whitening, due to these unaesthetic dental complications; this represents another opportunity for the dentist to discuss suspected substance misuse, provide appropriate referrals for treatment, and encourage cessation of use as part of the treatment process prior to initiating any cosmetic treatments that may otherwise fail.

COMPOSITION



Main psychoactive chemical delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)- **Intoxicating effects** and other active compounds like cannabinoid (CBD)- **Not mind altering**



FINDINGS

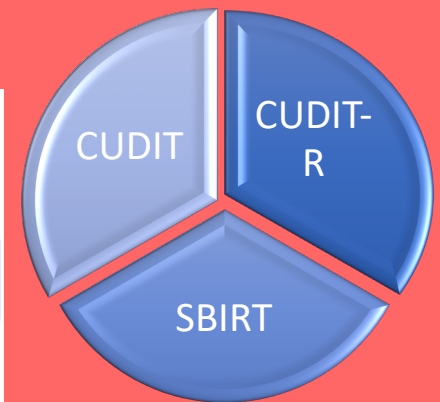
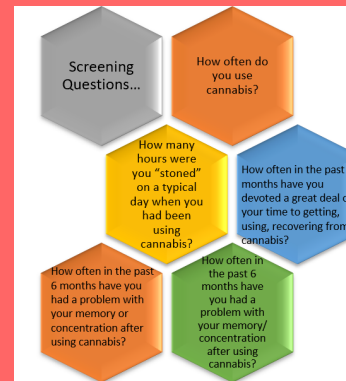
Use can lead to several adverse oral health problems such as xerostomia, smooth surface caries, gingival inflammation, gingival hyperplasia, periodontal disease, mucosal alteration and may lead to oral cancer

VARIOUS VEHICLE OF CONSUMPTION



SCREENING

There are various screening tools available to help in identification of marijuana use and assessment of patient addiction. These tools should be used prior to treatment planning, consent signature



CONCLUSIONS

Clinical guidelines may need to be developed to train predoctoral dental students to assess the patient's degree of cognitive impairment. This will further help in improving their knowledge and perception on case selection for an extensive treatment modality. It is very important to utilize these screening tools to screen dental patients for marijuana use in dental school.⁸