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Indonesian Medical Cannabis in Neuroscience Research: Legal and Future Challenges

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Indonesian Medical Cannabis in Neuroscience Research: Legal and Future Challenges

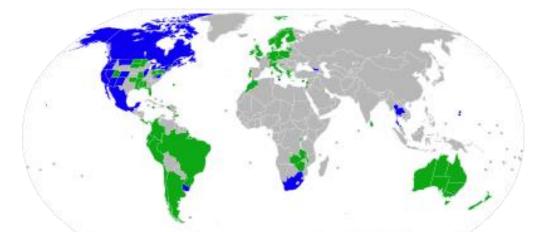
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Introduction

- Marijuana (Cannabis sativa) or "Cannabis", is prohibited for use in Indonesia and is classified as a class 1 Narcotics (Law no. 35 Year 2009)
- Meanwhile, Cannabis use has been legalized in more than 50 countries, especially for research and medical purpose



Discussion

- From four studies in Indonesia, 3 titles focused on compound levels, 1 on animal testing, and there was no research on humans.
- In comparison, there are a lot of Medical Cannabis research in other countries, such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
- Some countries even have special institutes for medical cannabis with research funding for researchers as well as students. • In July 2022, the current Indonesian Minister of Health, Budi Gunadi Sadikin, said it was allowed to conduct medical cannabis research and would issue regulations related to this, supported by Indonesian Medical Association (IDI) and the House of Representatives to encourage medical cannabis research. • This answers the challenge of medical cannabis which has been stated by the former Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, several pharmacists and neurologists that Indonesia currently does not need to conduct research on cannabis for neurological ailments, because drugs for epilepsy are considered sufficient in Indonesia and the possible negative effects of cannabis are still far greater than the beneficial effects.
- Public's demand for marijuana legalization in the medical field in Indonesia has resurfaced in the form of judicial review of Law Number 35 the Year 2009. Unfortunately, the application was rejected with the mandate to research to build stronger evidence.
- Medical Cannabis has been used to treat rare types of epilepsy (Epidiolex, with Cannabidiol/CBD) and muscular spasms (Sativex, containing nabiximols). It is currently being studied for tremors and pain (delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and CBD).

Literature Studies

We searched on Scopus and the Web of Science (WoS) with keywords: Cannabis, Medical Cannabis, Cannabis Neuro, based on the countries with the highest population (China, US, China, India, and Indonesia).
We found four papers that were included in this study that is written by Indonesian researcher
The number of Medical Cannabis research is lower than other countries

Conclusions

- Several issues for conducting medical Cannabis research, particularly in neuroscience, have been identified, including a lack of clear regulations (and funding) and expensive research prerequisites
- Government and research institutions should respond to these challenges intensely.

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