



# **EXPERIENCE OF USE OF CANNABIDIOL IN PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS**

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## **BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE**

- Cannabidiol (CBD) is an orphan medicine recently approved in Europe for the treatment of Dravet (DS) and Lennox-Gastaut syndromes (LGS) in combination with clobazam, and for tuberous sclerosis. However, there is growing evidence that other types of refractory epilepsy could be treated with this drug.
- Objective: To evaluate the use of CBD in a paediatric hospital, as well as its effectiveness and safety.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

- A retrospective observational study including all patients treated with CBD in our paediatric hospital (January 2017-September 2021) was carried out.
- Variables collected from electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing program were: age, sex, weight, concomitant antiepileptic drugs (AEDs), length of treatment, initial and maintenance dose, reasons for discontinuation and adverse events (AEs) related to CBD. Efficacy was assed following two criteria: reduction in number of seizures and opinion of caregivers.



### Median initial dose: 3mg/kg/d (1-12)

West syndrome 6.5% (n=2) Rett syndrome 3.1% (n=1) Tuberous sclerosis 3.1% (n=1) with clobazam

#### **EFFECTIVENESS RELATED TO CANNABIDIOL**

#### DISCONTINUATIONS

- 2 patients in the first two weeks number of seizures increased
- 8 patients with maintenance dose: number of seizures not reduced

**Twenty-one patients continue on CBD:** 

- 45.2%: number of seizures was significantly reduced and caregiver's appreciation of effectiveness was good
- 22.5%: responded partially

Median length of treatment was 7 months Twenty-nine patients reached a maintenance dose Median maintenance dose: 15mg/kg/d (5-44)

#### **ADVERSE EFFECTS RELATED TO CANNABIDIOL**

Irritability	Diarrhoea	Anorexia
24.4% (n=7)	13.79% (n=4)	10.34% (n=3)

Other AEs described were: Drooling 6.9% (n=2), somnolence (n=2); rash 3.4% (n=1), hepatobiliary disorders (n=1) and asthenia (n=1).

### CONCLUSIONS

In our hospital, CBD was prescribed in numerous indications due to the lack of therapeutic alternatives in some seizuresrefractory patients. It has been an effective option in most of our patients and its security profile is consistent with clinical trials.