

Access to Medicinal Cannabis

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INTRODUCTION

Cannabis has a long history of medicinal use. Medical cannabis is administered using a variety of methods for several indications. The cultivation, prescribing and dispensing of medicinal cannabis should be highly regulated due to recreational abuse.

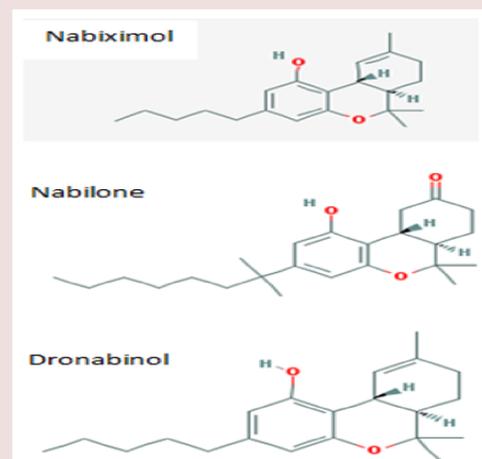
AIMS

- Compare regulations in different countries regarding the prescribing and dispensing of medicinal cannabis
- Compare regulations in different countries with regards to the manufacture of the cannabis plant.
- Review the requirements to cultivate the cannabis plant

METHOD

A questionnaire was developed to obtain more information on the prescribing, dispensing and manufacture of medicinal cannabis. The questionnaire was distributed via email to the European Economic Area competent authorities. The situation with regards to access of medicinal cannabis in the United States, Canada, Australia and Israel was reviewed. The main three cannabinoids authorised in the above countries were researched.

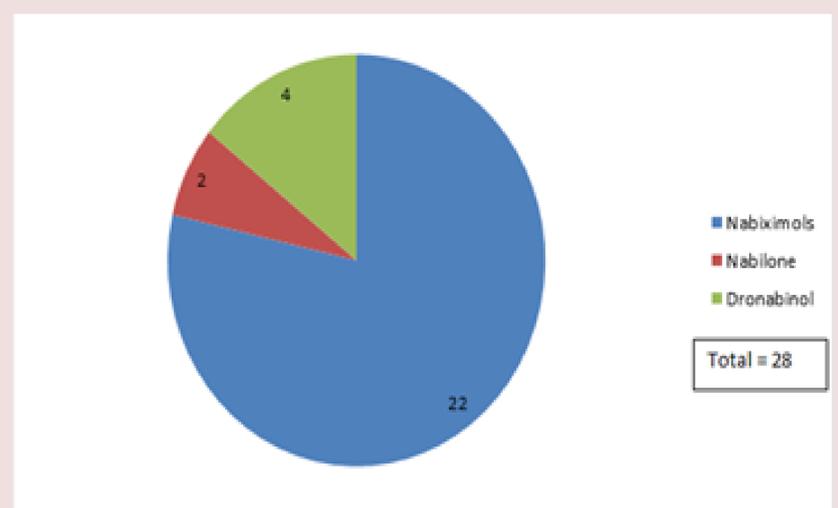
Figure 1: the three main cannabinoids



RESULTS

In the United States, 30 states have approved the use of medicinal cannabis. In the United States, physicians in a number of states are required to obtain specific authorisation prior to prescribing cannabis-based products. Canada, Australia and Israel have medicinal cannabis approved. In the EU, the use of nabiximols is approved in 23 countries. In the EU, cannabis-based products are prescribed by doctors. The cannabis plant is cultivated indoors under controlled conditions.

Figure 2: Cannabinoid—based medicines in EEA countries (N=3)



CONCLUSION

There are differences in the regulations regarding the prescribing of medicinal cannabis products. The quality and safety of the medicinal cannabis products is ensured at the cultivation stage. Harmonization in medicinal cannabis regulations would lead to the possibility to assess impact of use particularly long-term use in larger patient populations

REFERENCES

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