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Autism spectrum disorders and medical Marijuana

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a collection of neurobehavioral and neurological dysfunctions characterized by the presence of persistent deficits in social interaction, social communication, as well as restricted social interests and repetitive behaviors. Despite the increasing prevalence, no drug has been developed for the treatment of the core symptoms of ASD. Marijuana is regulated as a schedule 1 substance, with no acceptable therapeutic use, by the federal government. However, 29 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico have comprehensive medical marijuana programs with an indication for a range of chronic illnesses. Among more than 100 cannabis compounds, cannabidiol (CBD) and Δ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) are the subjects of most studies. THC is the main psychoactive agent and demonstrates analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties. Cannabidiol can modulate the effects of THC and has neuroprotective, anticancer, anti-diabetic, antimicrobial and antipsychotic activities. The investigation was conducted to review the study and/or the potential use of marijuana or its components in the treatment of autism or autism-associated disorders.

Biography

Mariana Babayeva is an Associate Professor at Touro College of Pharmacy, New York. In addition to her role at Touro, she is also an Adjunct Professor at Rockefeller University and Visiting Scientist at Arnold and Marie Schwartz School of Pharmacy of LIU. She has over 14 years of experience in clinical practice. She is recognized for her expertise in the pharmacokinetics and the use of animal and organ models. She has conducted several international research projects. She has been published in peer-reviewed journals and serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute.

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