

## Cannabis May Lower Cancer Risk in Crohn's Disease

Adults hospitalized with Crohn's disease (CD) or ulcerative colitis (UC) who reported cannabis use had a lower frequency of colorectal cancer, parenteral nutrition, and anemia compared to nonusers, according to a retrospective analysis reported in the June issue of *Annals of Translational Medicine*.

The study included data from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample on 6,002 patients with CD (2,999 cannabis users) and 1,481 with UC (742 cannabis users) who were hospitalized between 2010 and 2014. In patients with CD, cannabis use was linked to a significantly lower prevalence of colorectal cancer (0.3% vs 1.2%,  $P<0.001$ ), need for parenteral nutrition (3.0% vs 4.7%,  $P=0.001$ ) and anemia (25.6% vs 30.1%,  $P<0.001$ ), but a significantly higher risk of active fistulizing

disease or intraabdominal abscess formation (8.6% vs 5.9%,  $P<0.001$ ), unspecified lower gastrointestinal (GI) hemorrhage (4.0% vs 2.7%,  $P=0.004$ ) and hypovolemia (1.2% vs 0.5%,  $P=0.004$ ).

Patients with UC who used cannabis had a significantly lower frequency of postoperative infections (<0.1% vs 3.4%,  $P=0.010$ ), but a higher

frequency of fluid and electrolyte disorders (45.1% vs 29.6%,  $P<0.001$ ) and hypovolemia (2.7% vs <0.1%). In both groups, cannabis use was linked to a significantly shorter length of hospital stay and reduced costs per stay ( $P<0.001$  for all comparisons).

In a second analysis of Nationwide Inpatient Sample data, researchers reported that CUD was linked to an increased likelihood of hospitalizations for CD or UC, after controlling for demographics, psychiatric and medical comorbidities, and other substance use disorders.



**CT scan of patient with Crohn's disease in the fundus of the stomach.**

Desai R, Patel U, Goyal H, et al. In-hospital outcomes of inflammatory bowel disease in cannabis users: a nationwide propensity-matched analysis in the United States. *Ann Transl Med*. 2019;7(12):252.

Patel RS, Goyal H, Satodiya R, Tankersley WE. Relationship of cannabis use disorder and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS): an analysis of 6.8 million hospitalizations in the United States. *Subst Use Misuse*. 2019 Oct 1:1-10. doi: 10.1080/10826084.2019.1664591.