

Oral presentation

Cannabis tourism destinations: Health risk for vulnerable travellers with current or pre-existing mental disorders

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest or financial interest or derive benefit arising from direct applications of their presentation.

Abstract

According to the World Health Organization, mental health issues are among the leading causes of travelers' ill health worldwide, and a psychiatric emergency is one of the most common medical reasons for air evacuation. However, little international attention is paid to the risks of substance use, including cannabis use among vulnerable travellers with current or pre-existing mental disorders, during travel.

In recent years, the use of cannabis has garnered more attention with changes in global drug policy. More countries have decriminalized and legalized cannabis, and have become cannabis tourism destinations. Tourists and backpackers use cannabis products during trips abroad, and the cannabis tourism market is growing worldwide.

As more people with current and pre-existing mental disorders and dual-diagnosis travel abroad, it is important to point out the risks that these vulnerable travelers may face as a result of it.

It is important for medicine experts, health professionals and policymakers, as well as for patients with current or pre-existing mental health disorders who travel abroad and their family members, to be aware of vulnerability to cannabis and the risks associated with using cannabis and other psychoactive substances abroad.

In this presentation we want to share our perspective on the health risk for vulnerable travellers with current or pre-existing mental disorders in cannabis tourism destinations worldwide and to emphasize the dangers associated with cannabis use before, during, and after travel.