Blunting Cannabis Use Disorder by Targeting the Endocannabinoid System!



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Targets of Tx

- Withdrawal:
 - Anxiety
 - Insomnia
- Reduced use
- Craving
- Relapse in those who become abstinent

Approaches Tested

- CB1R agonists: THC, Nabilone, Nabiximols
- Cannabidiol
- CB1R antagonists
- Opioid Antagonists
- Antidepressants: SSRIs, buproprion, nefazodorie,
 lithium, atomoxetine, venlafaxine

- Buspirone
- Clonidine, N-acetylcysteine
- Varencline Gabapentin, topiramate, baclofen
 - Depakote, entacapone, lofexidine
 - Quetiapine
 - Zolpidem + Nabilone
 - Guafacine
 - rTMS

Effects of Chronic Cannabis Exposure on CB1R availability



Reduced (~15%) CB1R Availability in Cannabis Dependence

D'Souza et al., Biological Psychiatry (2016)

Normalization of CB1 Receptor Availability Over Time with Abstinence from Cannabis



Targeting the Endocannabinoid System



FAAH-Is

- Not associated with withdrawal/tolerance/dependence?
- Not psychoactive?
- Not rewarding?
- Do not have negative interactions with THC
- Acute administration of both FAAH and MAGL inhibitors significantly attenuated antagonistprecipitated and THC-withdrawal signs
- Subchronic exposure to AEA is associated with an attenuated withdrawal syndrome
- Individuals carrying a genetic variation of FAAH that causes reduced enzyme expression and activity are less susceptible to develop CUD.

PF-04457845 / JZP150







www.elsevier.com/locate/pain

An efficient randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial with the irreversible fatty acid amide hydrolase-1 inhibitor PF-04457845, which modulates endocannabinoids but fails to induce effective analgesia in patients with pain due to osteoarthritis of the knee

John P. Huggins *, Trevor S. Smart, Stephen Langman, Louise Taylor, Tim Young



- PF-04457845 was well tolerated in osteoarthritis patients,
- No evidence of cannabinoid-type adverse events,
- Did not reduce OA pain

Hypothesis

• PF-04457845 will attenuate cannabis withdrawal.

• PF-04457845 will attenuate cannabis use.



Sample

- Males 18-55 years
- Individuals with a DSM-IV-TR diagnosis of cannabis dependence
- Currently using ≥ 30 joints/month or equivalent over the past 6 months: TLFB
- Regular cannabis use ≥ 2 years
- Lifetime exposure \geq 1000 times
- Positive urine screen for cannabinoids (THC-COOH) at screening and admission
- History of one or more periods of cannabis abstinence lasting ≥ 3 days associated with cannabis withdrawal symptoms
- Primary drug of abuse cannabis
- No other serious mental illness

Cellphone Assisted Remote Observation of Medication Adherence (CAROMA)

- 5 times per week
- participants contacted via video,
- hold the pill up to the camera,
- show the medication on the tongue
- hold the camera up to his mouth for a "mouth check" after swallowing
- Subjects paid for every CAROMA visit.
- Failure to make the CAROMA visit resulted in nonpayment and an assumption of nonadherence



Results



		Table 1 Demographics [*]		
			Placebo (n=24)	PF-04457845 (n=46)
Age in years			27.5 (8.7)	28.5 (8.5)
Education in years			12.7 (2.0)	12.8 (1.5)
Alcohol consumptior	n (drink	xs/day)	0.7 (0.7)	0.64 (1.0)
Tobacco consumptio	n (ciga	rettes/day)	1.5 (2.7)	2.4 (3.0)
Desire to quit using		None	3 (12.5%)	1 (2.2%)
	LOW	Considering (but not important)	5 (20.8%)	16 (34.8%)
cannabis	Lich	Definitely	12 (50.0%)	23 (50.0%)
cannabis	Fign	Have to	4 (16.7%)	6 (13.0%)
Cannabis at baseline	(joints	/day)	<mark>3.8 (3.1)</mark>	3.6 (5.2)
Urinary THC-COOH L	evel at	baseline (ng/dl)	536.3 (628.4)	550.7 (984.5)
Days since last use			1.1 (1.0)	0.9 (1.4)
Age of first use			14.9 (5.3)	15.0 (2.8)
*Data are means (SD) or nu	mbers N for all between 61 and 70		•

Plasma PF-04457845 Levels

Plasma Anandamide (AEA) Levels



Cannabis Withdrawal (Inpatient)



PF-04457845



	Effect of Drug on Feeli	ng States (Visual Analog	g Scale) During Acute W	'ithdrawal (Inpatient)	
Measure	Effect	Placebo	PF-04457845	Effect (Difference)	<i>p</i> -value
	Day 0	25.02 (15.9 to 39.37)	13.61 (9.01 to 20.56)	11.41 (-1.25 to 24.07)	<mark>0.052</mark>
	Day 1	13.61 (8.18 to 22.63)	14.2 (9.78 to 20.62)	-0.59 (-9.31 to 8.12)	ns
Anxious	Day 2	13.79 (6.89 to 27.6)	13.29 (9.1 to 19.4)	0.5 (-10.31 to 11.31)	ns
	Day 3	12.21 (6.2 to 24.07)	12.1 (8.34 to 17.58)	0.11 (-9.33 to 9.55)	ns
	Day 4	22.06 (12.09 to 40.26)	14.32 (9.37 to 21.88)	7.75 (-6.85 to 22.34)	ns
	Day 0	26.63 (17.58 to 40.34)	13.11 (9.13 to 18.84)	13.52 (1.48 to 25.55)	<mark>0.012</mark>
	Day 1	29.64 (19.29 to 45.54)	14.14 (9.67 to 20.67)	15.5 (1.69 to 29.32)	<mark>0.011</mark>
rritable	Day 2	23.65 (16.29 to 34.32)	18.49 (12.38 to 27.61)	5.16 (-6.35 to 16.67)	ns
_	Day 3	20.51 (13.32 to 31.59)	17.43 (12.65 to 24)	3.09 (-7.38 to 13.55)	ns
	Day 4	18.7 (12.06 to 29.01)	15.04 (10.13 to 22.34)	3.66 (-6.48 to 13.8)	ns

Daily Cannabis Use At End of Treatment



Daily Cannabis Use Over Time



Urinary THC-COOH Levels (End of Treatment)



Urinary THC-COOH Levels Over Time



Correlations between self reported use and urine THC-COOH

Week #	rho	р	n
2	0.364	=0.007	53
3	0.568	<0.001	50
4	0.54	<0.001	55

Sleep

In the PF-04457845 group, better self-reported:

- Overall sleep and
- Deep sleep

Time in Stage N3 (Deep) Sleep



Incidence of Adverse Ever	nts during Treatm	ent Phase (4 weeks)
	PF-04457845	Placebo
	(n=46)	(n=24)
Number	20	11
Percentage	43	46

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No SAEs

Safety

- Clinical laboratory tests for safety completed at screening, during inpatient stay, at all weekly appointments during treatment, and during follow up phase
- Subjects monitored by inpatient and outpatient

	Placebo (n=24)	PF-04457845 (n=46)
Mild AEs	26	46
Moderate AEs	7	17
Serious AEs	0	0
Total	33	63

• DSMB review Q6 months: no recommendations

Summary

- 95% visually confirmed adherence;
- PF-04457845 increases plasma eCBs;
- PF-04457845 reduced peak CB withdrawal symptoms and feeling states associated with withdrawal (depression, anxiety, irritability);
- PF-04457845 reduced daily CB consumption and urinary THC-COOH;
- Disruptions in stage N3 (deep sleep) during cannabis withdrawal attenuated by PF-04457845.
- PF-04457845 safe and well-tolerated
- modulation of the eCB system by increasing levels of the endogenous agonist might be preferable to CB1R activation with direct agonists.

Limitations

- Inpatient
- Forced abstinence
- No requirement for treatment seeking
- Only men
- No adjunctive therapy
- Limited treatment duration

A Phase 2B, 8-Week, Randomized, Double-Blind,

Placebo-Controlled, Parallel Group Study to Evaluate

the Efficacy, Safety and Tolerability of the Fatty Acid

Amide Hydrolase (FAAH) Inhibitor PF-04457845 in

Adults with DSM-5 Current Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD)

Study Design:

Tx Study	Scree	ening			1	ſreatme	nt Phase	e				Follo	ow Up P	hase	
Week	-1	-2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Day	-14	-7	1	8	15	22	29	36	43	50	57	64	71	78	85
virtual	x x			x		x		x		x		x	x	x	
in-person		х	x		x		x		x		x				x

Randomization

Study Population

- Diagnosed with Moderate to Severe DSM-5 Cannabis Use Disorder
- Treatment seeking
- 70% male 30% female
- Randomize 237 participants \rightarrow 178 completers study-wide
- Per site = 60 participants randomized \rightarrow 45 completers

Primary Endpoints and Outcome Measure

- Primary Objective: To determine whether PF-04457845 is superior to placebo in reducing selfreported frequency of cannabis use
- **Primary Endpoint:** Change from baseline in the average **number of times per day** of self-reported consumption of cannabis or a cannabis containing product
- Co-Primary: Change from baseline in urinary THC-COOH levels

• Outcome: Differences between groups in the change from baseline use (2 weeks prior to randomization) in the average number of times per day of self-reported consumption of cannabis or a cannabis containing product and urinary TH-COOH levels

Quantifying Marijuana Use:

Defining an occasion of use:

	Joint, blunt,	is lit and used
	roach, etc.	
Every	Bong	is prepared for use, and used
time a	Bowl	is packed and used
	Vapepen	is puffed
	Edible	is consumed

Measuring quantity:



An occasion of cannabis use

	Joint, blunt, roach, etc.	is lit and used
	Bong	is prepared for use, and used
Every time a	Bowl	is packed and used
	Vapepen	is puffed
	Edible	is consumed

Objective/s	Instrument/s	Endpoint/s	Outcome/s
	Self-report	% of participants who experience at least 1 treatment-emergent adverse event.	% who self-reported AEs or exhibited clinically significant changes during 1) 8-week
Is PF-04457845 safe and tolerable ?	Laboratory parameters	% of participants who meet the markedly abnormal criteria for safety laboratory tests at least once post-dose.	treatment phase (from the first dose until the last dose), and 2) the 4-week follow up phase (to assess any lingering
	BP, HR	% of participants who meet the markedly abnormal criteria for vital sign measurements at least once post-dose.	post treatment safety issues)
Is PF-04457845 superior to placebo in reducing cannabis use?	TLFB	Δ in amount (grams) used	
Is PF-04457845 superior to placebo in reducing the problems associated with cannabis use?	Psychiatric Research Interview for Substance and Mental Disorders (PRISM)	Δ in total score	Change from baseline (2
Is PF-04457845 superior to placebo in reducing sleep disturbances?	Actigraphy	Δ in duration of sleep latency, total sleep, wake after sleep onset, sleep efficiency, and ambient light	weeks prior to randomization until the last dose
Is PF-04457845 superior to placebo in improving quality of life?	Quality of Life Scale Short Form	Δ in total and subscale scores	

e-checkup



Welcome to the Marijuana *eCHECKUP TO GO* at Yale University School of Medicine



https://interwork.adsu.edu/echeckup/usa/mj/adult/index.php?id=yale-nida

San Diego State University Research Foundation

e-checkup/e-Toke

None selected

eCHECKUP TO GO Input Summary

User ID:	Episode:	Date Completed: 4:00 pm, December 31, 1969
Demographic Information	n	
Sex:	Age:	Weight: pounds
bout Your Marijuana Us	e	
At what age did you first u	ise marijuana?	
How long has it been since	e you last used marijuana in any	v form? 0 months, 0 weeks, 0 days 0 hours
How many weeks in a typi	ical month do you smoke at leas	st once? weeks
For the past month, please did use marijuana:	e describe your marijuana use d	luring a TYPICAL WEEK in which you
A. Please place a check ma the influence of marijuana	ark next to the time(s) of day yo a.	u smoked marijuana or were under
Morning (6am Afternoon (12pn Evening (6pm Late Night(12ar B. Please enter the numbe	-12pm) 	e influence of marijuana each day.
How much money would y a TYPICAL WEEK?	you estimate you spend on mari	ijuana in \$
How many days in the last using marijuana?	t month did you drive within 5 h	nours of days
How many days in the last had used marijuana within	t month did you ride with a driv n 5 hours prior to driving?	er who days
On the occasions when you drink alcohol?	u use marijuana, how often do y	you also

Marijuana eCHECKUP TO GO Input Summary

During a TYPICAL week, how many HO	JRS do you estimate yo	u spend:	
	In Total	Under the influe	ence
Studying			
In Class			
Exercising/Playing Sports			
Partying/Socializing			
ON AVERAGE, how many hours do you sl	eep a night?		Hours
How much is your average monthly cell p	hone bill?		\$
How much is your monthly car payment?			s
How much is your monthly rent or house	payment?		s
After expenses, rent, and bills, how much MONTH?	"spending money" do	you have in a TYPICAL	\$

My Peers

What percent of Americans in your age group () use marijuana at least once in a typical % month?

%

- \$

What percent of Americans in your age group () who use marijuana at least once in a typical month, use less frequently than you do?

Alcohol & Tobacco

In a TYPICAL WEEK how many standard drinks containing alcohol do you consume?

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

How much money would you estimate you spend on alcohol in a TYPICAL WEEK?

During the PAST MONTH, how many CIGARETTES did you smoke on a TYPICAL DAY?

If you're a CIGARETTE smoker, for how many years have you smoked regularly?

How much money would you estimate you TYPICALLY spend on each PACK of cigarettes?

The "Not-So-Good" Things About Marijuana

How would you like to spend your time?

Changes?

How important is it to you to make any change in your personal use of marijuana? (Scale of 1-10)

How confident are you that you are able to make any change in your personal use of marijuana? (Scale of 1-10)

e-Checkup/e-Toke

Output Summary

- Your personal use profile
- The cost to you
- Potential risks
- How your use compares to others
- Impact of marijuana use on lifestyle and choices
- Goals and Aspirations
- Making a change?

e-checkup e-Toke



30

25

10

0

Morning Afternoon Evening Late Night

Number of 20 days used in a typical month 15 Yale University School of Medicine UID: 196933657447 Page 1 of 8

Yale University School of Medicine	UID: 196933657447	The Cost to You	Spend your money on what you c	hoose:
Your pattern of use	How do you spend your time?	Per YEAR You spend about \$9852.00 per year on marijuana, alcohol and/or cigarettes, which means you spend about 410.5% of your	By way of comparison, the amount of mon- on marijuana, alcohol, and/or cigarettes wo to:	ey you spen uld be enou
In a TYPICAL MONTH:	The graph below shows you what percent of your waking hours you spend engaged in the activities listed. In a	spending money on marijuana, alcohol and/or cigarettes.	Buy about 7637 music downloads	
You use marijuana on 30 days. You drink 39 standard alcoholic drinks. You smoke 301 cigarettes. During the 5 years you have been smoking, you have	TYPICAL MONTH, you spend: - 34% of your time working - 8% of your time exercising - 13% of your time socializing/partying	You spend about \$5200.00 (216.7%) on marijuan a	Buy 98.5 movie tickets (avg. \$15 per ticket)	97 7
smoked about 18060 cigarettes.	How You Spend Your Time	You spend about \$1040.00 (43.3%) on alcohol	Go out to dinner 98.5 times (avg. \$60 for 2 people)	
Counselors working with people who use marijuana more than one time during the day find they have more social and physical problems than those who	Percent of ²⁵	You spend about \$3612.00 (150.5%) on cigarettes	Pay your cable bill for 98.5 months (avg. \$80 per month)	<u> </u>
only use in the evenings. It is also common to discover that people who use at multiple times are also more likely to be smoking to avoid problems	per month 20 15 10		Pay your cell phone bills for 98.5 months	
Incy reel unable to contront.	5 Studying Exercising Socializing		Pay 49.3 of your car payments	A
You indicated that you drink about 39 alcoholic drinks in a typical month.	Time spent under the influence		Pay for housing for 12.3 months	
Using marijuana in addition to alcohol can put you at increased risk. The effects of some drugs become	In a TYPICAL MONTH: You spend 73.1 hours under the influence of			
exponentially greater when taken together. In addition, the physical tolerance that one drug	marijuana. That's 14% of your waking hours.			
produces can sometimes affect another drug, which can lead to dependence on multiple substances.	You are under the influence of marijuana 25%			
Your Pattern of Use	You are under the influence of marijuana 20%			

You are under the influence of marijuana 100% of the time you are socializing/partying

sports

Quit Date

- Participant must be willing to make an attempt to quit during the first week after randomization, at least two days after taking study medication.
 - A successful quit attempt during the first week= \$50 compensation
- Participant completes a Willingness to Attempt to Quit questionnaire at the screen 1 visit; questionnaire is reviewed and signed during screen 2 visit.

COMMITMENT TO ATTEMPT QUITTING MARIJUANA

1. Identify your personal reasons for quitting. For some, those reasons are to feel better, to live longer, to set a good example for their children, to cut their risk of heart attack or to save money. Of all the reasons to quit, yours matter most.

My main reasons for quitting are:

2. Think of people, places and things that you associate with using. Identify ways to change your routine to make using more difficult, impossible or unnecessary. For example, ride your bike, go to the movies, walk the dog, try a new recipe, visit the dentist for a cleaning, get a manicure, start a garden, write a love letter . . .

My new routines and behaviors:

3. What sets off cravings? List as many as you can think of, such as drinking alcohol or coffee, being around other smokers or working under pressure. Plan ways to avoid these triggers and quell urges.

My strategies for overcoming cravings include:

4. Where can you find support and encouragement? Think of family members, friends and co-workers who are willing to help you if you need them to.

My support network includes:

5. You should set a quit date that falls within the first week of the treatment phase. For you the first week of treatment will begins on / / and ends on / / If you use mostly when relaxing or socializing, pick a weekday. If you smoke mostly at work, pick a day on a weekend or during a vacation. Once you set the date, try and share this with those who support you, and stick to it.						
I agree that I will attempt to quit using cannabis or cannabis based products during the first week of the treatment phase of the study, and if successful I could receive \$50. My quit date is: / /						
Committed to and signed by:on //						
n the presence of: on / /						

Randomization

• 1:1

- Stratified by site and degree of use
 - Moderate CUD = 4-7 of 11 symptoms
 - Severe CUD = 8-11 of 11 symptoms

CAROMA + (Cellphone Assisted Remote Observation of Medication Adherence)

- HIPAA Compliant process
- Participants are given cell phones for the duration of the treatment phase of the study to collect the following ...
- 1) 5 days per week
- 2) Visual confirmation of medication adherence
- 2) Ask if Any Adverse Events
- 3) Collect Previous Day Marijuana Use (Yesterday's Use)

Yesterday's	Did you	If marijuana was used yesterday, complete the following:					
Date	use MJ?	time	# of Uses	Method Used	Quantity	Cost	
// (MM/DD/YY)		0:00-5:59					
	□ YES	6:00-11:59					
		12:00-17:59					
		18:00-23:59					

4) Collect Information on Participant's Sleep for Previous Night



Urinary THC-COOH

• Onsite Quick Dip performed at every weekly visit

• Quantification of THC-COOH by Columbia Core Biomarker Lab

Wrist Actigraphy – Proxy Measure of Sleep

Wrist actigraph [wgt3x-bt Monitor (Actigraphcorp[®])]

Measures 1) arm accelerations and hence is a proxy for activity and 2) ambient light (to assist in determining sleep onset/wake times).

Tamper-proof and water-resistant, and will be worn ~24-hrs/day during the course of the study (removed only for swimming, bathing, and other fully submerged activities).

Data uploaded and device charged once weekly.





wgt3x-bt Monitor (Actigraphcorp®)

Safety

- Self-report
- Clinician queried
- Lab tests
- AE reporting



Cannabis Use Characteristics						
	FAAH-I	Placebo				
	N = 116	N= 114				
Average Number of Occasions of MJ Use per Day in Past Month	3.96 (2.96)	4.11 (3.59)				
Average Total Number of MJ Using Days in Past Month	28.66 (2.76)	28.41 (2.99)				
Average Age of First Use of MJ	15.26 (3.23)	16.00 (3.65)				

Change in Baseline-adjusted Cr-Corrected Urinary THC-COOH Levels (log-transformed)



Pr > F

0.1881

Change in Average Daily Occasions of Cannabis Use by Week (CAROMA) (raw data)



Marijuana Problems Scale



Summary

- Co-Primary:
 - No difference in daily occasions of use.
 - No difference in creatinine corrected THC-COOH.
- Secondary:
 - Reduction in anxiety
 - Safe and well-tolerated.
 - No significant differences in problems, withdrawal, craving
 - No difference on actigraphy

Contrasting Design, Sample and Results

Single Site trial

- Nontreatment seekers
- Forced confirmed inpatient withdrawal and abstinence
- Clear assay to measure withdrawal
- Clear assay to measure relapse

Multicenter Trial

- Treatment seekers
- Voluntary abstinence
- Ecological validity

• FAAH-I did not reduce withdrawal

- FAAH-I reduced withdrawal
- FAAH-I reduced self-reported and objective measure of cannabis use

 FAAH-I reduced objective mesure of use but not selfreported use