CBD For Glaucoma Treatment

By Hemp Genix
1 – What Is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is an eyeball condition that can result in optical nerve damage, as well as blindness. The risk of each of these is heightened considerably without treatment. There are as many as 60 million people in the world currently suffering from glaucoma. It is easily among the most common causes of blindness, and the damage is, unfortunately, permanent in nature.

Medicine has apparently advanced quite a lot over the last few decades, however, resulting in some treatments and procedures that can reduce the likelihood of glaucoma-caused blindness by as much as 50 percent. There are many limitations still present, however. Medical marijuana is among the most common forms of glaucoma medication, but it’s not always widely available. That said, is it worth it to seek out that particular treatment?

There are two types of glaucoma, which each lead to different symptoms:

**Primary open-angle glaucoma [most common]:**
- Gradual loss of peripheral vision, usually in both eyes
- **Tunnel vision** in the advanced stages

**Acute angle-closure glaucoma:**
- Eye pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Sudden onset of visual disturbance
- Blurred vision
- Circles(glows) around lights
- Reddening of the eye

Since many people **show no signs** of glaucoma until damage has already resulted, it is important to regularly attend appointments with an eye care professional in order to be properly screened.
CBD For Glaucoma Treatment

Just as with any treatment, the effectiveness of medical marijuana has been honed over time. At present, the benefits far outweigh the risks. The body has an endocannabinoid system that can help stave off the disease’s effects. Still, the question remains as to whether there are other options worth exploring. It’s also interesting to look into what else CBD and THC could potentially help with.

Cannabidiol or CBD is the major phytocannabinoid that fits into this category. Not only has CBD been used successfully to treat a range of health problems, it doesn’t activate the cannabinoid receptors like THC which likely explains its lack of psychotropic activity.

Likewise, ∆9-THCV, Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabivarin; CBG, cannabigerol; CBC, cannabichromene; CBDA, cannabidiolic acid; ∆9-THCA, Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinolic acid; and CBDV, cannabidivarin, are phytocannabinoids that also lack psychoactive activity but are also proving to be very useful in treating a variety of conditions.

2 – What Are The Exact Causes Of Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a neurodegenerative condition, with links to other conditions like Alzheimer’s. About a quarter of Alzheimer’s patients also develop glaucoma, with the latter being a precursor to the former. There’s no consensus on what causes Alzheimer’s to develop, however.

3 – How Can Glaucoma Be Treated?

Stress on the eyeball known as intraocular pressure is the first sign of glaucoma, so the first line of defense is in keeping it to a minimum. In doing so, blurred vision and blindness can be held off substantially. Treatments can range from the mere application of special eye drops to full on surgery.

4 – Cannabis Based Treatments
Cannabinoids have shown great use as an intraocular pressure reducer. Cannabis ingestion lowers the pressure by as much as 30 percent. Even so, many ophthalmologists are hesitant to recommend medical marijuana usage since cannabis has also been shown to cause instability of the intraocular pressure, the byproduct of which could potentially lead to loss of vision. Marijuana only has short-term effects, and the symptoms of glaucoma require treatment around the clock.

CBD & THC For Glaucoma Treatment

If cannabis were taken up as the primary form of treatment, it would have to be ingested every 3 to 4 hours, which is far more than the recommended dosage in most medical applications. The potential side effects are deemed too risky in many circumstances. Marijuana is widely considered a safe drug in the grand scheme, but the concerns and stigmas surrounding it are firmly rooted enough for the debate to rage on and on. Breakthroughs in our understanding of the medical applications of cannabis are occurring all the time, however, meaning a consensus is sure to arrive in time.

2 scientific studies:

- **Neuroprotective effect of (-)Delta9-THC and CBD in N-methyl-D-aspartate-induced retinal neurotoxicity**
- **Effect of sublingual application of cannabinoids on intraocular pressure**
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