

Priorities for Medical Marijuana Research from the Perspective of Physicians, Dispensary Owners/Staff, and Patients: A Survey Study

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

medical marijuana

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

North America - USA

Why was it conducted at all?

Despite its increased use, current research on medical marijuana (MM) is limited. There is a need for more substantial evidence on MM and its effects on health to provide stakeholders (e.g., policy makers, physicians, and patients) with the information they need to make informed decisions regarding its use. With the apparent knowledge gaps among those who recommend or use MM, it is important to investigate the areas most in need for research and to remain engaged with the various stakeholders in the cannabis research agenda setting.

What was the objective?

to determine the priorities for medical marijuana research from the perspective of multiple stakeholders including patients, clinicians, and industry representative

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 9 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

2 days

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

survey

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: 22-item questionnaire was developed, total of 42 research topics under 5 broad categories of MM research were listed for participants to rate their importance

Which stakeholders took part?

46 participants: 56.5% medical marijuana qualified physicians, 30.5% other physicians or clinicians, 21.7% medical marijuana patients, 17.4% were owners/ business persons in the marijuana industry, 10.9% dispensary staff, 10.9% staff in a medical clinic.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were recruited using convenience sampling. The project team distributed an anonymous survey at the American Medical Marijuana Physicians Association annual meeting, conference, and tradeshow held in Orlando, FL, USA, on October 4, 2019, to October 5, 2019.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.