

Cannabis: Adverse Allergic, Immunologic, & Respiratory Correlates

William S. Silvers, M.D.¹, Ajay Nayak, PhD.²

¹University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO; ²Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA.

Reports of adverse allergic reactions to *Cannabis sativa* have been emerging in the last decade. More recently, the immunologic cross-reactivity and respiratory adverse reactions have also been recognized, particularly in states with increased access to marijuana for medicinal and recreational use.

Currently, the circumstances under which sensitization to *Cannabis* occurs can be diverse but not uniform and general understanding is lacking. Further, symptomatic users present diverse symptoms including rhinitis, exacerbation of underlying asthma, contact dermatitis, urticaria, angioedema and anaphylaxis (rarely). Although atopic individuals are at risk of developing allergic reaction to *Cannabis*, there have been reports of previously non-atopic individuals developing allergic reactions to *Cannabis*. In Europe, *Can s 3* (a major allergens of *Cannabis sativa*) possibly cross-sensitization towards other ns-LTPs (non-specific lipid transfer proteins) from plant food sources. However, *Can s 3* has not been validated as an allergen in North American cohorts.

Finally, *Cannabis* allergies have been reported in occupational settings. Although direct exposure to plant material over extended durations could be driver of occupational allergies to *Cannabis*, the issue is not widespread and specific allergens remain unknown.

We will review the current understanding of allergic, immunologic, and respiratory adverse reactions with case presentations and epidemiologic updates, Given this is a growing public health concern and new challenges are constantly evolving, it is essential to take cognizance of health issues related Cannabis exposures.

References:

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