



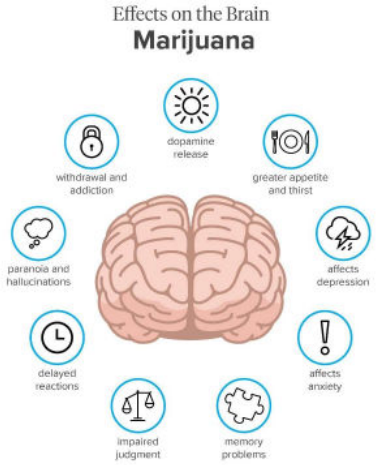
TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL (THC)

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Thank you Missah! In this lesson, we will explore what is Tetrahydrocannabinol or THC. We will see its forms, effects, and the possible assessment and treatment in case of a THC overdose. Good Studying.

What is THC?

- Key psychoactive component of the marijuana plant
- Green, brown, or gray mix of leaves, stems, seeds and flowers
- Synthetic form looks like the natural form
- Causes psychosis
- Inhaled by smoking
- Ingested by mixing with foods like brownies



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Tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC in short, is one of the compounds found in the cannabis plant. It is also a key psychoactive compound found in this plant, and consuming it gives people a high. It is also responsible for most of the psychological effects that come with consuming marijuana.

In its natural form, THC can be a green, brown, or gray mixture of dried, shredded leaves, stems, seeds, or flowers of the hemp plant. It is believed to be a resin secreted by the glands of the marijuana plant, and are

typically found around the reproductive organs of this plant.

This natural form of THC has many street names such as Weed, bud, doobie, Mary Jane, pot, blunt, herb, hemp, grass, etc. It is usually smoked through a cigarette or pipe.

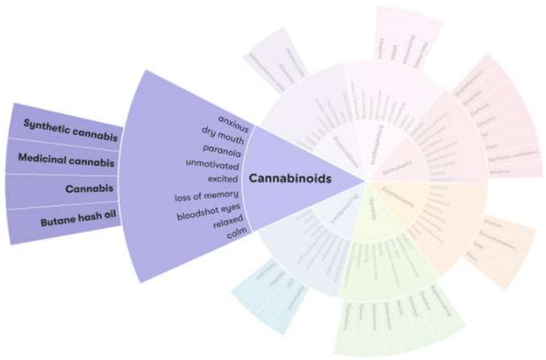
THC can also be made synthetically where it mimics the effects of the natural THC. It looks similar to the natural one, except that it can be more lethal, in some cases.

This synthetic THC is known to cause psychosis. It has many street names such as K2, spice, black mamba, Bombay blue, genie, zohai

Now, it is important to note that THC compounds are mixed in edible foods like brownies and coffees as well. So, it can not only be inhaled, but also ingested through these foods. The effect of THC on a person varies depending on the route of absorption and the quantity consumed.

Effect of THC on the Human Body

- THC attaches to the brain's receptors responsible for thinking, memory and pleasure
- Hallucinations and delusions are common
- Effect lasts for 2 hours. Kicks in 10 to 30 minutes after consumption
- Impaired short term memory decreased concentration, impaired balance, increased heart rate, elation, and anxiety



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So, how does THC work on the human body?

Essentially, THC attaches itself to the receptors in the brain associated with thinking, memory, pleasure, and sensory feelings. It also stimulates the brain cells to release dopamine, a hormone that causes euphoria, and gives people a high.

Since it impacts the hippocampus part of the brain where new memories are made, hallucinations and

delusions are fairly common among people who consume THC.

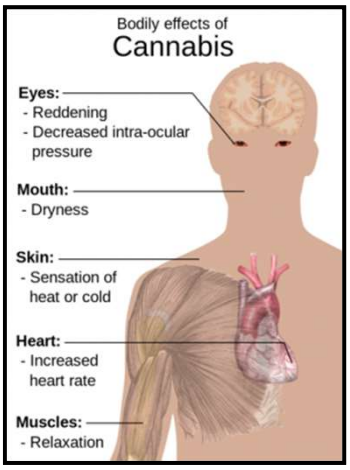
The effects last for about two hours, and kicks in within 10 to 30 minutes of consuming THC.

Some of its other effects in the body include,

- Impaired short-term memory
- Decreased concentration and attention
- Impaired balance and coordination
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Increased appetite
- Elation
- And Anxiety

Assessment and Treatment

- Stabilize the patient
- Call for emergency transportation
- Manage airways
- Provide oxygenation and ventilation
- Get details about the drug consumed
- Talk to friends and family members
- Look for the presence of drugs
- Patient may exhibit aggressive behavior
- Call law enforcement or poison control



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As a first step, check if the patient is stable. In most cases, there may be delusions, loss of memory, and other physical problems. Pay special attention to chest pains and respiratory problems.

If the patient is in a bad shape, call for emergency transportation right away. In the meantime, focus on managing the airway, and provide ventilation and oxygenation as needed.

If the patient is stable, get details about what was consumed. Also, check with others who are present with the patient, especially if the patient is not in a position

to give this information.

Also, look around for the presence of drugs and other paraphernalia associated with drug ingestion or inhalation.

If the patient exhibits aggressive behavior, natural sedatives may be required. Check with your local protocols to see if you can administer them. Otherwise, call the enforcement officials.

When you’re unsure of what the patient has consumed, reach out to the local poison control center for guidance.

With this, we have come to the end of this lesson, and in the next, Missah will take you through the effects of Opioids overdose.