

CANNABINOID HYPEREMESIS SYNDROME

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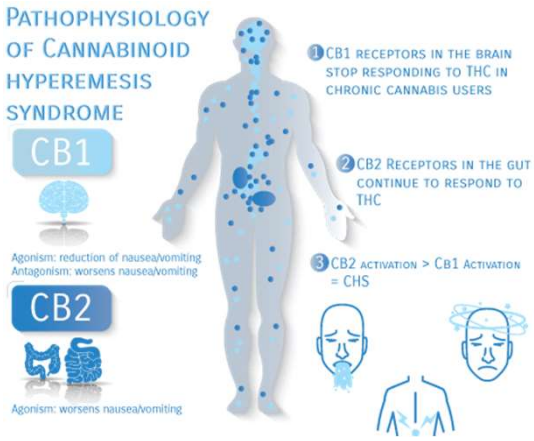
Thank you Justin! In this final lesson, we will discuss Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome, a condition that leads to repeated, and sometimes, even severe bouts of vomiting.

We will talk about what this condition is, its symptoms, and the possible treatment.

Good Studying.

What is Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome?

- CHS, in short
- Long-term use of marijuana
- Compounds bind with molecules in digestive tract
- Alters the behavior of these molecules
- Impacts the digestion process



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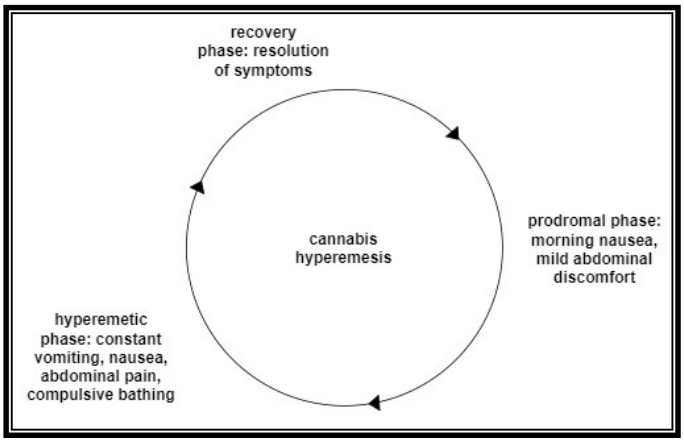
Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome, or CHS in short, occurs due to the long-term use of marijuana.

Essentially, what happens is that marijuana contains some substances like THC that bind to the brain's cells to give users a sense of euphoria. Likewise, some substances in marijuana combine with molecules in the digestive tract. In turn, this impacts the way food is digested and excreted from the system.

Over time, repeated exposure can change the basic functioning of these molecules, and this leads to CHS.

Symptoms of CHS

- Bouts of vomiting
- Prodromal Phase
  - ✓ Morning nausea
  - ✓ Abdominal pain
- Hyperemetic phase
  - ✓ Vomiting
  - ✓ Dehydration
  - ✓ Excess weight loss
  - ✓ Reduced intake of food
- Recovery phase



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So, what are the symptoms of CHS?

One of the most common and prominent symptoms of CHS is repeated bouts of vomiting.

Healthcare providers divide the symptoms into three phases, and they are, Prodromal phase, hyperemetic phase, and recovery phase.

Prodromal phase is the first phase, and it is characterized by early morning nausea and abdominal pain. However, most patients tend to ignore it. Some patients may even consume more marijuana to combat nausea. This phase

can last for months or years depending on the quantity and frequency of marijuana consumption.

The second phase is the hyperemetic phase. During this phase, vomiting is intense, and this is when patients reach out for help. Other symptoms in this phase include,

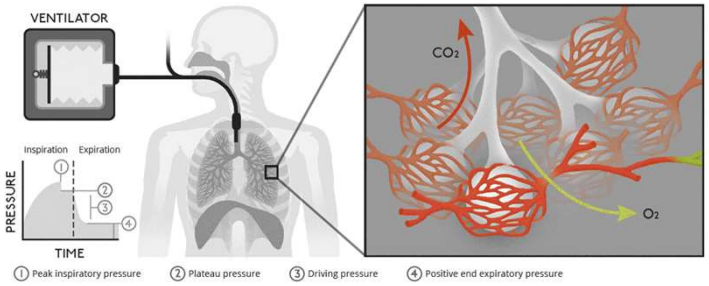
- Continuous nausea
- Constant bouts of vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Reduced food consumption
- Excess weight loss
- Dehydration

These symptoms continue until the patient stops marijuana consumption completely.

The third phase is the recovery phase that begins after a patient stops consuming marijuana. In this phase, the patient starts to eat food again and the metabolism slowly comes back to normal. This phase can last for many years, and will bring the body back to its normal health provided the patient doesn’t consume marijuana again.

Assessment and Treatment

- Stabilize the patient
- Call for emergency transportation
- Provide oxygenation and ventilation
- Inject IV fluids based on the local protocols



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During the assessment, follow your standard protocol, but recognize there is a high possibility for dehydration due to the constant bouts of vomiting. In addition, the patient may experience other complications including Muscle spasms, weaknesses, irregular heart rhythms, and even kidney failure.

So, stabilize the patient first, and provide oxygenation and ventilation as indicated. If the patient is severely dehydrated, providing IV fluids is essential. Administer if your training and local protocol permit. Otherwise, consider an ALS assist and/or transport the person right

away to the nearest hospital.

With this, we have come to the end of this lesson, and in the next, Justin will take you through the chapter review.