Accepted Manuscript

Topical Medical Cannabis (TMC): A new treatment for wound pain-Three cases of Pyoderma Gangrenosum

Vincent Maida, MD, MSc, BSc, CCFP (PC), FCFP, ABHPM, Jason Corban, MD CM, HBSc

PII: S0885-3924(17)30351-2

DOI: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2017.06.005

Reference: JPS 9497

To appear in: Journal of Pain and Symptom Management

Received Date: 22 January 2017 Revised Date: 26 February 2017

Accepted Date: 1 June 2017

Please cite this article as: Maida V, Corban J, Topical Medical Cannabis (TMC): A new treatment for wound pain-Three cases of Pyoderma Gangrenosum, *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2017.06.005.

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Clinical Notes

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A new treatment for wound pain-Three cases of Pyoderma Gangrenosum Vincent Maida MD, MSc, BSc, CCFP (PC), FCFP, ABHPM, Jason Corban MD CM, HBSc

ABSTRACT

Pain associated with integumentary wounds is highly prevalent yet it remains an area of significant unmet need within healthcare. Currently, systemically administered opioids are the mainstay of treatment. However, recent publications are casting opioids in a negative light given their high side effect profile, inhibition of wound healing, and association with accidental overdose, incidents that are frequently fatal. Thus, novel analgesic strategies for wound-related pain need to be investigated. The ideal methods of pain relief for wound patients are modalities that are topical, lack systemic side effects, non-invasive, self-administered, and display rapid onset of analgesia.

Extracts derived from the cannabis plant have been applied to wounds for thousands of years.

The discovery of the human endocannabinoid system and its dominant presence throughout the integumentary system provides a valid and logical scientific platform to consider the use of topical cannabinoids for wounds.

We are reporting a prospective case series of 3 patients with Pyoderma Gangrenosum (PG) that were treated with Topical Medical Cannabis (TMC) compounded in non-genetically modified organic sunflower oil. Clinically significant analgesia that was associated with reduced opioid utilization was noted in all 3 cases. TMC has the potential to improve pain management in patients suffering from wounds of all classes.

INTRODUCTION

Patients with wounds experience background (baseline) pain as well as breakthrough pain.^{1,2}
Wound-related breakthrough pain includes both volitional incident pain (procedural pain) and nonvolitional incident pain.^{1,4} Systemically administered opioids are the commonest treatment for moderate

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