

**LARGE
RANDOMIZED
CONTROLLED
TRIALS (RCT)¹**

Strongest evidence available.

SMALL RCTs^{2,3}

Placebo controlled studies are reproducible and reduce bias.

OBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH¹

Broken into descriptive and analytic studies, they show correlation, but correlation does not equal causation.

CASE REPORTS/ANIMAL DATA⁴


Limitations to animal and cell research may not translate to reliable information for humans.

EXPERT OPINION/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE^{1,2}

Drives theories that lead to research, but investigations with larger numbers are necessary to reliably extrapolate data to applicable populations.

CANNABINOID
CLINICAL.CO

EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO CANNABINOIDS

A pyramid diagram with five horizontal sections. From top to bottom, the sections are: 1. Large RCTs (lightest yellow), 2. Small RCTs (light yellow), 3. Observational Study (yellow), 4. Animal Studies (orange), and 5. Expert Opinion (dark orange). The pyramid is set against a dark blue background.

LARGE RCTs
represent the foundation of evidence for the FDA drug approval process.⁵

SMALL RCTs
help to screen experimental cannabinoid therapies before they are widely distributed in large RCTs.^{1,3}

An **OBSERVATIONAL STUDY** of cannabis use for medical symptoms showed a positive correlation, but conclusions limited due to insufficient control of confounding factors.⁶

ANIMAL STUDIES investigate proof of concept: Does cannabis improve health problems in animal models of disease?⁶

EXPERT OPINION has reported cannabis to relieve symptoms of an ailment in some individuals.⁵

TYPES OF EVIDENCE

Where cannabinoids currently are on the evidence pyramid

There are synthetic cannabinoids and plant-derived cannabinoids that have undergone the FDA-approval process.⁷⁻¹⁰

There are several synthetic cannabinoid and botanical drug products undergoing clinical trials in the FDA-approval process.¹¹⁻¹³

Sources of product for these studies vary and are sometimes unknown.

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There are hundreds of unregulated dispensary products that have not undergone the FDA-approval process.¹⁴

CANNABINOID AVAILABILITIES

CANNABINOID CLINICAL^{CO.}

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