

The effect of Sativex on neuropathic pain and spasticity in Spinal Cord Injury

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Introduction:

Neuropathic pain and spasticity after spinal cord injury (SCI) represent significant but still unresolved problems, which cause considerable suffering and reduced quality of life for the patients.

Treatment of neuropathic pain and spasticity is complicated and patients often receive incomplete relief from present available and recommended treatment.

Cannabinoids has shown efficacy on both neuropathic pain and spasticity in patients with SCI, but the studies have been too small to make a general conclusion for patients.



Aims:

To investigate the effect of Sativex (cannabinoid agonist given as an oral mucosal spray), on neuropathic pain and spasticity in patients with SCI.

Methods:

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover study.

We will include 30 patients with neuropathic pain and 30 patients with spasticity. Since many patients have dual symptoms, we expect to include 50 patients.

A numeric rating scale for pain intensity and spasticity (0-10 point) will be used to measure primary outcome.



Present status:

Due to recent changes by the Danish Health and Medicines Authority, it is presently illegal to drive when using Sativex, which impedes the inclusion of patients.



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