

VALIDATION OF THE ATOP FOR USE IN A CANNABIS DEPENDENT POPULATION

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Introduction and Aims: The Australian Treatment Outcomes Profile (ATOP) is a clinical tool for monitoring substance use, health, and wellbeing. It has been validated for other populations of drug users but has not been validated for cannabis-dependent treatment seekers.

Method: 128 cannabis-dependent individuals enrolled in an outpatient RCT testing the efficacy of a cannabis agonist (nabiximols) were administered the ATOP and a battery of other health and wellbeing questionnaires both by clinicians and by researchers at baseline and 4 weeks. Concurrent validity, interrater reliability and sensitivity to change were assessed.

Results: ATOP Psychological Health, Physical Health, and Quality of Life items showed moderate to strong agreement with almost all the comparison scales. The ATOP showed good to excellent interrater reliability for ATOP substance use items, employment, education, and childcare and fair to moderate interrater reliability for daily tobacco use, Psychological Health, Physical Health, and Quality of Life. Frequency of cannabis use was the only ATOP item that passed criteria for sensitivity to change, however low effect sizes for the other variables suggest that their failure to pass these criteria was due to lack of change in these variables rather than item insensitivity.

Discussions and Conclusions: The ATOP appears to be valid, reliable, and sensitive to changes in frequency of cannabis use for a cannabis population. Its widespread use in clinical setting appears justified.

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