

Identifying and Reproducing Common Home Methods of Creating Cannabis Extracts for Vaporisation.

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Introduction / Issues: There has been an increase in the use of electronic devices for vaporising cannabis products. Forms of cannabis that are vaporised include dry herb, extracts and cannabinoid containing e-liquids. These products can be produced by users at home using DIY methodology. Currently, there is a lack of scientific literature on the creation of DIY cannabis extracts.

Design and Methods: This project involved investigation and compilation of online sources (YouTube, Reddit, online forums) showcasing individuals' creating cannabis extracts for vaporisation. Common DIY methods were then replicated in the laboratory using commercially available medicinal cannabis products and materials which can be obtained by the general public from sources such as supermarkets, hardware stores and online vendors. Key components of prepared cannabis extracts (cannabinoids, terpenes and contaminants) were quantified in both vaporised and non-vaporised forms.

Key Findings: The DIY extraction methods identified varied in production methods but typically fell into three categories: solventless rosin press extraction; gas-solvent extraction; and various liquid-solvent extractions. Online cannabis extraction methods were successfully replicated and a number of variables which may affect the final composition of vaporisable cannabis products were identified.

Discussions and Conclusions: This project is the first of its kind examining and comparing the range of methods currently employed by the general public to generate cannabis extracts for vaporisation. Differences in cannabis extract preparation such as: solvent selection; temperature; and extraction time have an effect on the cannabinoid, terpene and contaminant levels in extracted products that are subsequently vaporised by users.

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