**Cannabis for Medical Purposes – from illegal substance to promising medication. The Israeli Experience.**

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33300 patients are treated now by cannabis in Israel. This is one of the highest ratios of treated patients to population size in the world.

• 40% of the patient are oncology patients.

• 30% are treated for intractable pains after conventional treatments failed for a period of one year at least.

• 2000 patients are treated for Post Trauma Syndrome.

• 1000 patients are treated for Crohn's disease.

More then 500 children are treated for intractable epilepsy of childhood. 400 children are treated for Autism. Treating fibromyalgia is a controversial topic and it was not approved officially as an indication. In spite of this, almost 1000 patients are treated for this disease because of intractable pain after failure of all other treatments.

An indication committee meets every 3 - 4 months to evaluate new indications or to stop an existing one. The next subjects we intend to discuss are: Psoriasis (topical treatments), once again Fibromyalgia, Tourette in children's and others. The treatment of Glaucoma was stopped by the committee because it was proven not effective. More than 200 research projects including 50+ clinical studies.

Training physicians and nurses and confronting the media about medical and recreational usage issues. The Israeli process and experience are well known and we are asked to present it in many countries.

The next step: prescribing cannabis according to medical guidelines taking into consideration the relative amounts of THC and CBD and other components and targeting specific combination of cannabis substances to specific diseases.

The future: a potent medication given by physicians using regular prescription as first line medication in many diseases.