

## Original Research Article

### **Cannabidiol Oil and Prednisolone Treatment Altered Hematologic Indices, Serum Urea, Creatinine and Cellular Architecture of Kidney on Cadmium Induced Toxicity in Male Wistar Rats**

#### ABSTRACT

This study investigated the impact of CBD oil and prednisolone on hematologic indices, urea, and creatinine ~~on~~ among cadmium-induced toxicity in male rats. Forty male rats weighing 150g to 200g were assigned into 8 groups (1-8) with five rats each. Group 1 served as control, Group 2-8 received 1mg/kg body weight of prednisolone; 1.5mg/kg bw of cadmium; 1mg/kg bw of prednisolone + 0.2mg/kg bw of CBD-oil; 0.2mg/kg bw of CBD-oil + 2mg/kg bw of cadmium; 3mg/kg bw of Pred + 2mg/kg of cadmium; 0.1mg/kg bw of CBD-oil and 0.2mg/kg bw of CBD-oil respectively. The administration was done using gavage for 14 days. **Results revealed PCV in treated groups significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) decreased than control. Hemoglobin in treated groups significantly decreased than in control. RBC count in treated groups was significantly reduced in control.** **The present results revealed that the PCV, haemoglobin, and RBC count of the treated groups were decreased significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) compared to the control.** TWBC count significantly increased in treated groups than in control. Platelet count significantly increased in groups treated with pred+ cd, CBD-oil (0.1ml), and CBD-oil (0.2ml) than control. Neutrophil count was significantly reduced in groups treated with CBD oil (0.1ml) than in control and other groups. Lymphocyte count significantly increased in groups treated with cadmium+ CBD oil and CBD oil (0.1ml) than in other groups. Eosinophil count significantly decreased in groups treated with prednisolone and pred +CBD oil than control. Monocyte count significantly increased in groups treated with cadmium, pred +cadmium, and CBD oil (0.1ml) than in control. There was a significant decrease in groups treated with pred +CBD-oil, cadmium + CBD-oil, and CBD-oil (0.2ml) than control. Serum urea significantly decreased in the group treated with pred + CBD oil than control. Serum creatinine significantly increased in groups treated with cadmium + CBD oil and CBD oil (0.2ml) ~~than~~ compared to the control and prednisolone groups. Histology of the kidney revealed mesangial expansion, hypertrophy of renal corpuscle, hemorrhage, and lymphocyte infiltration in groups treated with pred+ CBD oil and CBD oil (0.1ml) compared to the control. We conclude that CBD oil, prednisolone, and cadmium administration at different doses induced biochemical alterations, altered hematologic indices, and cytoarchitecture of the kidney. Therefore, if these results apply to humans, combined use of CBD oil and prednisolone should be supplemented with blood tonics, especially in chronic kidney disease.

KEYWORDS: CBD oil, Prednisolone, Cadmium, Hemoglobin, Lymphocyte

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

**Comment [DBS1]:** Please delete on and use among

**Comment [DBS2]:** Please remove the red paragraph

**Comment [DBS3]:**

**Comment [DBS4]:** The green highlighted paragraph is correct.

**Comment [DBS5]:** Please delete than and fix compared to.

The consumption of prednisolone and cannabis products especially cannabidiol (CBD) oil a combined remedy in the management of some disorders such as obstructive respiratory disorder, depression and insomnia associated with hypertension, nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy, anorexia and cachexia in HIV/AIDS patients, neuropathic pain, allergic, inflammation and spasticity in multiple sclerosis (Pollmann and Feneberg, 2008) is on the increase in southern Nigeria. This has increased concern about their likely physiologic adverse effects on blood parameters and kidney function.

Cannabidiol (CBD) is the major non-psychoactive component of Cannabis sativa (Watson *et al.*, 2000). It was reported that Cannabidiol (CBD) which is an isomer of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) acts as a balancing force to regulate the strength of the psychoactive agent (THC) and also regulates the body's metabolism of THC by inactivating cytochrome p450 which is an enzyme that metabolizes drugs (Watson *et al.*, 2000). The CB2 receptors are present only in the cells of the immune system which are more prevalent in B-cells, natural killer cells, and monocyte, but may be found in polymorphonuclear neutrophil cells, T8 cells, and T4 cells (Pertwee, 1997). The endocannabinoid system is an important biological regulatory system that is highly conserved from lower invertebrates to higher mammals (Kaczocha, 2009). The Endocannabinoid family contains enzymes for biosynthesis and degradation of the ligands and also for immunoregulation. Manipulation of endocannabinoids and or use of exogenous cannabinoids in vivo can constitute a potent treatment modality against inflammatory disorders (Kaczocha, 2009). Obembe *et al.*, (2015), reported that consumption of Cannabis sativa altered hematologic indices by causing thrombo-embolism, production of immature monocytes and reduced white blood cell count, increased RBC, PCV, and Hemoglobin counts. Omayma (2017), reported an increased TWBC count on heavy Cannabis users. Amna and Nabiela (2011), reported decreased RBC and TWBC

**Comment [DBS6]:** Please use CBD through out the manuscript because You abbreviate it. So mention the abbreviation .....

count in *Cannabis sativa*-treated rats with no significant change in hemoglobin concentration. The kidney is important in the maturation of blood cells because it produces growth factors such as erythropoietin, leucopoietin, and thrombopoietin which are essential for blood cell maturation (Guyton and Hall, 2012).

Prednisone is a synthetic, anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid derived from cortisone. It is biologically inert and converted to prednisolone in the liver. Prednisone is an anti-inflammatory agent used to treat immunosuppression, rheumatism, dermatologic, allergic, ophthalmic, respiratory, hematologic, neoplastic, edematous, gastrointestinal, and acute exacerbations of multiple sclerosis (Bunte *et al.*, 2018). Prednisolone decreases inflammation via suppression of the migration of polymorphonuclear leukocytes and reversing increased capillary permeability. It also suppresses the immune system by reducing the activity and volume of the immune system (Bunte *et al.*, 2018). Novelty paragraph

**Comment [DBS7]:** Please add short paragraph regarding the novelty of this work.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Drugs: prednisolone used for this study was purchased from Unicure pharmaceutical limited, Lagos, Nigeria. The cadmium chloride was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Limited Germany with EC number 233-296-7. Cannabidiol (CBD) oil was purchased from TEEMU Premium, California, USA.

### 2.1 Laboratory animals

Forty (40) male Wistar rats, weighing 150–200g were used for this study. The animals were housed in the Department of Physiology animal house, University of Calabar, Nigeria. Standard animal cages (435 x 290 x 150) with wood shavings as bedding were used in housing the animals.

**Comment [DBS8]:** No need for number

They were allowed ad libitum access to rat chow and clean water, and exposed to 12/12-hr light/dark cycle. The animals were acclimatized for 7 days. The animals were kept in line with laid down principles for animal care as prescribed in Helsinki's 1964 declaration. The animal ethics committee of the University of Calabar approved our study protocol with approval number 040PHY3719.

## **2.2 Experimental Design and Administration of Drugs**

The animals were randomly assigned differently into 8 separate groups ( $n = 5$ ). After 7 days of acclimatization, CBD oil, Prednisolone, and Cadmium administration commenced. The drugs were administered via oral route using an orogastric tube (gavage), once, every day, to animals in the treatment groups (2 to 8), using the doses outlined in Table 1, while the control group received feed and 0.5ml normal saline as a vehicle. The administration of CBD oil and Prednisolone solution lasted for fourteen (14) days, whereas, the administration of cadmium chloride solution lasted only 2 days before the rats were killed and samples were collected for analysis.

### **TABLE 1: Study Design and Drugs Administration**

Groups	No. of rats	Treatment
Group 1(Control)	5	Feed + 0.5ml of normal saline as a vehicle throughout the experiment.
Group 2	5	1mg/kg bw of prednisolone
Group 3	5	1.5mg/kg bw of Cadmium
Group 4	5	1mg/kg bw of prednisolone + 0.2mg/kg bw of CBD Oil.
Group 5	5	0.2mg/kg bw of CBD oil + 2mg/kg bw of cadmium
Group 6	5	3mg/kg bw of prednisolone + 2mg/kg of cadmium
Group 7	5	0.1mg/kg bw of CBD Oil low dose
Group 8	5	0.2mg/kg bw of CBD oil high dose

### 2.3 Evaluation of HematologicIndices

Hematological parameters assayed for are Packed Cell Volume (PCV), Total White Blood Cell Count (TWBC), Platelet Count, and Red Cell Count.

**PCV:** The packed cell volume is the proportion of whole blood occupied by red cells, expressed as a ratio (L/L). PCV was assayed by filling  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the capillary tube with well-mixed EDTA blood, sealing the unfilled end, place in a microhematocrit rotor, and centrifuging for 5 minutes. Immediately after centrifuging, the PCV was read using the microhematocrit reader. Hemoglobin is measured by dividing the PCV value by 3 HB units: mg/dl. The Mean Cell Hemoglobin Concentration (MCHC) gives the concentration of Hb in g/l in 1 liter of packed red cells.  $Hb = MCHC \times PCV$ . Mean Cell Volume (MCV) provides information on red cell size, measured in femtolitre (fl). Mean Cell Hemoglobin (MCH) gives the amount of Hb in a picogram (pg.) in average red cells. Method used by Obembe *et al.*, (2015).

#### **Assay for RBC Count $\times 10^{12}/L$**

**Procedure:** About 4.0ml of formal citrate (diluting fluid) was measured and dispensed into a test tube. About 0.02ml of well-mixed EDTA blood was added and mixed. The counting chamber was assembled and filled with well-mixed samples and left the chamber undisturbed. It was examined using an x10 objective lens. Count the red cells in small squares and read the number of red cells per liter.  $RBC \text{ count} = N \times 201 \times 10^9$ . Where N=Number counted, 201 is the diluting factor,  $0.2\text{mm}^2 = \text{Area}$ .  $0.1\text{mm} = \text{depth of the chamber}$ . Method used by Obembe *et al.*, (2015).

#### **Assay for Total WBC Count Unit $\times 10^9/L$**

**Principle:** Whole blood dilutes 1 in 20 in an acid reagent which hemolyzes the red cells. Nucleated red cells were not counted as white cells were counted. White cells were counted microscopically using an improved Neubauer counting chamber and the number of WBC per liter of blood was calculated.

Procedure: Pipette 0.38ml of diluting fluid into test tubes and add 0.02ml of well-mixed EDTA blood and mix. Then assemble the counting chamber and re-mix the dilute blood sample using a Pasteur pipette fill one of the grids of the chamber with the sample. Then leave the chamber undisturbed for 20 minutes to allow time for the white cells to settle. Examined using X10 objective lens. The cells were counted in four large squares of the chamber and the number of white cells per liter was recorded.  $\text{WBC count (per liter)} = N \times \text{Df} \times 10^6 / \text{A} \times \text{D}$ ; Where N = No of cell counted, Df = Dilution factor, A = Area counted, D = Depth of chamber. Method used by Obembeet *al.*, (2015).

#### **Assay for Platelet Count Unit $\times 10^9/\text{L}$**

**Principle:** Whole blood is diluted 1:20 in an Ammonium oxalate reagent which lyses the red cells. Platelets are counted microscopically using an improved Neubauer counting chamber and the number of platelets per liter of blood is calculated.

**Procedure:** Pipette 0.38ml of diluting fluid into a test tube, then add 0.02ml of well-mixed EDTA blood and mix, assemble the counting chamber and fill with the well-mixed sample. The chamber was left undisturbed for 20mms, to prevent drying of the fluid place the chamber in a Petri dish on dampened tissue & cover it with a lid. Examine using X10 objective lens, count the platelet in the small squares & report the number of platelets per liter. Method used by Obembeet *al.*, (2015).

#### **2.4 Determination of serum Urea**

**Principle:** Urea was measured using Urease-Berthelot Method (mmol/L). Urea in serum was hydrolyzed to ammonia in the presence of urease. The ammonia was then measured photometrically by Berthelot's reaction.

**Procedure:** Label the tubes as test, standard, and blank. Pipette 0.1ml of the reagent (R1) into all the tubes and add 10ul of the samples, standard, and d/w into appropriate tubes and then mix and incubate at 37°C for 10mins. Pipette 2.5ml of R2 & R3 to all the tubes. Mix and incubate at 25°C for 15mins. Read and record the absorbance at 546nm.

### 2.5 Determination of serum Creatinine

**Principle:** Creatinine was measured using Direct End-Point Method (umol/L). Creatinine reacts with picric acid in an alkaline solution to form a colored complex. The amount of complex formed is directly proportional to the creatinine concentration.

**Procedure:** Label the tubes as a test, standard and blank; Pipette 2.0ml of reagent into all the tubes. Add 0.1ml of the sample, standard, and d/w into respective tubes. Mix and after 30 seconds, read the absorbance of the standard and sample. Exactly 2mins later read the absorbance of the standard and sample.  $A_2$  of standard and sample.  $A_1 - A_2 = D$ .

### 2.7 Histological examination of the kidney

The kidney of the control and treated rats were fixed with 10% buffered formaldehyde for 48 hours. Sections were obtained and stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H & E) stains. The microscopic slides were labeled appropriately. Photomicrographs were taken at  $\times 500$  magnifications using a light microscope (Leica DM 750, Switzerland). Method recently used by Mobissonet *et al.*, (2018); Mobissonet *et al.*, (2022b).

### 2.8 Statistical analysis

All results are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM, n=5. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was utilized in comparing the difference within groups, followed by post hoc multiple comparisons. Computer software SPSS version 17.0 and Excel analyzer were used for the analysis. The level of significance was placed at  $p < 0.05$ . Method as used by Mobissonet *et al.*, (2019).

### 3 RESULTS

#### Comparison of Hematological indices in control and different experimental groups.

Figure 1 ~~below~~ shows packed cell volume (PCV) concentration in the different experimental groups. The mean PCV concentration was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) decreased in treated rats compared to control. However, rats fed with prednisone, Cadmium, and 0.1ml CBD oil were significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) decreased compared to other treated groups. Figure 2 ~~below~~ shows the mean Hemoglobin (HB) concentration in the different experimental groups. The mean hemoglobin concentration was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) decreased in treated rats compared to control. Although, rats treated with prednisone + CBD oil and Prednisolone + Cadmium were significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) increased when compared with other treated groups. Figure 3 ~~below~~ depicts the mean red blood cell (RBC) count in the different experimental groups. The mean RBC level was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) reduced in all treated groups compared to the control. Although, groups treated with prednisolone, Prednisolone + Cadmium, and CBD Oil (0.2ml) showed a significant increase compared to rats treated with prednisolone + CBD oil and Cadmium + CBD oil respectively. Furthermore, rats treated with CBD Oil (0.1ml) significantly decreased compared to other treated groups. Figure 4 ~~below~~, shows the mean Total White blood cell (TWBC) concentration in control and different experimental groups. The TWBC in all treated rats was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) increased compared to control. Furthermore, rats treated with Cadmium, CBD oil (0.1ml), and CBD oil (0.2ml) increased when compared with other treated groups. Figure 5 ~~below~~ shows the mean Platelet count concentration in the different experimental groups. The platelet count was significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) increased in rats treated with Prednisone + Cadmium, CBD Oil (0.1ml), and CBD Oil (0.2ml) compared with the control.

**Comment [DBS9]:** Please, no need for below

**Comment [DBS10]:** Please remove the red words and use the green one.

**Comment [DBS11]:** Please delete below and use the green depicts

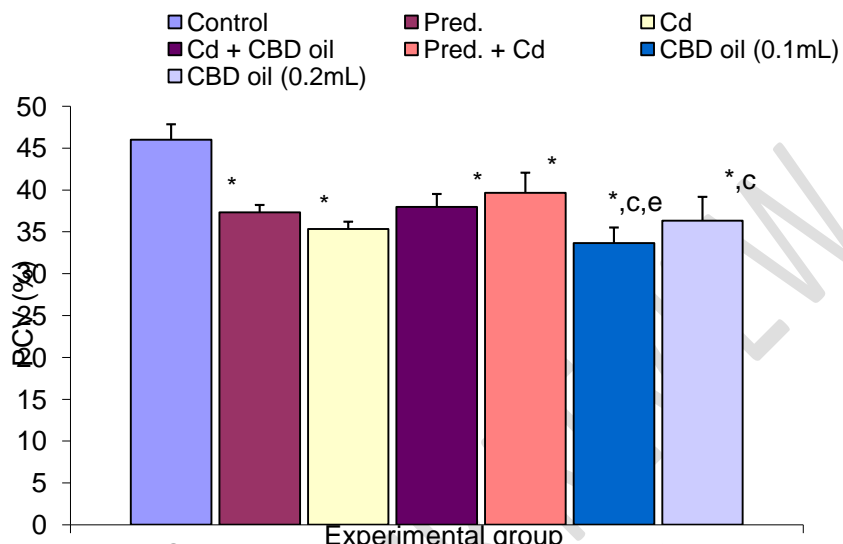


FIG. 1: Packed cell volume (PCV) of the different experimental groups.

Values are expressed as mean SEM, n =5

\* = p<0.05 vs control;

c = p<0.05 vs Pred. + CBD oil

e = p<0.05 vs Pred. + Cd

UNDER REVIEW

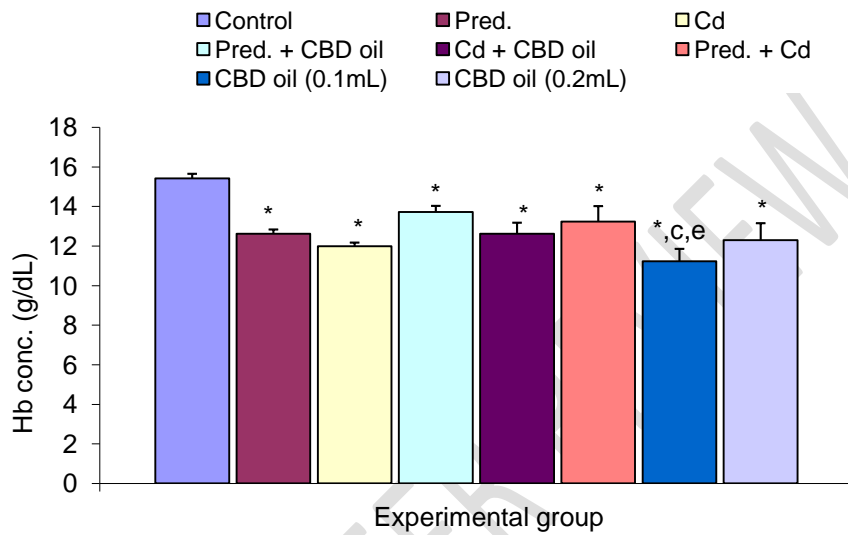


FIG.2: Haemoglobin (Hb) concentration in the different experimental groups.

Values are expressed as mean SEM, n =5.

\* = p<0.05 vs control;

c = p<0.05 vs Pred. + CBD oil

e = p<0.05 vs Pred. + Cd

UNDER PEER REVIEW



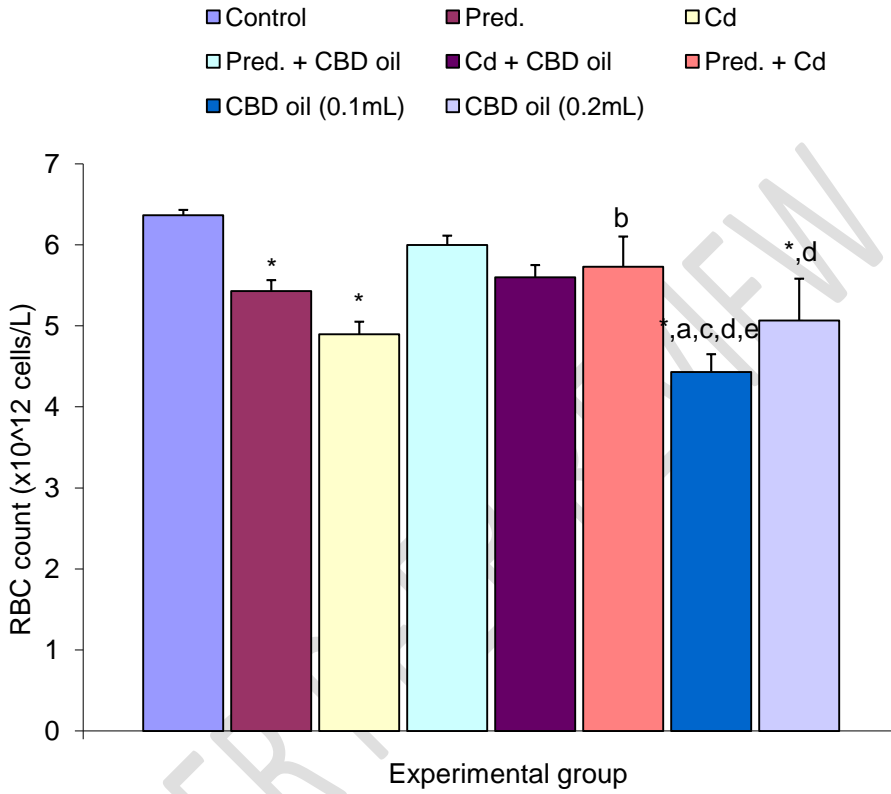


FIG. 3: Red blood cell (RBC) count of the different experimental groups.

Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM, n = 5.

\* = p < 0.05 vs control;

a = p < 0.05 vs Pred.

b = p < 0.05 vs Cd

c = p < 0.05 vs Pred. + CBD oil

d = p < 0.05 vs Cd + CBD oil

e = p < 0.05 vs Pred. + Cd

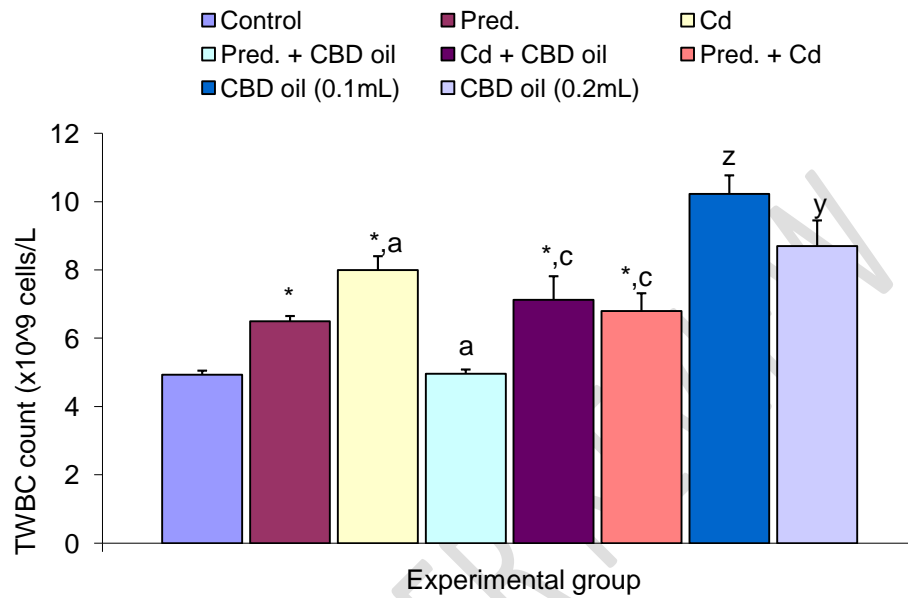


FIG. 4: Total white blood cell (TWBC) count of the different experimental groups.

Values are expressed as mean SEM, n = 5.

\* = p<0.05 vs control;

a = p<0.05 vs Pred;

c = p<0.05 vs Pred. + CBD oil

z = p<0.05 vs all other groups

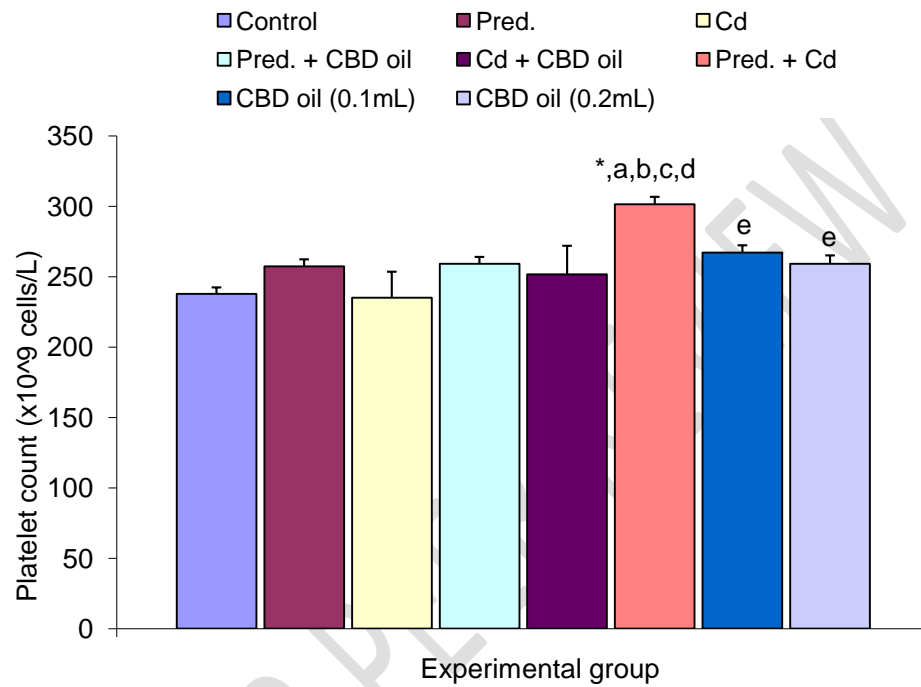


FIG. 5: Platelet count of the different experimental groups.

Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$ SEM, n = 5.

\* =  $p < 0.05$  vs control;

a =  $p < 0.05$  vs Pred.

b =  $p < 0.05$  vs Cd

c =  $p < 0.05$  vs Pred. + CBD oil

d =  $p < 0.05$  vs Cd + CBD oil

**Comparison of differential white blood cell counts of control and different experimental groups.**

Neutrophil count was significantly reduced in groups treated with CBD oil (0.1ml) than in control and other groups. Lymphocyte count significantly increased in groups treated with cadmium+ CBD oil and CBD oil (0.1ml) than in other groups. Eosinophil count significantly decreased in groups treated with prednisolone and pred +CBD oil than control. Monocyte count significantly increased in groups treated with cadmium, pred +cadmium, and CBD oil (0.1ml) than in control. There was a significant decrease in groups treated with pred +CBD-oil, cadmium + CBD-oil, and CBD-oil (0.2ml) than control.

**Table 2: The comparison of differential white blood cell counts of control and experimental groups**

Parameters	Gp 1 Control	GP 2 pred	GP 3 cadmium	GP 4 pred + CBD oil	GP 5 cadmium+ CBD oil	GP 6 pred+ cadmium	GP 7 CBD oil (0.1ml)	GP 8 CBD oil (0.2ml)
Neutrophil count (%)	28.67±0.88	35.00±1.73	34.33±3.84	36.33±0.88	30.67±3.53	32.67±2.85	21.33±1.86 <sup>z</sup>	30.67±4.33
Lymphocyte count (%)	62.67±1.45	56.67±0.88	53.67±3.76*	55.67±1.20	64.00±3.06 <sup>b</sup>	57.00±2.52	69.00±2.08 <sup>a,b,c,e</sup>	61.67±5.24
Eosinophil count (%)	3.33±0.33	1.83±0.17*	3.33±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	2.00±0.00*	2.67±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	2.67±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	3.67±0.33 <sup>a,c,d,e</sup>	2.33±0.33* b,f
Monocyte count (%)	6.00±0.58	5.33±0.33	7.00±0.58 <sup>a</sup>	4.67±0.33 <sup>b,c</sup>	4.67±0.33* <sup>b,d</sup>	7.67±0.33* <sup>a,c,d</sup>	7.33±0.33* <sup>a,c,d</sup>	4.33±0.33* b,f

---

Values are expressed in mean  $\pm$  SEM, n = 5. \*represents values with significant differences.

\* =  $p < 0.05$  vs control; a =  $p < 0.05$  vs Pred.; b =  $p < 0.05$  vs Cd; c =  $p < 0.05$  vs Pred. + CBD oil;

d =  $p < 0.05$  vs Cd + CBD oil; e =  $p < 0.05$  vs Pred. + Cd; f =  $p < 0.05$  vs CBD oil (0.1mL);

z= $P < 0.05$  VS all other groups;

**Comparison of serum urea and creatinine concentration in control and different experimental groups.**

Figure 6 below showed a significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) in Serum Urea Concentration in the group administered Prednisone + CBD Oil compared to the control. However, there was a significant increase in the groups administered cadmium + CBD Oil, CBD Oil (0.1ml), and CBD Oil (0.2ml) compared with the group administered Prednisolone + CBD Oil. Figure 7 below showed a significant decrease ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum creatinine concentration in the group administered with prednisolone compared to control. Furthermore, groups treated with cadmium, prednisolone+ CBD oil, cadmium + CBD oil, prednisolone+ cadmium, CBD Oil (0.1ml), and CBD Oil (0.2ml) were significantly increased compared to rats treated with prednisolone.

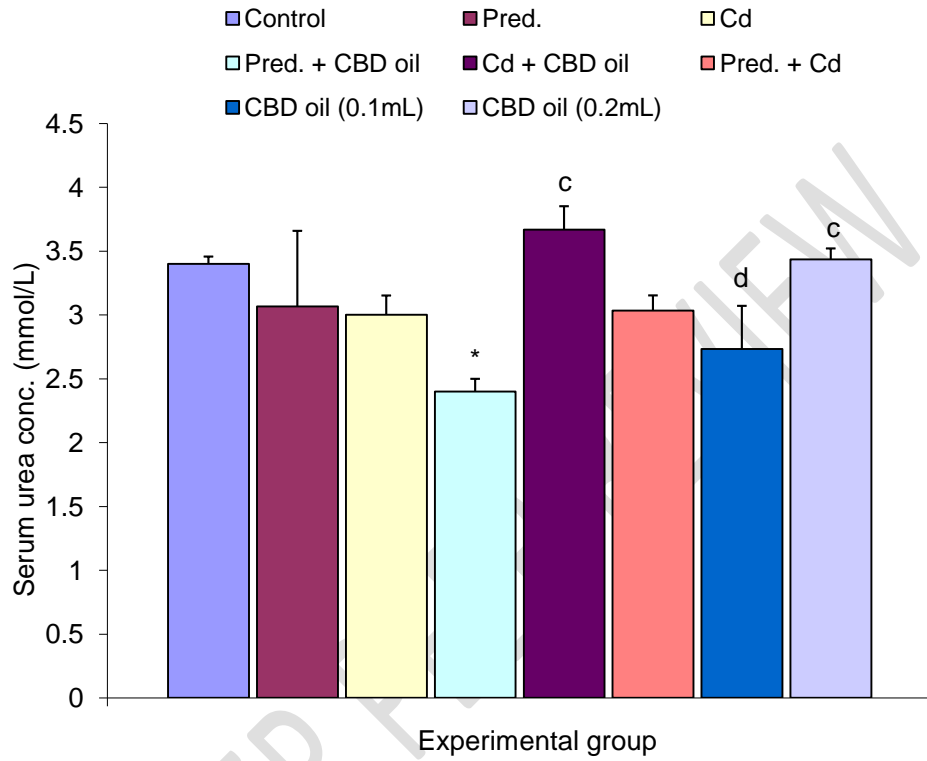


FIG. 6: Serum urea concentration in the different experimental groups.

Values are expressed as mean SEM, n = 5.

\* = p < 0.05 vs control;

c = p < 0.05 vs Pred. + CBD oil

d = p < 0.05 vs Cd + CBD oil

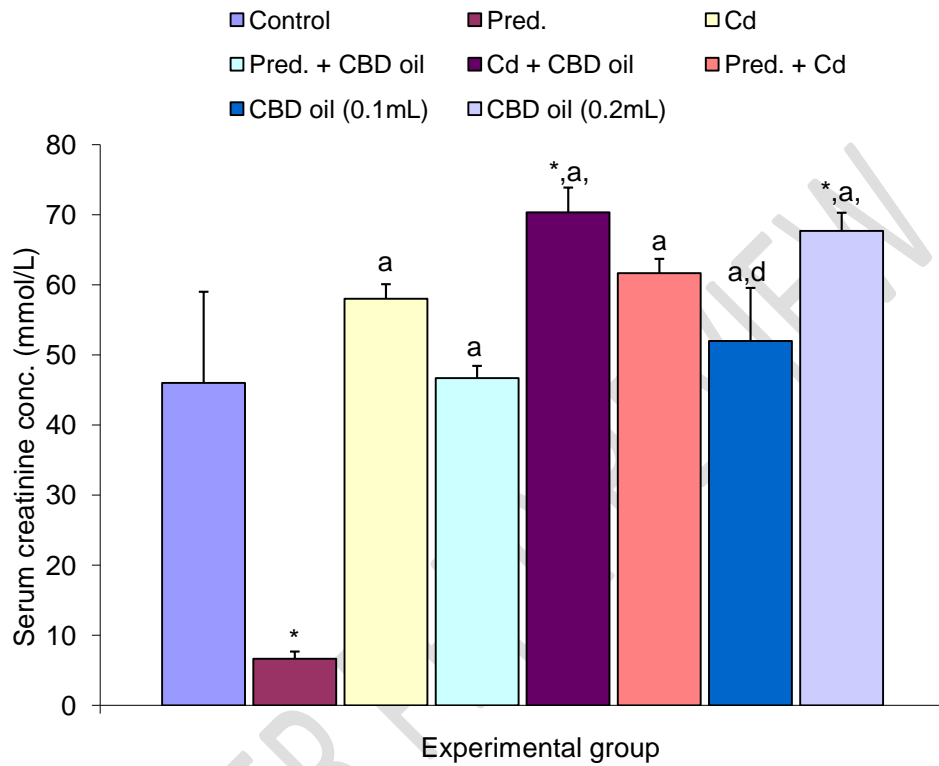


FIG. 7: Serum creatinine concentration in the different experimental groups.

Values are expressed as mean SEM, n = 5.

\* = p<0.05 vs control;

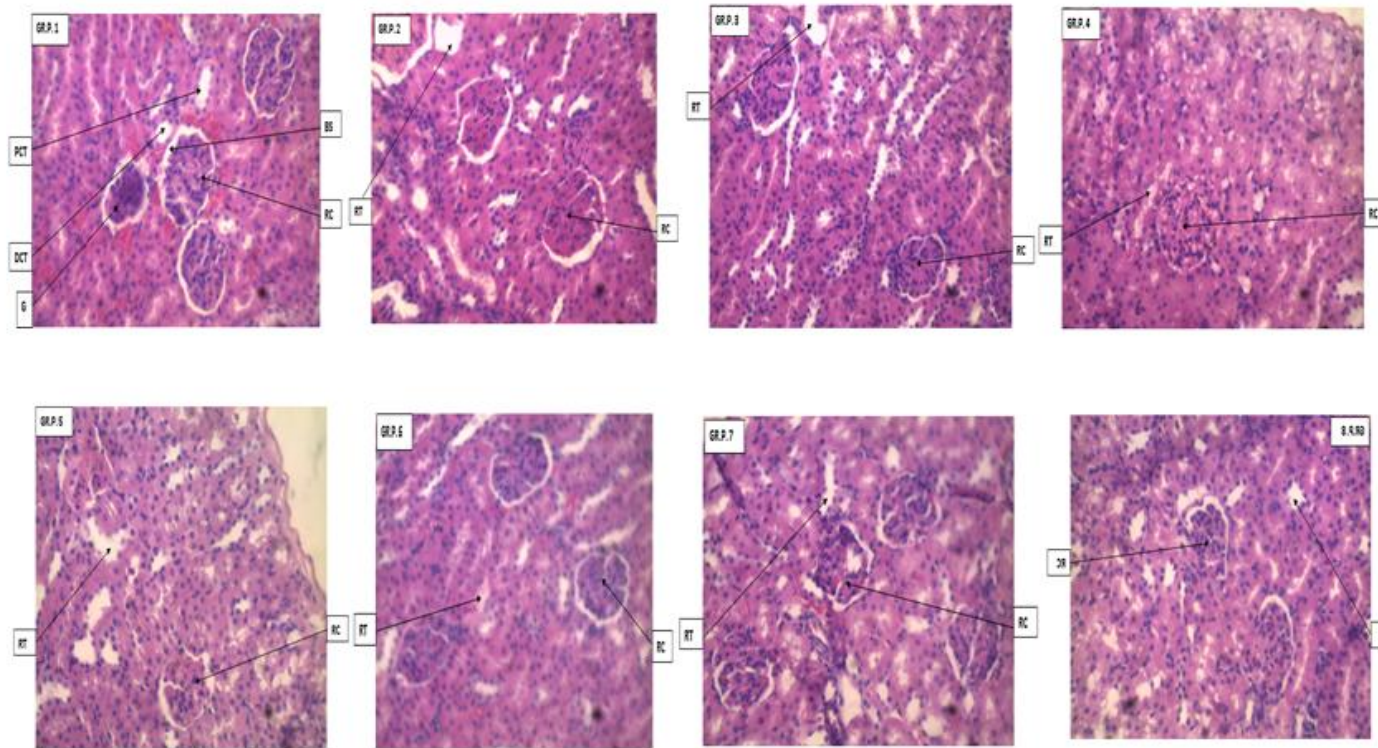
a = p<0.05 vs Pred.

c = p<0.05 vs Pred. + CBD oil

d = p<0.05 vs Cd + CBD oil

### **Histological examination of the kidney in control and experimental groups after administration**

Plate 1a control (group 1) revealed normal renal corpuscles and renal tubules. The renal corpuscle (RC) consists of the glomerulus (G) and Bowman's capsule (BS). Renal tubules- proximal convoluted tubule (PCT), loop of Henle, and distal convoluted tubule (DCT) are seen. Plate 1b (group 2) showed a photomicrograph of prednisolone-treated rats with normal renal corpuscle and renal tubules. Plate 1c (group 3) showed cadmium-treated rats with normal renal corpuscle and renal tubules. Plate 1d (group 4) revealed pred+CBD oil-treated rats with mesangial expansion, Hypertrophy of renal corpuscle, and lining epithelia of renal tubules. Plate 1e (group 5) showed cadmium+ CBD oil-treated rats with normal renal corpuscle and renal tubules. Plate 1f (group 6) revealed pred+cadmium treated rats with normal renal corpuscle and renal tubules. Plate 1g (group 7) revealed CBD oil (0.1ml) treated rats with hemorrhage and lymphocyte infiltration. Plate 1h (group 8) showed CBD oil (0.2ml) treated rats with no visible tissue damage in renal corpuscles and renal tubules.



**Plate 1 (1 to 8): Photomicrographs of the kidney in control and different experimental groups after CBD oil, prednisone, and cadmium administration. Magnification: x500**

**KEY:** G: Glomerulus, PCT: Proximal Convolved Tubules, RC: Renal corpuscle

DCT: Distal Convolved Tubules, RT: Renal tubules, BC: Bowman's capsule, GL: Glomerular Late

#### 4 DISCUSSIONS

In recent times, the combined use of cannabidiol oil and prednisolone in Southern Nigeria is on the increase for the management of Asthma and other respiratory obstructive conditions. Though, prednisolone is a known anti-inflammatory and auto-immune drug employed in the treatment of inflammatory conditions. Conversely, the combined use of prednisolone and cannabidiol oil has elicited questions concerning possible adverse effects, especially on the hematologic indices and kidney. This study investigated the impact of CBD oil and prednisolone use on cadmium-induced toxicity in male rats. The parameters assessed include hematologic indices, serum urea and creatinine, and histological examination of the kidney.

The decrease in PCV, RBC, and hemoglobin counts in treated rats may be likely linked to the toxic effects of the cadmium, prednisolone, and CBD oil which may have caused hemolysis or inhibition of erythropoietic growth factors. This result is in contrast with Obembe *et al.*, (2015), which reported increased PCV, RBC, and hemoglobin on Cannabis fed rats. However, it corresponds with the result of Amna and Nabiela (2011), which reported decreased RBC count in heavy cannabis users. Ognjanović *et al.*, (2003), reported decreased hemoglobin in rats exposed to cadmium chloride. However, the reduction in HGB can be probably due to the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) under the influence of the dose-dependent drugs leading to the destruction of the red blood cell membrane and its function. The significant increase in TWBC count and altered differential WBC count may be an indication of immune stimulation due to prednisolone, CBD oil, and Cadmium administration. The adverse effects of these agents may have elicited an immune response thereby increasing the WBC concentration. This result corresponds with Omayma (2017), who reported increased TWBC in cannabis-fed rats and contradicts the result of Amna and Nabiela (2011) that reported decreased TWBC count in

Cannabis users. Cannabis was suggested to mediate this effect via its CB2 receptors which are mostly found on the cells of the immune system and are more prevalent on B-cells, natural killer cells, and monocyte, but may be found on polymorphonuclear neutrophil cells, T8 cells, and T4 cells (Pertwee, 1997). Furthermore, Prednisolone may decrease inflammation via suppression of the migration of polymorphonuclear leukocytes and reversing increased capillary permeability. It also suppresses the immune system by reducing the activity and volume of the immune system (Bunteet *al.*, 2018). The significant increase in platelet count in rats treated with pred+CD, CBD oil (0.1ml), and CBD oil (0.2ml) may be linked to increased total TWBC count in these groups. The increase in platelet count may be a sign of possible thrombo-embolism as reported by Obembeet *al.*, (2015).

The significant increase in urea and creatinine in this study may be an indication of possible kidney damage due to cadmium, prednisolone, and CBD oil treatment. Accumulation of urea and creatinine which are waste products of metabolism is a possible indication of renal dysfunction (Guyton and Hall, 2012). The increase in the level of creatinine concentration may be an indication of renal toxicity which may likely be linked to the significant decrease in the concentration of packed cell volume, hemoglobin, and RBC count recorded in this study. The kidney is the site for the synthesis of erythropoietin which is vital in erythropoiesis (Guyton and Hall, 2012). This agrees with the report by Paul *et al.*, (2010) that the elevation in the level of creatinine concentration indicates possible toxins that could lead to renal dysfunctions. The decrease in creatinine concentration in Prednisolone treated groups may be due to a problem associated with the muscles or liver. However, it was reported that Endocannabinoids, such as anandamide influences renal hemodynamics and tubular sodium reabsorption via CB1 receptor activation (Ritter *et al.*, 2016).

**Comment [DBS12]:** Please add new reference, this article so old.

The visible histopathologic changes such as mesangial expansion, hypertrophy of renal corpuscle and lining epithelia of renal tubules, hemorrhage, and lymphocytes infiltration in rats treated with pred+CBD oil and CBD oil (0.1ml) could be linked to increased TWBC, increased platelet count, altered differential WBC count, increased urea and creatinine recorded in these groups. It may also be linked to the toxic effects of the dose-dependent drugs in these groups. Animal models of kidney diseases have also demonstrated that an imbalance of Cannabinoids receptor signaling with dominant CB1 receptor activation over CB2 receptor activation can lead to deleterious effects such as oxidative stress, inflammation, cell dysfunction, apoptosis, and fibrosis (Sadiyeet *al.*, 2010).

## CONCLUSION

We conclude that administration of CBD oil, prednisolone, and cadmium caused decreased PCV, RBC, and Hemoglobin values **count** and significantly increased TWBC, platelet count, serum urea, and creatinine concentration and altered the cytoarchitecture of the kidney leading to inflammation of the kidney, anemia and compromised the immune system.

## REFERENCES: Please cite these recent articles

- 1- doi: [10.1152/ajprenal.00290.2017](https://doi.org/10.1152/ajprenal.00290.2017)
- 2- doi: [10.1177/2054358119828391](https://doi.org/10.1177/2054358119828391)
- 3- <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13020245>
- 4- DOI: [10.36295/ASRO.2020.231133](https://doi.org/10.36295/ASRO.2020.231133)

Amna H. M. and Nabiela M. E. (2011). Effect of cannabis sativa on hematological indices in rats and men. *Pakistan Journal of Nutrition*, 10, 313-316.

Biswas S.K. (2016). Does the interdependence between oxidative stress and inflammation explain the antioxidant paradox? *Hindawi*; <https://doi.org/10.1155/2016/5698931>.

Bunte, K., Smith, D., Chappell, M., Hassan-Smith, Z., Tomlinson, J., Arlt, W. and Tiño, P. (2018). Learning pharmacokinetic models for in vivo glucocorticoid activation. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*. 14(455), 222-231.

**Comment [DBS13]:** Values instead of count

**Comment [DBS14]:** Please cite additional recent articles like:  
doi: [10.1152/ajprenal.00290.2017](https://doi.org/10.1152/ajprenal.00290.2017)  
doi: [10.1177/2054358119828391](https://doi.org/10.1177/2054358119828391)  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13020245>  
DOI: [10.36295/ASRO.2020.231133](https://doi.org/10.36295/ASRO.2020.231133)

- Guyton, A. C. and Hall, J. E. (2012). Textbook of Medical Physiology (*11th edition*). Philadelphia W. B. Saunders Publishers, 802- 804.
- Kaczocha, M., Glaser, S. and Deutsch, D. (2009). Identification of intracellular carriers for the endocannabinoid anandamide. *National Academic Science USA*. 10(6),6375–6380.
- Mobisson, S. K., Agona, O. O., Ukoh, I. E. and Duru, G. O. (2018). The role of the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis in aqueous extract of Cannabis sativa induced male reproductive dysfunction of Albino Wistar rats. *European Journal of Pharmaceutical and Medical Research*, Vol.5 (1); 71-78. ISSN 2394-3211.
- Mobisson, S. K., Ilochi, O., Nwafor, C., Nwafor, A. C. and Agona O. O. (2019). Evaluation of Aqueous Leaf Extract of Solanum Melogena on Some Plasma Electrolytes and Liver Enzymes Markers of Diabetic Mice. *World Wide Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development*, 5(3): 104-107.
- Mobisson, S.K., Ikpi, D. E., Wopara, I. and Obembe, A. O. (2022b). Cannabis sativa exacerbates testicular function by increased oxidative stress, altered male reproductive hormones, sperm quality/quantity, and cellular architecture of the testis. *Andrologia-Wiley*. e14492. <https://doi.org/10.1111/and.14492>.
- Obembe, A.O., Omini, G.C., Okon U.A., Okpo-ene A. I. and Ikpi D. E. (2015) Hematological and immunological effect of Cannabis sativa on Albino Wistar rats. *British Journal of Medicine and medical research*, 7(1):52-60.
- Ognjanovic, B.I., Pavlovic S.Z., Maletic S.D., Zikic, R. V., Andras S.S., Radojicic R.M., Saicic Z. S. and Petrovic V.M. (2003). The protective influence of vitamin E on antioxidant defense system in the blood of rats treated with cadmium. *Physiological Research*, 52(5), 563-570.
- Omayma A. (2017). Total and differential white blood cell count in cannabis users: Results from the cross-sectional national health and nutrition examination survey 2005-2016. *Journal of cannabis research*, 1, 1-7.
- Paul, R., Minay, J., Christopher, C., Damian, F. and Kelly C. (2010). Meta-analysis of the effects of lithium usage on serum creatinine levels. *Journal of Psychopharmacology* 24 (10), 1425-1431.
- Pertwee R. G. (1997). "Pharmacology of cannabinoid CB1 and CB2 receptors". *Pharmacology & Therapeutics* 74 (2): 129–180. doi:10.1016/S0163-7258(97)82001-3.
- Pollmann, W and Feneberg, W. (2008). Current management of pain associated with multiple sclerosis. *Central Nervous System Drugs*. 22,291–324
- Ritter, J.K., Guangbi L.I., Min X. and Krishna, B. (2016). Anandamide and its metabolites: what are their roles in the kidney? *Frontiers in bioscience (Scholar edition)* 8, 264.

Sadiye, A.R., Ashok C., Ugra S., Mitzi N. and Prakash N. (2010). Cannabinoid-induced apoptosis in immune cells as a pathway to immunosuppression. *Immunobiology*, 215 (8), 598-605.

Watson, S. J., Benson, J.A. and Joy, J.E. (2000). Marijuana and medicine: assessing the science base: a summary of the 1999 Institute of Medicine report. *Archives of General Psychiatry*.57(6):547-52. Doi.10.1001/archpsyc.57.6.547. PMID: 10839332.

UNDER PEER REVIEW