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Letter to the Editor**Still on physicians' attitude to medical marijuana**

Sir,

Desai and Patel¹ highlighted in a recent review that “there are several issues related to medical marijuana, which concern public health such as its medical use, harmful effects, laws and physicians role.” Certainly, physician’s perspectives and position on the relative harm and benefits of marijuana contribute to the growing controversy over its legalization in western countries. Interestingly, the seeming resistance of physicians in western countries to marijuana prescription appears to mirror the position of psychiatrists in developing countries. For instance, in a recent survey of psychiatrists in Nigeria, up to 55% of psychiatrists were against the medical use of marijuana.² In addition to the reasons mentioned in this review,¹ one factor that may potentially contribute to psychiatrist’s position on use of marijuana is its consistent association with psychosis and other major mental disorders.³ The challenges of meeting the clinical needs of persons with marijuana associated psychosis and level of involvement in psychosis prevention initiatives may contribute to the seeming negative disposition toward marijuana use and prescription. Another potentially important factor could be the reported association of marijuana with criminal activities and violence which leaves a negative stereotype that may potentially influence an individual’s attitude to use of marijuana.⁴ It is important to note that recent studies reveal that the therapeutic effects are content dependent. While tetrahydrocannabinol (accounts for the negative effects of marijuana including psychosis, cannabinoids had some therapeutic properties. The sale and availability of cannabinoid only preparations could overtime influence perception of cannabis use.⁵ Future research should focus on the potential impact of more specific forms of cannabis and its interplay with existing legislative framework.

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