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Handle it like any other medication.

Marijuana: Concerns



With research, let's get the good and leave the bad.

- There may be significant medical benefits to marijuana. *AND*, like all potential medicines, there may be significant medical risks. To date, researchers have not conducted enough large-scale clinical trials to show that the benefits of the marijuana plant outweigh its risks. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not yet found that marijuana is safe or that it is effective.
- On Jan. 24, the Kentucky House of Representatives overwhelmingly recognized the need for a comprehensive research agenda into the potential benefits and adverse effects of marijuana when it passed HCR 34. Expressing its desire to develop evidence-based policies regarding medical marijuana, the House, by a 73-5 vote, urged the FDA, National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Drug Enforcement Administration to expedite research into potential therapeutic benefits and risks of medical marijuana.

- **Concerns:**

Two related reviews published in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* in August 2017, found little evidence to support either marijuana's effectiveness or safety in treating chronic pain or post-traumatic stress disorder despite the fact that up to 80% of people requesting medical marijuana want it to ease pain and over 33% cite post-traumatic stress disorder as the primary reason for their request.

Marijuana can be addictive and recent data suggests that 30 percent of those who use marijuana may have some degree of marijuana-use disorder.

Evidence also suggests risks may include poorer educational performance, adverse consequences in the workplace, respiratory problems, increased risk for psychiatric disorders, increased risk of heart attack during the first hour after use, suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide among teens, and harm to unborn babies.

Let's wait to get the facts, then develop a medical cannabis policy.

Remember: 1) Several cannabinoids are already in medication form and available through prescription; and, 2) Possession, buying or selling marijuana is still a federal crime regardless of whether the state law changes.