Title: Parental and adolescent perceptions of medical marijuana during oncology treatment  
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Introduction and Aims: There has been increased interest in medical marijuana (MMJ) as an adjunct to conventional medical treatment of cancer and its side effects. A survey was distributed aiming to assess how adolescent and young adult (AYA) patient and parental perceptions regarding MMJ change throughout the course of treatment.

Methods: This was a longitudinal study of patients 13 to 30 years of age and their parent(s). Surveys were completed by patients and their parent(s) at the start of treatment, midway through treatment, and at the end of treatment. The survey explored their current drug use, opinions regarding the integration of MMJ into oncology care, and perceptions of the side effects and benefits of MMJ.

Results: 50 subjects were enrolled on the study and 25 have completed all surveys thus far. In participants who did not use MMJ by end of therapy, there was an increased report of perceived side effects ($p = 0.0461$). Knowing someone with substance abuse was seen to increase the number of perceived side effects at the beginning of therapy ($p = 0.0477$) and increase the likelihood of believing MMJ would increase substance abuse ($p = 0.023$). Parents had an increased perception of MMJ improving nausea (65.4% vs 33.3%, $p = 0.024$) and patients had a higher expectation of MMJ decreasing depression (50% vs 19.2%, $p = 0.022$), with loss of statistical significance by end of therapy. The number of perceived benefits increased by the end of therapy, however was not statistically significant ($p = 0.0938$).

Discussion and Conclusion: These results offer a starting point for discussions regarding the risks and benefits of MMJ for AYA patients and reveal gaps in patient and parent understanding, as well as differences in perception. This is a topic that will continue to develop as the use of MMJ proliferates.