

Spinal Cord Injury Causes and Symptoms

Severe pain, stiffness, blood clots, insomnia, uncontrollable bladder and bowel, sexual dysfunction, anxiety, and depression are just some of the symptoms that plague the day-to-day lives of SCI patients.

Spinal cord injuries are divided into two categories: complete and incomplete.

At the “complete” level, the patient experiences total functional loss below the location of injury.

“Incomplete” refers to a partial loss of function with varying degrees of severity between patients.

Spinal cord injuries are caused by trauma to the spine, when dislodged bone fragments, ligaments, or disc material damages the spinal tissue on impact. Unlike back injuries, spinal cord injuries affect motor functions because axons (or extensions of nerve cells that carry messages to the brain) are destroyed by the fractured or compressed vertebrae.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this brochure is not meant to be construed as medical advice and should not be relied on as such. It is not a referral by a physician. This information is being provided by PDI Medical for the education and support of qualifying patients or designated caregivers. All patients and designated caregivers have the right to select the dispensary of their own choice.

Service Area

The professional staff at PDI Medical provides medical marijuana counseling and products to individuals living in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs

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Hours

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Sunday - closed



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Spinal Cord Diseases/Injury

Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program

Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act may include or be associated with the following conditions related to Spinal Cord Disease and Injury:

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Arachnoiditis
- Arnold-Chiari malformation
- Hydromelia
- Parkinson's disease
- Post-concussion syndrome
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Spinal cord disease
- Spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA)
- Syringomyelia
- Tarlov cysts
- Traumatic brain injury



Cannabis Use in Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

Many more people are becoming aware of cannabis' painkilling superpowers, but why it works so well is a story largely left untold. Research has helped piece together an understanding, but despite crystal clear results, development of cannabinoid-based medications for spinal cord injuries remains halted at the political gate.

Studies have confirmed cannabis' ability to treat many signature symptoms of SCI including pain, spasticity, insomnia, and depression. Some improvement in bladder and bowel control has also been noted. Cannabinoids, the medicinal compounds found in cannabis, are what offer this amazing diversity of symptom relief to SCI patients.

Cannabidiol (CBD), is slowly but surely becoming a name in the arena of pain relievers. Studies have not only demonstrated CBD's remarkable painkilling properties, but also its ability to reduce spasticity and improve motor function in SCI patients.

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), though stereotyped as marijuana's "psychoactive stoner" compound, carries its own medical value in treating spinal cord injuries. Various studies show that THC improves many SCI symptoms including pain, spasticity, bladder control, and insomnia.

It's clear that cannabis, even in its raw form, is providing patients with safe relief of SCI symptoms. Other research monitoring the restoration of nerve function and growth of new cells by cannabis compounds is further brightening futures for people living with chronic pain and other conditions. How long patients will be waiting for factual information and improved cannabis policy, however, is unknown.

Desired Strains - Effects and Administration Methods

Medicinal cannabis can be used to manage some of the effects of spinal cord injuries or diseases including:

- Spasticity
- Pain
- Sleeping problems
- Bladder control
- Depression

Patients suffering from spinal cord injuries or diseases often prefer a hybrid that contains primarily Indica for its help in treating anxiety, body pain, muscular spasms, and seizures, with some of the energizing and uplifting benefits of Sativa.

Suggested administration methods include but are not limited to:

- Vaporization
- Oral administration
- Topical administration

Most Common Side Effects

Blurred vision, dry mouth, weakness, dizziness, somnolence, sedation, confusion, hypotension, and altered mood



PDI Medical

Professional Dispensaries of Illinois

CANNABIS HEALTH CARE

About your spinal cord

The spinal cord is the major column of nerve tissue that is connected to the brain and lies within the vertebral canal and from which the spinal nerves emerge. Thirty-one pairs of spinal nerves originate in the spinal cord: 8 cervical, 12 thoracic, 5 lumbar, 5 sacral, and 1 coccygeal. The spinal cord and the brain constitute the central nervous system. The spinal cord consists of nerve fibers that transmit impulses to and from the brain. Like the brain, the spinal cord is covered by three connective-tissue envelopes called the meninges. The space between the outer and middle envelopes is filled with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), a clear colorless fluid that cushions the spinal cord against jarring shock.

Spinal cord injuries can be caused by trauma to the spinal column (stretching, bruising, applying pressure, severing, laceration, etc.) The vertebral bones or intervertebral disks can shatter, causing the spinal cord to be punctured by a sharp fragment of bone. Usually, victims of spinal cord injuries will suffer loss of feeling in certain parts of their body. In milder cases, a victim might only suffer loss of hand or foot function. More severe injuries may result in paraplegia, tetraplegia (also known as quadriplegia), or full body paralysis below the site of injury to the spinal cord.