

Study provides insights on the effects of cannabidiol on severe form of epilepsy

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Results from a study published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* may help explain why cannabidiol—a chemical component of marijuana with no psychoactive properties—reduces the frequency of seizures in patients with a severe form of epilepsy. The effect may be explained by a drug-drug interaction between cannabidiol and the anti-seizure medication clobazam.

The form of epilepsy examined in the study is called Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. Investigators conducted clinical trial simulations for the effect of 20 mg/kg/day [cannabidiol](#) on seizure frequency in patients with this syndrome.

"The effects of cannabidiol on [seizure](#) frequency in Lennox-Gastaut patients could be explained entirely through estimated elevations of blood levels of clobazam, which might mean that cannabidiol in itself may not have any, or at best limited, antiepileptic effects," said senior author Geert Jan Groeneveld, MD, Ph.D., of the Centre for Human Drug Research, in The Netherlands.

Dr. Groeneveld also co-authored an accompanying editorial that highlights some of the shortcomings of past clinical trial analyses on cannabidiol's effectiveness for reducing seizures.

More information: Kirsten Riber Bergmann et al, Clinical trial simulations of the interaction between cannabidiol and clobazam and effect on drop?seizure frequency, *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* (2019). [DOI: 10.1111/bcp.14158](https://doi.org/10.1111/bcp.14158)

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