

Challenges in determination of active pharmaceutical ingredients and their stability in Cannabis based drug products

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Cannabis is widely used for medicinal purposes all over the world for many indications. Use of cannabis is documented for over 6000 years, in different cultures. In the last two decades the use is highly regulated in many countries. Most (85%) patients using medical cannabis are smoking its flowers. Hence, patients are exposed to highly variable content of cannabinoids and other types of molecules.

Burning of cannabis results in unhealthy by products and so health authorities encourage the pharmaceutical companies to develop standardized pharmaceuticals for the benefit of patients and to support evidence based decisions. Lately a second plant derived pharmaceutical product was approved, by FDA, for Epilepsy treatment in children.

Plant derived products may either contain whole plant extracts (botanical drugs) or individual plant derived molecules.

In this lecture we will discuss the challenges of testing of botanical drugs both the Active Ingredients as well as the establishment of stability indicating methods.