



Name: Cannabinoid Oil (CBD Oil)

What Is It Used For?

- CBD is the only cannabis component that has been shown to have a role as an adjunctive therapy in specific types of epilepsy such as - Lennox Gastaut Syndrome and Dravet Syndrome.
- In Canada we do not have the marketed formulation of purified CBD (Epidiolex) recently approved by the FDA as an adjunctive treatment for Dravet and Lennox Gastaut Syndrome. Here in Canada, we recommend a ratio of 1:20 THC: CBD from regulated dispensaries.
- We have some well selected patients that after a careful approval process and a thorough discussion with the family that we support and prescribe CBD as an adjunctive therapy (never monotherapy) for their often severe epilepsies.
- We want to be cautious not to create false expectations and to explain the small body of scientific evidence that currently exists. CBD does not appear to be superior to any other well selected anti seizure drug, and although some patients may respond to it, after a short honeymoon phase seizures may relapse again. We understand based on the results from the Epidiolex clinical trials short term side effects and drug-drug interactions of CBD, but we still do not know long term side effects.

How Long Does The Medicine Take To Work?

- We do not have clear data on the time it takes for the CBD oil to work

What Are The Important Safety Concerns?

- The amount of medication your child is taking needs to be increased **slowly** to avoid side effects.
- Your child will need to be on another anti-seizure medication with CBD oil as it is used only as an adjuvant anti-seizure drug.
- Be sure to inform your health care provider if your child is taking Valproic Acid, Clobazam, Topiramate, or Rufinamide at the same time as CBD Oil as it can increase the effect of those medications.
- Be sure to inform your health care provider if your child is taking Carbamazepine or Phenobarbital at the same time as CBD Oil as it can possibly decrease the effect of the CBD.
- When first starting this medicine, your child may be slightly drowsy and dizzy and may experience some gastrointestinal side effects such as upset stomach, nausea and diarrhea.
- **Only adjust the dosage as recommended by your health care provider.**

- Each bottle of CBD oil that you receive may affect your child differently as the CBD oil is created from different strands of marijuana.
- Do not stop taking this medication suddenly because this could result in seizures.
- It is important to keep a record of seizures and side effects to determine how well your child is responding to the medication. **Please bring these records to all clinic appointments**
- **Always bring all your child's medications to every clinic appointment**

What are the Possible Side Effects?

- Diarrhea*
- Nausea*
- Irritability
- Dizziness*
- Headache*
- Weight Loss
- Vomiting*
- Drowsiness*
- Loss of Appetite
- Abdominal Pain
- Fatigue*

*more common side effects

Note: often seen to improve mood and decrease depression

What are the Possible Long Term Side Effects?

- Decreased IQ
- Cognitive and behavioural changes

***These are primarily related to THC and we do not have clear association with CBD**

How Do I Give The Medication?

- Drops are placed under the tongue using a syringe, doses are provided by ml's.
- Give with food or milk (fatty foods improve absorption of CBD oil) to reduce stomach upset and/or to improve the taste if needed.
- Give your child the medication as close to the same time as possible each day and only the amount prescribed.
- If your child misses a dose, give the dose as soon as you remember or can. If the next dose of the medicine needs to be given in less than 4 hours, do **not** give the dose you forgot. Give the next dose a little earlier and then return to giving the medicine at the usual times after that.
- If your child vomits within 30 minutes of taking the medication, repeat the dose.
- If your child vomits after 30 minutes of taking the medication, do not repeat the dose.

What Medications May Alter The Effectiveness Of This Drug?

CBD oil may increase the effect of the following medications in your child's body.

- Valproic Acid

- Clobazam
- Topiramate
- Rufinamide

The following drugs may decrease the effect of CBD oil in your child's body.

- Carbamazepine
- Phenobarbital

When Do I Call My Health Care Provider?

Call your health care provider or go to your nearest emergency room if you are concerned about your child in any way. With Lamotrigine the following would be of concern.

- Red or sore eyes
- Problems seeing
- More seizures
- Become aggressive
- Unusual bleeding
- Hallucinations (sees things that aren't there)
- A rash
- Extreme weight loss

What Are The Available Forms And Dosages?

- Each company has their own concentration
- CBD oil drops
- Capsules