

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Oncology is a vital field in modern medicine due to the high incidence of malignant neoplasms in society today. Cancers and their treatment are often accompanied by a myriad of unpleasant symptoms that make the patient's life miserable. Cannabis has helped treat many diseases for centuries as it contains a number of substances, including well-known cannabidiol (CBD) and psychoactive tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Cannabis is also often used recreationally and is classed as an addictive drug. However, aside from addiction, it is also ascribed positive therapeutic effects in the treatment of cancer, where it helps alleviate the side effects of treatment or the symptoms of the disease itself. Nevertheless, it is still used sparingly by Czech oncologists.

**Objectives:** The aim of this bachelor's thesis is to map the position of oncologists in the Czech Republic on cannabis and their awareness of the treatment of cancer with cannabis as a supplement to conventional care. The research also focuses on current trends in the prescription of cannabis and especially the importance of its addictive potential in cancer treatment.

**Methods:** Data was collected using a qualitative method of non-probability sampling. The information was obtained through semi-structured interviews. Six doctors specialising in oncology agreed to participate in the research, 3 of whom were men and 3 women. The data was recorded on a mobile Dictaphone, then transcribed into text and deleted.

**Results:** The analysis of data showed that Czech oncologists view cannabis as a supplement to conventional care positively. However, according to respondents, such treatment is not suitable for all patients and careful consideration must be given to whether cannabis is the right choice for them individually. The addictive potential of cannabis in the treatment of cancer is not relevant. The same is true for opiates, which are a proven and standardised drug compared to cannabis. However, cannabis can help patients when treatment with conventional pharmaceuticals or opiates fails. Awareness of the use of cannabis in the treatment of cancer is currently insufficient among Czech oncologists.

**Conclusion:** The research enabled the views of Czech oncologists regarding the use of cannabis in the treatment of cancer to be examined. This treatment option is gaining in importance in the medical world and is being reintroduced into the treatment portfolio. However, interest in cannabis in the Czech oncological field is still rather small and much more research will be needed to confirm the benefits of cannabis in cancer treatment.

**Keywords:** cannabis, cannabis for medical purposes, clinical oncology, cannabis in oncology, marijuana abuse