



Presenter: Kylie Quinn

Session & Time: Oral I

Room/Time: GUZ 201 / 10:00-11:00

Discipline: Nursing

Faculty Mentor: Deborah Meshel

Digital Portfolio URL: I don't have one

Title: The Benefits Versus Harm of Medical Cannabis Use with Symptom Management in Pediatric Oncology Patients

Abstract:

Chemotherapy causes a considerable number of unwanted symptoms that may hinder the treatment of cancer patients. Due to that, patients are forced to experiment and take a multitude of medications in order to alleviate those symptoms. "Childhood cancer is one of the leading causes of death among children. Approximately 429,000 children receive an oncological diagnosis each year." (Gajic et al. 2022). The use of medical cannabis within pediatric oncology is focused on improving both the quality of life and quality of treatment. With the new changes to legalization and social norms of cannabis, there is more acceptance, but there are still many uncertainties within the research of medical cannabis for adolescents. The current use for medical cannabis within adults has been shown to help with "reduce symptoms (e.g., pain, anxiety, depression, poor appetite)" (Salz et al. 2023). While seeing if there are any similarities with

the benefits for pediatric oncology patients, there is an uncertainty of how cannabis use may affect the brain development of these adolescents. The goal is to see if medical cannabis can highlight any benefit within pediatric cancer patients and their symptom management, while also examining if the use of medical cannabis can interfere with adolescents' brain development. While there are many articles that examine how medical cannabis can help alleviate chemotherapy symptoms, there is a gap in research on how cannabis can affect these patients' brain development.