

P37. CANNABIS USE IN ADOLESCENCE AND SCHIZOPHRENIA

Esra ENGÜR*, Selda MERCAN, Münevver AÇIKKOL
Istanbul University, Institute of Forensic Sciences, Forensic Toxicology Laboratory, 34303,
Cerrahpasa, Istanbul, TÜRKİYE
*esra_engur@hotmail.com

Marijuana is one of the most commonly used illicit drugs. Although cannabis is also considered to be a safe drug, their long-term use causes harmful results. Diagnosis of schizophrenia in older age was found to be associated with consistently cannabis use. Schizophrenia which is characterized by the lack of perception or expression of reality is a common psychiatric disorder. Dependence in adolescence is particularly risky, and this has been proven in both epidemiological and animal studies.

Cannabis intoxication is considered to cause psychotic episode. It is not clear that cannabis use is an enough risk factor and it is not all schizophrenics have used cannabis. However, exposure and the age at first use of cannabis increases the harmful effects and this has been proven in psychosis studies.

First cannabis use in adolescence was associated with an increase risk for psychotic symptoms in adulthood and in Western and non-Western societies have a lot of studies on this issue.

Several studies have shown that, cannabis use carries higher risk since the brain is still developing at the beginning of adolescence.

Although, studies about cannabis use in adolescence as a result of psychotic disorders are still at early stages, it is an issue that should be considered for long term evaluation and schizophrenia in older ages.