



Marijuana in Pediatric and ACHD heart Transplant Listing: A Survey of Provider Practices and Attitudes

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Objectives

- Examine institutional practices and provider opinions regarding pediatric and ACHD heart transplant listing in marijuana users

Methods

- Anonymous 22 question online survey sent to 376 pediatric and ACHD transplant providers globally

Background

- Historically, marijuana was a relative contraindication for transplant consideration, but public and professional opinions and legislation are changing rapidly
- No specific professional society guidelines exist on marijuana use in relation to candidacy for listing
- Eight US states have banned denial for transplant listing based on medical marijuana use
- A recent survey of adult heart transplant providers (Neyer et al, 2016) revealed:
 - 12% stated their institution lists current users; 68% list after abstinence
 - 65% supported listing patients using legal medical marijuana
 - 28% supported listing patients using legal recreational marijuana
 - 66% of providers felt marijuana was physically harmful to the patients
- There is a paucity of data regarding marijuana use in heart transplant patients

Demographics (N=75)

Age	Peds N (%)	ACHD N (%)
<30	3 (4%)	2 (3%)
30-49	45 (61%)	36 (61%)
50-69	26 (35%)	21 (36%)

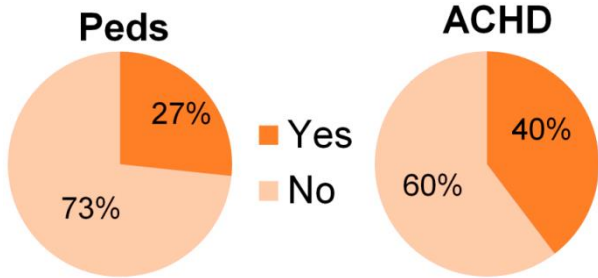
Practice Location	Peds N (%)	ACHD N (%)
United States	58 (78%)	49 (83%)
Europe	9 (12%)	7 (12%)
Canada	4 (5%)	2 (3%)
Asia	2 (3%)	0 (0%)
South America	1 (1%)	1 (2%)

Role	Peds N (%)	ACHD N (%)
Physician	57 (76%)	44 (75%)
Surgeon	8 (14%)	8 (14%)
Transplant coordinator	5 (7%)	3 (5%)
Other	3 (4%)	2 (3%)
Pharmacist	2 (3%)	2 (3%)

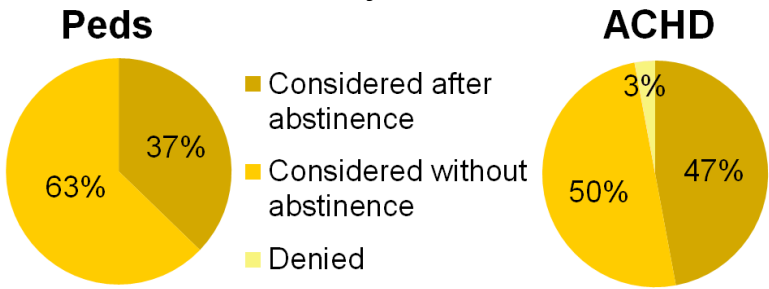
Results

Institutional Practice

Does your institution have a policy regarding marijuana use and cardiac transplant listing?



What is your institutions practice regarding listing patients who legally use medical marijuana?

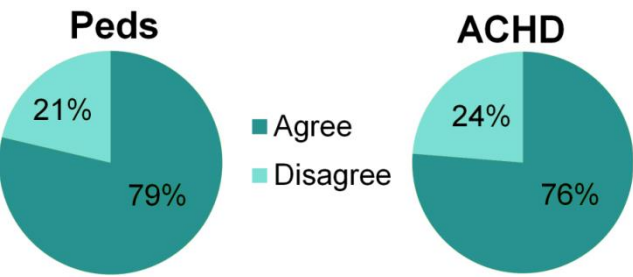


Does mode of consumption matter in your institution’s listing decision?

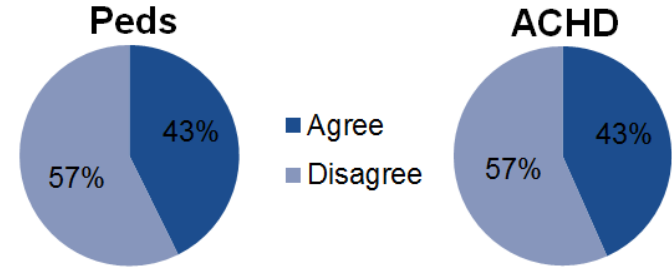
	Peds	ACHD
Yes	14 (19%)	9 (15%)
No	61 (81%)	49 (84%)

Provider Opinions

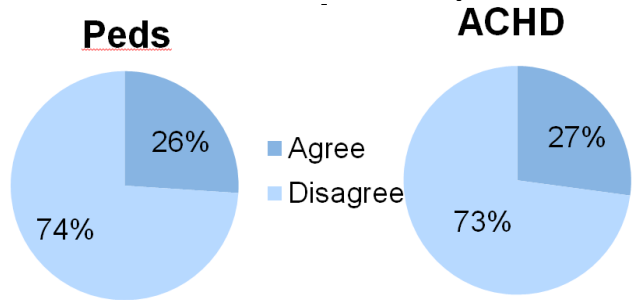
Patients taking legal, *medical* marijuana should be considered for transplant.



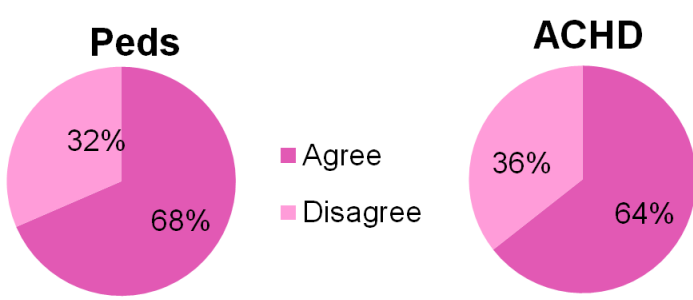
Patients taking legal, *recreational* marijuana should be considered for transplant.



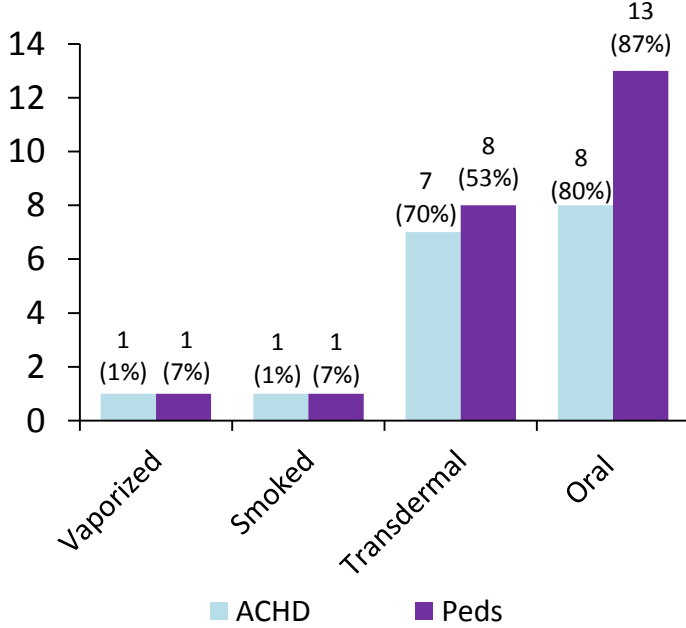
Patients taking *illegal* marijuana should be considered for transplant.



Marijuana is physically harmful to patients.



If yes, which is acceptable?



Results

- Most programs lack an official policy regarding listing patients who are active marijuana users
- Age, practice location, and specialty did not impact institutional practices or opinions on listing patients who are marijuana users
- Providers who think marijuana is mentally harmful to pediatric patients are more likely to think that patients should not be listed while using marijuana in any situation (legal or illegal, medical, or recreational). However, this opinion did not significantly impact their institution’s current practice
- The legal status of marijuana in the survey responder’s practice location did not impact the likelihood of having an official policy at their institution

Discussion & Conclusions

- Few pediatric and ACHD transplant institutions have specific policies regarding marijuana in transplant candidates
- Written processes are helpful in ensuring consistency in listing decisions, though care has to be taken to guard against systematic bias given the variety of opinions surrounding marijuana use and listing candidacy
- Further study of marijuana’s effects on physical and mental wellbeing of transplant recipients and its impact on common transplant-related medications is necessary to inform provider opinion and practice