

PubMed

Display Settings: Abstract



Fam Pract. 2014 Jun 17. pii: cmu030. [Epub ahead of print]

## Attitudes of family physicians towards adolescent cannabis users: a qualitative study in France.

Vorilhon P<sup>1</sup>, Picard V<sup>2</sup>, Marty L<sup>3</sup>, Roussel HV<sup>4</sup>, Llorca PM<sup>5</sup>, Laporte C<sup>4</sup>.

### Author information

#### Abstract

**BACKGROUND:** GPs are the health professionals most frequently consulted by adolescents. However, discussion between GPs and adolescents regarding **cannabis** use does not occur spontaneously.

**OBJECTIVE:** To identify obstacles to the identification and management of **cannabis** use by adolescents based on GPs' experiences.

**METHODS:** We conducted a qualitative study using focus groups of GPs from the Auvergne area (France). The GPs were selected according to descriptive and strategic variables. Three researchers—an anthropologist, a psychiatrist with expertise in addiction and a GP—performed a thematic analysis.

**RESULTS:** Twenty-four GPs participated in three consecutive focus groups. The GPs were aware of the health risks of **cannabis**, yet ambivalent about its use by adolescents. The GPs also reported a lack of patient questioning during consultation. The obstacles to the identification and treatment of **cannabis** use by adolescents identified included lack of GP knowledge about **cannabis** (e.g. consumption patterns and laws); difficulties in addressing the issue with adolescents, evaluating adolescents' consumption and its impact and proposing support and follow-up and the presence of parents. The GPs were aware that their role lies at the intersection between the medical, personal, familial and social fields.

**CONCLUSION:** Despite these barriers, GPs are willing to ask adolescents about their **cannabis** use. An adolescent's awareness, environment and receptiveness favour a sustainable therapeutic relationship. Brief intervention is a tool that may be of assistance in this relationship and allow GPs to take the initiative.

© The Author 2014. Published by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. For permissions, please e-mail: journals.permissions@oup.com.

**KEYWORDS:** Adolescents; **cannabis**; drug use; focus groups; general practitioners.

PMID:24939655[PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

---

**LinkOut - more resources**



---

## PubMed Commons

[PubMed Commons home](#)

0 comments

[How to join PubMed Commons](#)