

Cannabinoid Research Initiative of Saskatchewan (CRIS)



CRIS is a multidisciplinary team that spans several Colleges in the University of Saskatchewan and has expanded to membership both nationally and internationally.

The Biomedical Pillar co-lead by [Dr. Richard Huntsman](#), MD (Department of Pediatrics) and Dr. Robert Laprairie, PhD (GSK-CIHR Research Chair in Drug Discovery and Development, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition) has brought together clinicians and researchers with expertise in Pediatric Neurology, Cannabinoid Pharmacology, Neurosciences, Pediatric Pharmacy, Clinical Biochemistry and Veterinary Sciences. This group of clinicians, basic scientists and policy researchers are dedicated to provide high quality evidence regarding the use of medical

Cannabis to treat disease in humans and animals. Built on four research pillars (Biomedical Sciences, Plant Sciences, Social Policy and Knowledge Translation), this collaborative multidisciplinary team is unique amongst Cannabis research groups in Canada. To date, they have developed and run a pediatric open label dosage escalation study, developed a validated assay to measure cannabinoids in plasma samples and are in the process of developing novel minimally invasive assay methods. The Biomedical Pillar has fostered several research collaborations nationally and internationally with the aim to develop and run large-scale international clinical trials and develop Cannabis dosage guidelines for various pediatric conditions including epilepsy, pain and neuropsychiatric conditions.



Cannabidiol in Children with Refractory Epileptic Encephalopathy: A Phase 1 Open Label Dose Escalation Study

Epileptic Encephalopathy Syndromes seizures are very difficult to control despite patients being placed on multiple medications. Since treatments often cause significant side effects there is a need to find therapies that are effective and better tolerated for children.

There has been significant media interest regarding medical marijuana products for the treatment of seizures in children. Hemp oil products with high cannabidiol (CBD) and low tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) ratios have been reported to provide seizure relief and cognitive improvement in children who take them. Parents have asked for these products to treat their children but due to lack of clinical information, physicians are often reluctant to prescribe. There is an urgent need to advance research on this treatment option. This study is to assess the safety and tolerability of a Health Canada approved high CBD: low THC product in children with refractor Epileptic Encephalopathy. Children enrolled will be monitored for quality of life and seizure frequency.

Further Reading:

[CRIS Research Group](#)

[Experience of psychogenic nonepileptic seizures in the Canadian league against epilepsy: A survey describing current practices by neurologists and epileptologists.](#)

[The protocol for the Cannabidiol in children with refractory epileptic encephalopathy \(CARE-E\) study: a phase 1 dosage escalation study.](#)