

US doctors call for more study of pot for seizures (Update)

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A medical group of epilepsy experts on Monday called on the U.S. government to reconsider classifying marijuana as a dangerous drug so its impact on seizures can be studied.

The American Epilepsy Society's statement comes as a British pharmaceutical company is scheduled to begin tests of an ant-epilepsy drug derived from cannabis, with the hallucinogenic ingredients removed, and parents are flocking to Colorado to try a strain of pot they say has helped some children with seizures.

The group had previously warned against using marijuana to treat epilepsy but its latest statement does not contain that advice. However, it does caution that these are only anecdotal reports and that "we do not know if marijuana is a safe and effective treatment for epilepsy."

That's why the organization calls for reconsidering its classification as a Schedule 1 substance by the Drug Enforcement Administration, which prevents much research into pot's effects on seizures.

"AES urges all people touched by epilepsy to consult with an epilepsy specialist and explore the many existing treatment options, so that they can make informed decisions with their specialist that weighs the risks and benefits of the different treatment options," the statement concludes.

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