

Genome-wide association study of cannabis

March 30 2016



Cannabis indica. Credit: Wikipedia

Cannabis dependence is a serious problem worldwide and it is of growing importance in the United States as marijuana becomes increasingly legal.

A new study published online by *JAMA Psychiatry* examined what specific genetic variants might contribute to [cannabis dependence](#).

Joel Gelernter, M.D., of the Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn., and coauthors conducted a genome-wide association study for DSM-IV cannabis dependence criterion in three independent substance dependence study groups among African American and European American participants.

The authors report cannabis dependence has a genetic risk component that may overlap with other psychiatric disorders.

More information: *JAMA Psychiatry*. Published online March 30, 2016. [DOI: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2016.0036](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2016.0036)

Provided by The JAMA Network Journals

Citation: Genome-wide association study of cannabis (2016, March 30) retrieved 17 July 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-03-genome-wide-association-cannabis.html>

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