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Obstacles to the integration of cannabis based treatments into standard medicine

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Cannabis has been serving humanity in the management of health related adversities for millennia. However, in the course of the twentieth century it has fallen into disrepute and been formally banished from the realm of legitimate healthcare. It appears that this state of affair is changing once again, with interest growing in the development of cannabis based therapies for multiple indications. For the present, a prominent gap exists between reliable anecdotal observations of exceptional clinical success and the lack of knowledge on cannabis based clinical applications that compile with standards of modern medical practice. It is proposed that analysis of the current failure to develop the therapeutic potential of cannabis suggested by the sporadic reports of success could contribute substantially to the exploitation of this potential. These include apparent response of neoplasms to highly concentrated cannabis extracts as well as a case of rheumatoid arthritis.

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