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Raising Awareness: The Implementation of Medical Cannabis and Psilocybin Used as An Adjunct Therapy in the Treatment of Advanced Metastatic Breast Cancer

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Abstract: A 49-year-old woman was diagnosed with an ER+, PR-, HER2+, BRCA- invasive ductal carcinoma which progressed metastatically to include bone, liver, and lymph node involvement. Standardised care included a 5-month treatment period with targeted chemotherapy and a ketogenic diet. The patient also began a course of whole plant cannabinoid-based therapy, as well as psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy at macro and intermittent micro-doses. Whole plant cannabis medicines require many stages and quality controls in order to ensure consistent phytocannabinoid content across batches. Specialized cannabis genetic selection, cultivation and extraction techniques were required as well as chromatography analysis across each batch in order to consistently reproduce specific strains. The whole-plant cannabis formulations administered to this patient contain the major cannabinoids THC and CBD as well as a mixture of over 140+ other minor cannabinoids, terpenes and flavinoids. At the end of the five-month treatment period PET/CT investigations revealed no evidence of metastatic disease and chemotherapy was withdrawn. A one year follow up CT investigation concluded no evidence of residual or recurrent disease. Over the last 15 years there has been a growing body of in-vitro and in-vivo evidence that support the anti-neoplastic properties of cannabinoids and more recently psychedelics. Indeed, significant anecdotal and real-world evidence is reported of the therapeutic effect of cannabinoids and tryptamines in reducing both tumour proliferation and aiding as a palliative medicine to treat pain and psychological distress associated with cancer and chemo and radiotherapy. The data presented here indicates evidence for the therapeutic utility of such adjunctive pharmacological treatment protocols in individuals with metastatic breast cancer.