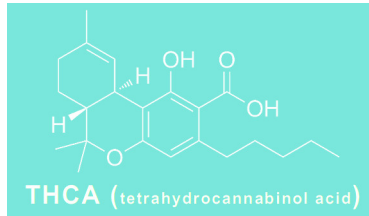


# THCA Research



## Abstract

Tetrahydrocannabinol acid (THCA) cannabinoid research study for medical marijuana treatments. THCA is a cannabinoid found in raw cannabis material. In recent years, researchers have discovered that THCA offers intriguing health benefits for certain medical conditions.

## THCA Defined

THCA is a cannabinoid (active chemical) found in the raw form of cannabis. Cannabis contains dozens of cannabinoids, with varying interaction to different receptors in the brain and body (the endocannabinoid system) which work to produce effects such as the “high feeling” along with body effects used for medical applications.

When people begin to learn about cannabinoids, one of their questions "Are you getting high from what THCA creates?" No euphoric high unlike THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), it is absolutely non-psychoactive. Actually THCA precursor of THC is to transform one of the steps in the process to its final form.

## THCA Science

As similar to the other primary cannabinoids found in marijuana, THCA's life begins as the acidic chemical CBGA. Once mature as the cannabis plant gets developed, an enzymatic method reacts in the trichomes which affects the cannabinoids and transforms them into THCA, CBDA and CBCA. These are acidic versions of the best-known cannabinoids THC, CBD and CBC.

This transformation process of CBGA won the cannabinoid the "mother of all cannabinoids" nickname. Along with CBGA, THCA and CBDA are found in a higher percentage than their counterparts that synthesize most other cannabinoids.

The difference between these cannabinoid acids and later versions is that they are not pharmacologically active in acid form. An enzymatic method involving the trichomes of a

cannabis plant occurs as THCA and other cannabinoids are deemed active.

## **THCA against THC**

The best way to tell the difference between THC and THCA is to understand that THCA is not seen pharmacologically active. This means that some of the effects are either not activated.

The main indication of this is that THCA contains none of the psychoactive effects attributed to THC. To activate and THCA into THC, the cannabis product is cured or decarboxylated.

## **THCA to THC decarboxylation**

Decarboxylation refers to the removal of the carboxylic acid of compound. When this happens, it will transform THCA into THC. THC decarboxylation comes very quickly when exposed to heat. It starts usually occurs at around 230 degrees Fahrenheit. The best way to get the THC in marijuana decarboxylated is by burning it (thus combining process decarboxylation and smoking).

Many people decarboxylate cannabis flowers spread out evenly on a baking tray and placed in the oven ~230 degrees, stirring occasionally for about 40 minutes (or until the material has become medium brown color). This is a good way to enable the full effects of THC marijuana edibles before use.

Cannabis decarboxylation creates difficulties in certain situations, but the THC content in the cured marijuana remains very small if not “decarbed” beforehand. For the highest level of THC, marijuana completely decarboxylate and the necessary excerpts. Meanwhile THCA the maximum values found in fresh leaves, marijuana and untreated flowers.

## **THCA Benefits**

What are the benefits of THCA is not pharmacologically active? THCA is seen as having no effect or benefits in current medical marijuana research. Scientists are studying the use of THCA along with other cannabinoids which may prove to hold the key to the future of medical cannabis and the endocannabinoid system.

## **THCA for Inflammation?**

Researchers have found that THCA and other cannabinoid mimics the action of the natural cannabinoids produced by the body, which deal with inflammation. This means that

with further study, the potential benefits of THCA and the use thereof may be used as anti-inflammatory drugs.

## **THCA as an Anticonvulsant?**

In 2017, researchers published an article in a peer-reviewed journal that THCA and CBD was used for treating patients suffering from epilepsy. The study found with the combination of THCA in patients that small doses were more effective. They also found that small doses of THCA was needed to get the same effect that higher doses of THC in comparison.

## **THCA for Epilepsy?**

Small doses of THCA combined with CBD can be beneficial for people with epilepsy. Further research is needed to verify the anecdotal evidence.

## **THCA as a Neuroprotective?**

Research is also underway to better understand the neuroprotective properties THCA has to offer. In a study of degeneration of brain cells and Parkinson's disease, THCA, THC and CBD have already demonstrated the ability to increase the number of cells and protect neurons. Another study showed that the benefits of THCA include "a strong neuroprotective activity" and suggested that it be considered in the treatment of Huntington's disease and other neuro-inflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases.

## **THC as an Antiemetic?**

THC has long been used as an anti-nausea medication for human chemotherapy, but studies show that THCA may be a better choice. Not only has THCA been more effective in treating nausea and vomiting, it can do so without the psychoactive effects caused by THC.

## **How to use THCA?**

With the advantages of THCA this many people can become increasingly apparent and wonder how to consume THCA. Some people take marijuana through smoking or vaporization, but because it THCA is not decarboxylated, heating it is not the best way to take advantage of the positive effects THCA. Raw methods for using THCA include topicals, extracts and raw cannabis flower.

## **Isolating THCA**

If cannabinoids such as THCA are to be studied in the laboratory, researchers use extracts, which allows them to isolate and treat the individual components of marijuana. Pharmacies also sell THCA extracts. This crystalline is called THCA, a top run THCA 99% extract rated the cleanest and most powerful on the market. These extracts can be consumed without decarboxylation, with consequences THCA without psychotic high. When used by steaming or stamp, extracts from THCA provides a powerful and instant high. THCA extracts are particularly useful for medical users who require high doses of THC to treat their symptoms. THCA crystalline isolates offer a powerful and immediate high.

## **THCA topicals**

Many people also enjoy the benefits THCA topicals. Creams and ointments are administered with THCA as being useful for treating pain and inflammation, to calm down the CB2 receptors in the body. Although not THCA does not bind well to the CB2 receptor, it affects other non-cannabinoid receptors to help relieve the pain. It also helps to increase the level of pain chemicals, including anandamide suppression.

## **THCA edibles**

Since marijuana is cured of a small amount of time before usage, the best way to get the maximum amount of acid tetrahydrocannabinol is from marijuana leaves and untreated flowers. Because it can be difficult to find uncured marijuana, dispensaries that sell legal buds may consider offering fresh buds for sale.

When the leaves and flowers of the cannabis plant are harvested, they can be eaten like any other leafy vegetables. Fresh marijuana can be stored in the refrigerator for short-term storage.

Uses of fresh cannabis:

- Juicing (often mixed with fruit juice to cut the bitterness)
- Eating leaves
- Add buds to a fresh salad
- Finely chop the material and mix it in sauces and dressing.
- Use as a food topping

Fresh cannabis leaves and buds can be juiced in salads, steamed and used elsewhere in edibles.

## **THCA FAQ**

Since THCA seem so similar to THC and cannabinoids two are so closely linked, it may cause some confusion.

### **What is THCA?**

THCA is a cannabinoid, which means that it is one of the active ingredients to determine the effects of marijuana. THCA the chemical precursor of THC. All THC in marijuana plants starts as THCA. THC is when the THCA has been decarboxylated by heating.

### **What is the difference between THC and THCA?**

THC is tetrahydrocannabinol, THCA means tetrahydrocannabinol acid. THCA a carboxylic acid that is lost in the heating process (so-called decarboxylation). This allows pharmacologically active THC and gives the cannabinoid it's psychoactive effects.

### **Can I get high from THCA?**

No, THCA does not produce psychoactive effects. The most effective manner in which this is done to produce a high, is by heating the plant material either by smoking, vaping, or heating in the oven. Curing decarboxylated cannabis also converts the THCA to active THC (in lower levels).

### **What are the effects of THCA?**

The THCA effects are not very visible for medical cannabis users. However, scientific research has begun to raise the discussion about the potential benefits of THCA for medical conditions. It has shown promise for the treatment of pain and inflammation, nausea and vomiting, epilepsy, degeneration of brain cells, and more.

Regarding THCA research and hashish, THCA advantages are more potent as an isolated and concentrated extract.

## **THCA Research Conclusions**

For a long time, recreational users and the medical community also felt THCA was helpful only once and converted into THC. For this reason, THC and CBD has received the most attention in scientific research.

Studies show a promising outlook for THCA in medical marijuana. In recent years, the

scientific community began to rethink the conclusion that health-conscious consumers of cannabis reached a few years ago: tetrahydrocannabinol acid (THCA) in its raw form may show potential for medical applications.

#### References

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- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6200872/>

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