

Position Statement on Medical Cannabis for Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Disorders

The society acknowledges the growing body of research of variable quality evidence suggesting the benefits of Medical Cannabis as a treatment option for children with developmental disabilities. However, there is currently no strong scientific evidence to recommend the use of this substance in the treatment for neurodevelopmental disorders, developmental disabilities and behavioral disorders including but not limited to autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorders and intellectual disability.

Since the long term safety and effectiveness of the use of medical cannabis in children have not been established at this time, its use for these conditions should be confined to other countries with well-designed clinical trials that include the necessary ethical, scientific and regulatory controls. The recent interest in medical cannabis-related policy changes should also consider a comprehensive review of adverse effects and social impact among the pediatric population. At present, the society strongly encourages the use of evidence-based interventions for developmental and behavioral conditions, under the guidance and recommendation of a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician or Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician duly board certified to practice in the Philippines.

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