

THE ENDO-CANNABINOID SYSTEM

MEDICAL CANNABIS + YOUR ECS

Endocannabinoids are naturally found in your body, but the cannabis plant naturally produces its own compounds called Phytocannabinoids (Phyto = Greek for "plant"). These are often referred to as just "cannabinoids".

While not made by our bodies, phytocannabinoids interact with our body's endocannabinoid system. This is the foundation for much of medical cannabis' potential: using phytocannabinoids to promote regulation within the ECS.

HOW MANY PHYTOCANNABINOIDS ARE THERE?

More than 100 phytocannabinoids have been found in the cannabis plant, and more are still being discovered. But of those 100+, there are two more well-known than the others; CBD and THC.

WHAT ELSE IS IN MEDICAL CANNABIS?

There are less famous cannabinoids like CBN and CBG, terpenes that vary by cannabis strain, and more compounds that aid well-being. One of the greatest strengths of medical cannabis is that patients can get all these benefits of the plant together.

WILL THERE BE A QUIZ?

Definitely not. We believe that people taking medical cannabis have a right to understand how it works, but you don't have to learn any more than you want. Our patient care specialists are always here to guide you.

Consumption of cannabis should be discussed with your physician.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

As you can see, the ECS is widespread through the entire human body. We believe this is why medical cannabis may be useful for a variety of conditions.

WHERE IS THE ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM?



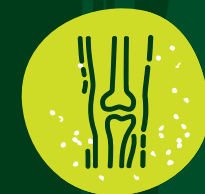
THE NERVOUS SYSTEM



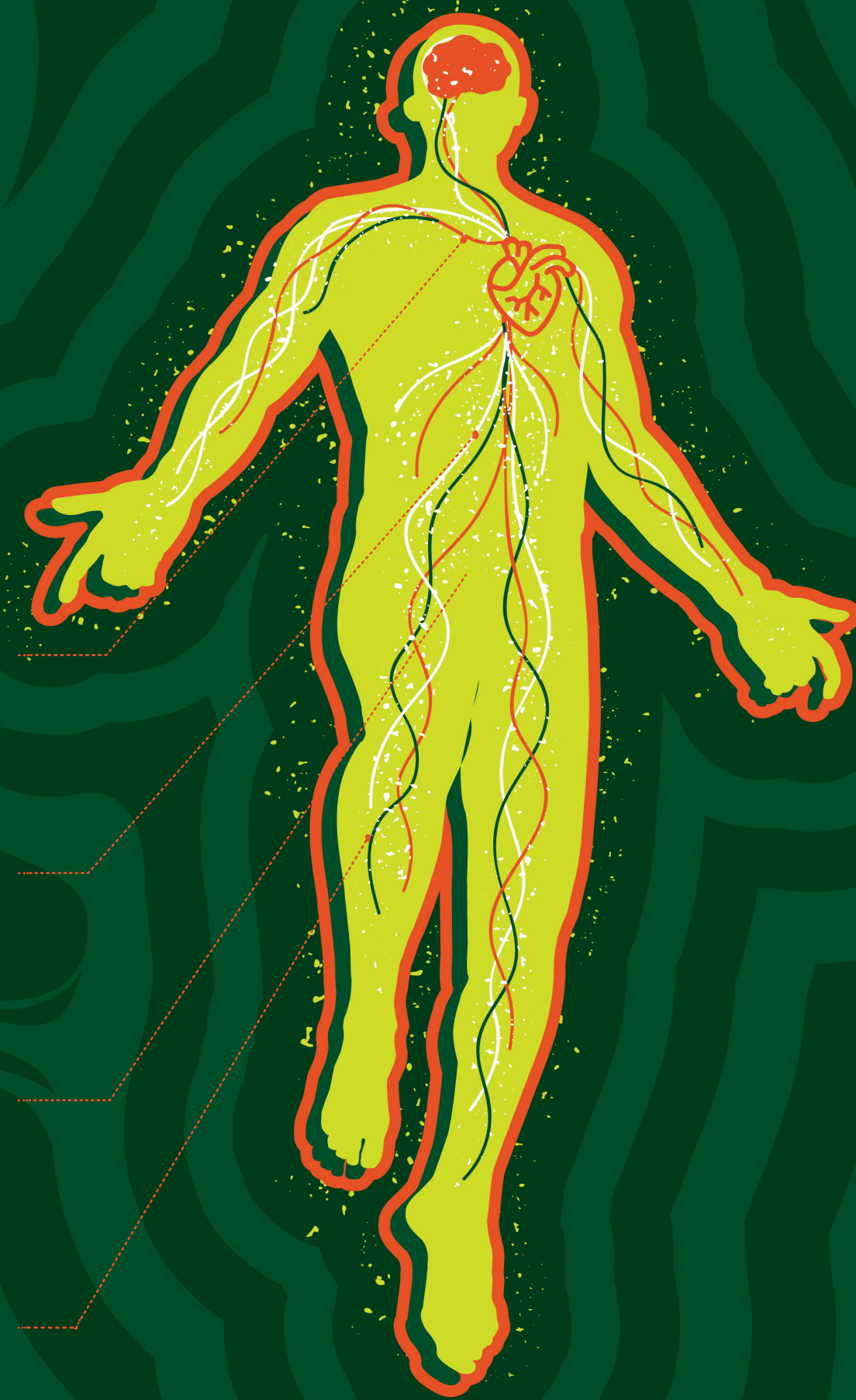
ENDOCRINE & IMMUNE SYSTEMS



DIGESTIVE SYSTEM



MUSCULAR & SKELETAL SYSTEMS



DID YOU KNOW CANNABINOIDS EXIST IN YOUR BODY RIGHT NOW? THEY'RE PART OF YOUR **ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM (ECS)** WHICH HELPS TO REGULATE EVERYTHING FROM APPETITE TO IMMUNITY. THIS IS THE SYSTEM THAT MEDICAL CANNABIS WORKS WITH.

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Medical cannabis is for use by qualified patients only.

References: Backes, M., Weil, A. (2017). In Cannabis Pharmacy: The practical guide to medical marijuana (pp. 168-185) and Backes, M., Weil, A. (2017). In Cannabis Pharmacy: The practical guide to medical marijuana (pp. 35-37).

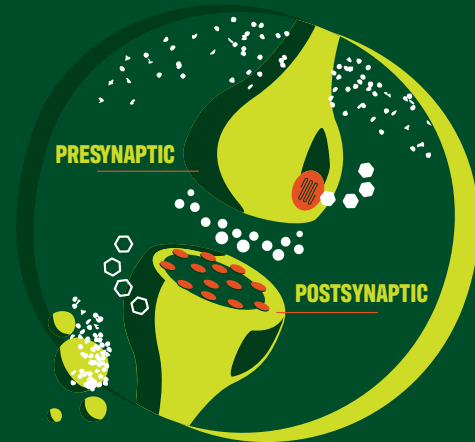
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HOW DOES IT ALL WORK?

SIMPLY PUT, THE ECS HELPS YOUR BODY RESPOND TO STRESS.

When cellular stress occurs, your endocannabinoid receptors interact with cannabinoids and send messages to your body's other systems to help find balance.



PRESYNAPTIC NEURON

Moves signals toward Postsynaptic Neuron

NEUROTRANSMITTERS

Carry signals across the gap between neurons

RECEPTORS

Receive neurotransmitters

CANNABINOIDS

Release and travel back to Presynaptic Neuron

CANNABINOID RECEPTOR

Receives cannabinoids to regulate neurotransmitters

POSTSYNAPTIC NEURON

Carries signals forward

KEEPING YOUR BODY IN BALANCE

The main job of the ECS is to help your body stay balanced in a state called Homeostasis. To do this, the ECS releases endocannabinoids that affect your body's nervous, endocrine (hormone), and immune systems, among others.



WHAT ARE ENDOCANNABINOIDS?

Endocannabinoids are the natural messengers of your ECS. They are compounds your body makes from fatty acids closely related to Omega-3s. Endo is a Greek prefix meaning "within" or "inner".



THE ECS IS EVERYWHERE

The Endocannabinoid System is found throughout your body in a variety of receptors. The most well-known of these are called CB1 and CB2. Both can be found throughout the body, but each has a special focus.



THE 2 KEY KINDS OF ECS RECEPTORS

There are more than two kinds of endocannabinoid receptors, but CB1 and CB2 make up the core of the ECS. They are the primary focus of medical cannabis and each responds to its compounds differently.



MEET
CB1



MOSTLY IN THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS)

Concentrated in areas related to thinking, memory, pleasure, time perception, and coordination. Produces the cognitive effects of THC.

MEET
CB2



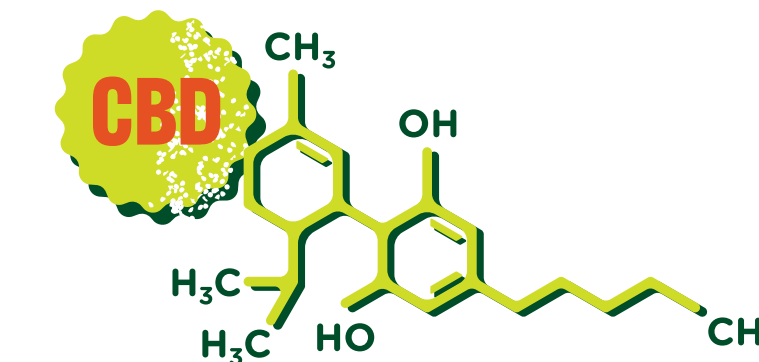
MOSTLY IN THE IMMUNE SYSTEM: SPLEEN, TONSILS, MONOCYTES, B AND T CELLS.

Also found in some parts of the CNS: cerebellum, diencephalon, brainstem, and spinal cord.

CB1 AND CB2 RECEPTORS ARE ALSO PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE BODY IN:

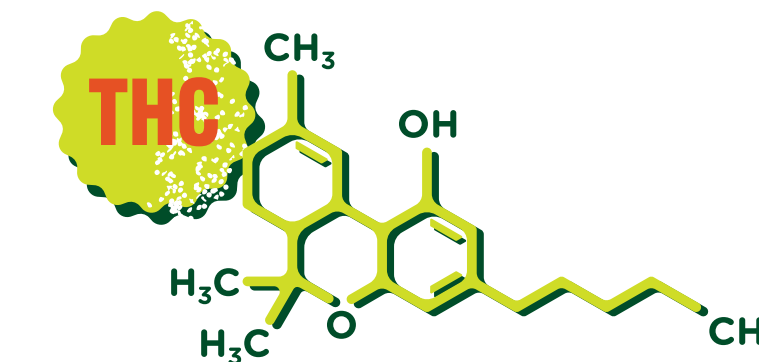
Male & female reproductive systems, cardiovascular system, brain, bones and skin.

THE 2 BIG CANNABINOIDS



CBD

CBD is an abbreviation for Cannabidiol. CBD is the second most well-known cannabinoid, which interacts with the ECS. It does not produce sensory effects but has many other beneficial properties.



THC

THC is an abbreviation for Tetrahydrocannabinol. THC binds more easily to CB1 receptors in your endocannabinoid system, creating the cognitive effects of cannabis.