Effects of THC intoxication on false memories in a legal context

No registrations found.

Ethical review	Positive opinion
Status	Pending
Health condition type	-
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON25116

Source
Nationaal Trial Register

Health condition

THC, cannabis, false memories, dissociation, mock crime
valse herinneringen, dissociatie,mock misdaad

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Maastricht University
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: NWO

Intervention

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

spontaneous and suggestion-based false memories

Secondary outcome

dissociative states and traits

Study description

Background summary

Rationale: False memories refer to memories of events/details that did not occur. False memories frequently occur spontaneously but can also be elicited through suggestion. Legal cases have shown that eyewitnesses and innocent suspects can falsely remember to have seen non-existing details of a crime or falsely confess to have committed a crime due to suggestive interrogation tactics of the police. Such false memories can lead to wrongful convictions. Eyewitnesses and suspects are often under the influence of cannabis but little knowledge exists whether their drugged state makes them more vulnerable to spontaneous or suggestion-induced false memories. From a practical perspective, examining this issue is highly relevant as cannabis is the most widely used drug in the world. Demonstrations of drug-induced false memories may be extremely relevant in the courtroom and in forensic examinations.

Objective: The current project will examine the impact of cannabis intoxication on susceptibility to false memories and dissociation and assess whether such drug-induced experiences depend on an underlying dissociative state or trait. Individual factors of potential influence on false memory (such as attention, compliance) and subjective experience will also be assessed.

Study design: Acute and delayed influences of cannabis on false memory formation will be assessed in a double-blind, placebo-controlled study in occasional cannabis users, using a virtual reality (VR) eyewitness and a perpetrator scenario. The order of treatments and scenarios will be counterbalanced across participants.

Study population: Sixty-four healthy, occasional cannabis users, aged 18-40.

Intervention: Placebo and cannabis vapor (300 μg THC/kg bodyweight)

Main study parameters/endpoints: Spontaneous and suggestion-based false memories will be assessed by using established false memory paradigms (associatively-related word lists, misinformation paradigm). Dissociative states and traits will be assessed using both established self-report and clinician-administered measures.

Nature and extent of the burden and risks associated with participation, benefit and group relatedness: Participants will inhale placebo and cannabis vapor and be exposed to two distinct mock crime scenarios on two separate occasions, each followed by an immediate and a one-week follow-up assessment, including measures of true and false memory and dissociative states and traits.

Study objective

Cannabis intoxication will increase sensitivity to suggested and spontaneous false memories during interrogations

Study design

immediate (after administration of cannabis/placebo) and delayed (one week after administration)

Intervention

300µg THC/kg bodyweight

Contacts

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Eligibility criteria

Inclusion criteria

• Occasional cannabis users

• Age between 18 and 40 years

• Free from psychotropic medication

• Good physical health as determined by medical examination and laboratory analysis

• Absence of any major medical, endocrine and neurological condition

• Normal weight, body mass index (weight/height2) between 18 and 28 kg/m2

• Written Informed Consent

• Good knowledge and understanding of the English language (at least 5 years of English language education)

Exclusion criteria

• History of drug abuse (other than the use of cannabis) or addiction (determined by the medical questionnaire, drug questionnaire and medical examination)

• Pregnancy or lactation (pregnancy test, if needed)

• Hypertension (diastolic> 90; systolic> 140)

• Current or history of psychiatric disorder (determined by the medical questionnaire and medical examination)

• Liver dysfunction

• (Serious) side effects due to previous cannabis consumption

• History of cardiac dysfunctions (arrhythmia, ischemic heart disease,...)

Study design

Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Crossover
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Double blinded (masking used)
Control:	Placebo

Recruitment

NL
Recruitment status:	Pending
Start date (anticipated):	03-04-2017
Enrollment:	64
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Positive opinion
Date:	21-02-2017
Application type:	First submission

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

ID: 45359
Bron: ToetsingOnline
Titel:

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
NTR-new	NL6494

Register	ID
NTR-old	NTR6682
CCMO	NL60303.068.16
OMON	NL-OMON45359

Study results