

The Future of Botanical Medicine Through Nursing Autonomy

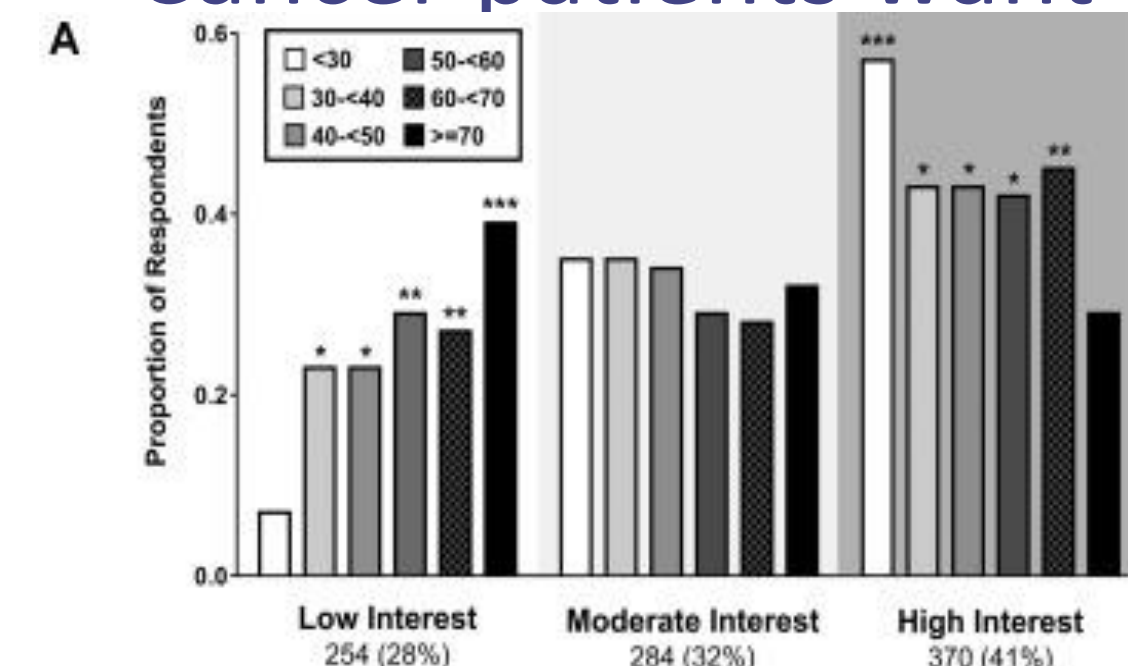
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Intro

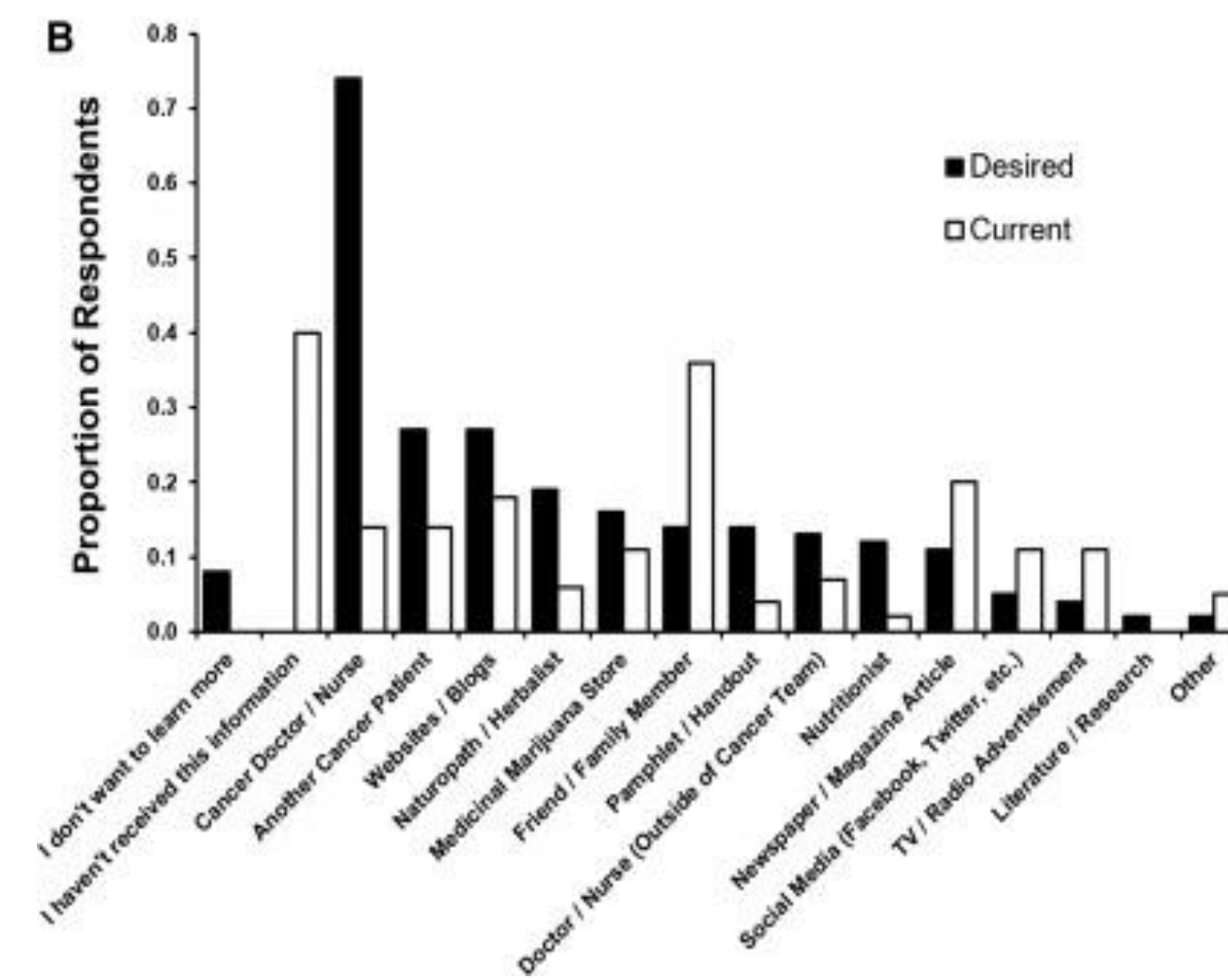
- Medical cannabis is legal in 38 states and there are 5 million patients with medical cannabis cards (1).
- Botanical medicine and cannabis are increasingly being used to treat the symptoms of cancer.
- 26-40% of patient with cancer report using cannabis during their treatment (2).
- Cannabis has been shown in multiple studies to effectively improve pain intensity, pain interference in life, sleep quality, and cognitive function, and quality of life (3, 4).
- Since 2010 it was nurses who recognized the gap between the cannabis industry and healthcare (5)
- Core Nursing Skills include assessment, education, critical thinking, and advocating for patient choice and autonomy.
- Nurses are mandated patient advocates by licensure and to reduce stigma and foster integration into mainstream healthcare, advocacy is at the forefront of cannabis care.
- Oncology Registered Nurses and APRNs should be able to practice to the fullest extent of their license beyond tasks and to use critical thinking to rapidly evolve practice and to provide the best care (6).
- Botanic medicine and cannabis do not behave like other more traditional pharmaceuticals. Dosing and titration are complex to navigate the wide variety of products and doses (5).
 - Nursing education's focus is on the whole patient experience, thus the nature of medicinal cannabis makes nurses the best-equipped profession to manage cannabis education and care (5).
- Multiple studies show that when nurses are given the time and resources to provide these unique nursing skills it will improve outcomes, help meet CMS quality indicators, improve patient satisfaction, and save healthcare dollars (7).

Cancer patients want education

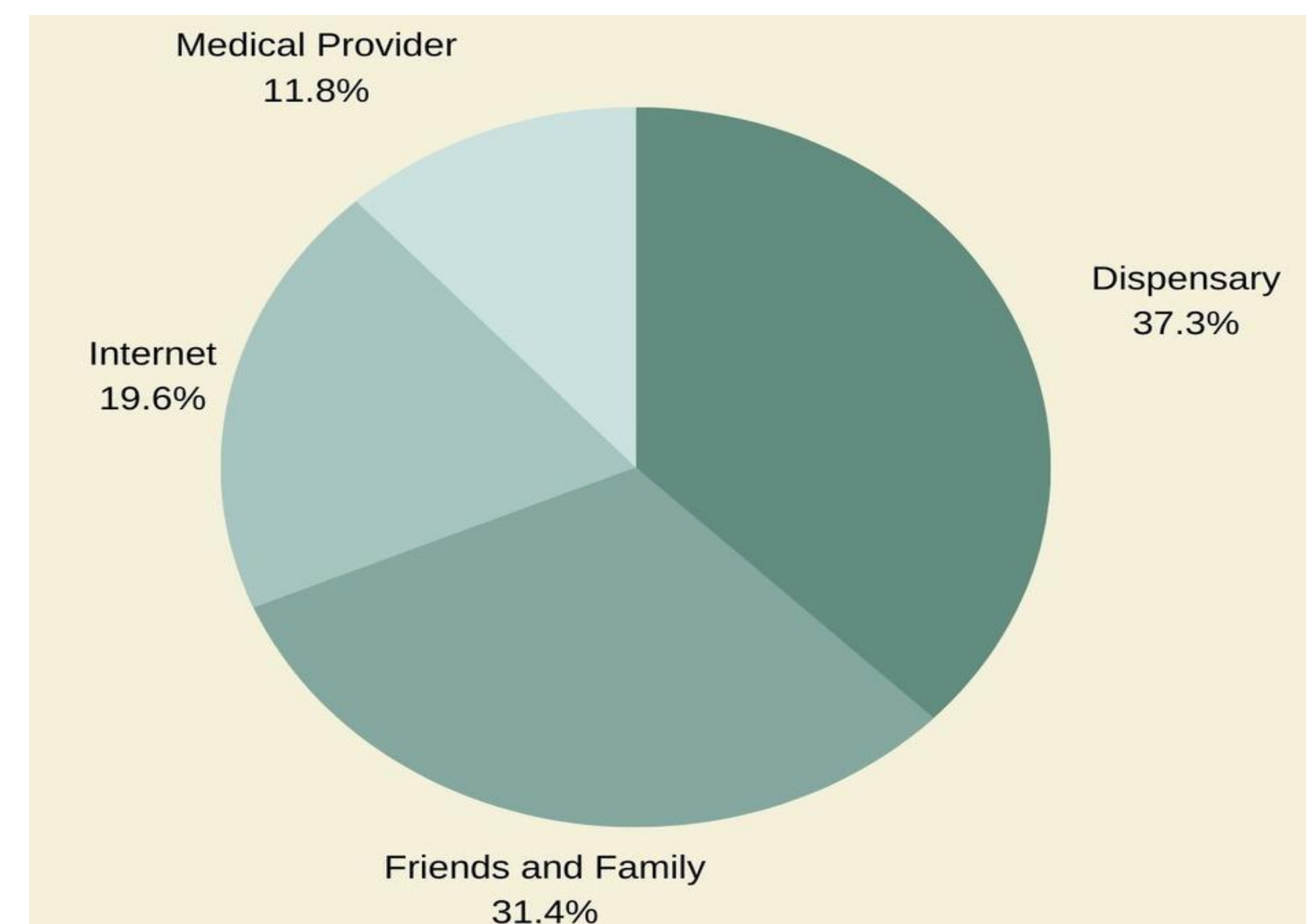


There is significant interest in patients undergoing cancer treatment for education and guidance (8).

The most desired source is from doctors and nurses, but there are few providers currently providing that Nurses are poised to be leaders here - through assessment, goal setting, and supportive care Realistic way to scale to meet the need - especially if cannabis is rescheduled



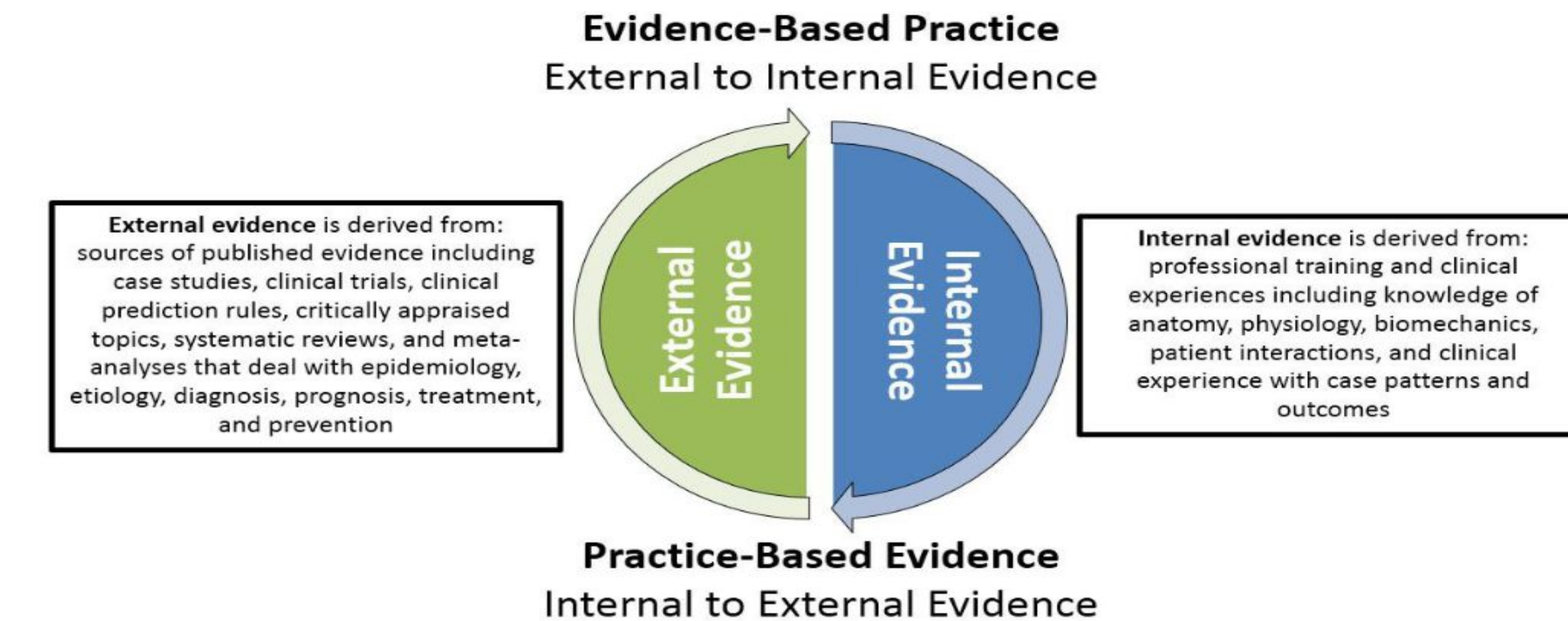
Where do patients get cannabis information?



Marijuana Policy Project, (2021) (1)

Evidence based practice

- More traditionally accepted evidence-based practice can be challenging with botanic medicine
- Nurses have long taken internal evidence from direct practice



Conclusion

- Botanical medicine nursing care is an important part of the oncology nurses role (7).
- The growth and recognition of cannabis nursing as a board certified nursing specialty utilizing APNs and RNs using nursing skills and theory can take the lead in the arena of botanic medicine to help grow research, develop assessment tools, effect policy change, and lead to improved collaboration with other adjacent specialties.
- Breakthroughs and developments in this speciality provide an opportunity to for the public to see nursing as scientific profession and area of study.

References

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