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Medical Cannabis: Knowledge, Beliefs and Attitudes of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

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Medical Cannabis: Knowledge, Beliefs and Attitudes of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

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Abstract

Patients who require anesthesia may have a history of using medical cannabis (MC). Illinois has had a MC program since 2013 and legalized recreational use on January 1, 2020. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) and Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (SRNAs) in Illinois need to be adept at discussing MC with their patients and understand how this class of medication affects anesthesia. Multi-modal approaches to control pain are becoming the standard of care inside and outside of the operating room. It may be that MC will be found useful in narcotic-sparing approaches to anesthesia. Knowledge, beliefs and attitudes of CRNAs and SRNAs should be assessed so that an educational approach that meets their needs can be devised. A survey was adapted from a previous study and disseminated via email to members of the Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists (IANA). Data from survey was collected using Qualtrics and was evaluated using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25.0. Survey respondents reported that it was important for anesthetists to understand how cannabinoids work and that formal training was essential. This study supports previous findings from surveys done of other healthcare professions. Education about MC should be included in CRNA education and continuing medical education (CME).