Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Many bacterial infections possess multi-drug resistance. Arguably the most significant of these bacteria is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, more commonly known as MRSA or 'the superbug.' This bacterium is resistant to standard antibiotics, including penicillin. According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, MRSA is responsible for nearly 20,000 hospital-stay related deaths annually in the United States.¹

Cannabinoids are acknowledged to possess antibacterial and antifungal properties.²³ In 2008, investigators at Italy's Universita del Piemonte Orientale and Britain's University of London, School of Pharmacy assessed the germ-fighting properties of five separate cannabinoids against various strains of multidrug-resistant bacteria, including MRSA. They reported that all of the compounds tested showed "potent antibacterial activity" and that cannabinoids were "exceptional" at halting the spread of MRSA.⁴

Other studies have reported that non-cannabinoid constituents in the plant, such as terpenoids, also possess antibacterial properties against MRSA and malaria.⁵⁷

Clinical trials regarding the use of cannabinoids for MRSA have been recommended, but not yet conducted. Experts opine, "Cannabis sativa ... represents an interesting source of antibacterial agents to address the problem of multidrug resistance in MRSA and other pathogenic bacteria."⁸

REFERENCES


The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (norml.org)

8 Appendino et al. 2008. op. cit.