

The Relationship between Bonzai Use and Burn

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ABSTRACT

AIM

Synthetic cannabinoids are a group of drugs called new psychoactive substances which preferred to original cannabinoid products because they are cheaper, and more readily available. The increase in substance use among young adults becoming a major problem, especially in Turkey. In this study, we aimed to investigate the effects of synthetic cannabinoid drugs such as Bonzai, in patients admitted to emergency service with a burn.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

A retrospective collected data of 112 patients hospitalized in the Burn Unit of Istanbul Bagcilar Training and Research Hospital between January 2017 and December 2017, were carried out retrospectively. 11 of 112 burn patients were analyzed in terms of demographics, length of stay, percentage of burn, causes of burns, morbidity, and mortality.

RESULTS

11 of 112 patients hospitalized in the service and intensive care of the burns unit had a history of substance use, and 8 of these patients were known to use Bonzai. The average age is 30.6 and all of them are male. The mean burn percentage of 11 patients was 36.5%. 8 patients were followed up in the intensive care unit. The mean hospitalization period of the patients with a history of Bonzai use increased to 20.6 days. All 8 burns were caused by flame and no mortality was observed. Amputation was required in four of 11 patients.

CONCLUSION

Burn clinicians should be aware of the increasing use of addictive substances such as Bonzai. They should be aware that the course and length of stay of flame burns due to substance use are different from other burn patients.

KEYWORDS

Flame; Bonzai; Burn

INTRODUCTION

Synthetic cannabinoids (SCs) are full agonists of both cannabinoid receptors (CB 1 & CB 2). There are various

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names to define SCs, such as Bonzai. SCs are part of a group of drugs called new psychoactive substances. SCs are preferred to original cannabinoid products because they are cheaper, and more readily available [1]. The increase in substance use among young adults is becoming a major problem in the world. Synthetic cannabinoids are drugs similar to the active ingredient of cannabis and in recent years their use has increased especially in Turkey. Due to the deepening of depressive and euphoric states, Bonzai has different effects on individuals until it has a strong hallucinogenic effect even 3 days - 4 days after use and ultimately results in forgetfulness after use [2]. In this study, we aimed to investigate the effects of synthetic cannabinoid drugs such as bonsai, in patients who were admitted to emergency service with a burn. We present a new cause of burns due to “Bonzai” in this study.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

We have carried out a retrospective collected data of 112 patients hospitalized in the Burn Unit of Istanbul Bagcilar Training and Research Hospital between January and December 2017. 11 of 112 burn patients were analyzed in terms of age, gender, length of stay, percentage of burn, causes of burns, morbidity, and mortality with their limb loss.

RESULTS

In 2017, 11 of 112 patients hospitalized in the service and intensive care of the burns unit had a history of substance use, and 8 of these patients were known to use Bonzai. The average age is 30.6 [min-max: 18-38] and all of them are male (100%). While the mean burn percentage of 112 patients was 26.5%, the mean burn percentage of 11 patients was 36.5%. 8 patients were followed up in the intensive care unit (100%). While the mean hospitalization period throughout the unit was 14 days, it was observed that the mean hospitalization period of the patients with a history of Bonzai use increased to 20.6 days. All 8 burns were caused by flame and no mortality was observed.

Amputations were required in 4 of 11 patients (36.3%), including one left arm amputation, one bilateral knee amputation, one bilateral below-knee amputation, and one right-hand 5th finger amputation (Figure 1 & Figure 2).



Figure 1: Photo of Bonzai burn that heals without the need for amputation.



Figure 2: Photo of Bonzai burn requiring amputation.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Cannabinoids are widely used throughout the world. SCs are cannabinoid-like substances that are widely used because of their cheap costs and easy availability worldwide. In Turkey, the most popular SC is Bonzai, and its chemical compound mainly consists of JWH-081 [3]. Being a highly addictive substance, Bonzai unwittingly causes burns and leads to long hospital stays and high costs [4]. There is limited information in the literature about SC, and the studies that have been published are case reports generally. So, we aimed to do more comprehensive

research in this study. The fact that all patients are male can be associated with the fact that the use of Bonzai is more common in the male gender, however cannot be discussed in a general context due to the low sample size. As seen in our study, the indication for intensive care admission developed in all of the Bonzai burns. This can be attributed to the long-term hallucinogenic effect and should therefore be taken seriously [5]. Comparing patients with other inpatient burns and patients who burn due to Bonzai, the length of their stay is noticeably higher. It can be argued that the reason for this is the high difference in the average burn percentages of other burn unit patients and Bonzai burn patients. Burn patients, whose awareness is reduced due to Bonzai, have increased exposure to flame, and the increased percentage of burns causes tissue loss and even amputations. Therefore, burns

due to substance addiction can briefly explain how the psychological problems of the person may suffer limb loss. Collaboration with the psychiatric clinic is particularly important before these addictions cause any more serious problems. Physicians should be aware of the possible relationship between the occurrence of burn-in young patients and synthetic cannabinoid consumption, especially Bonzai. Moreover, Burn clinicians should be aware of the increasing use of addictive substances such as Bonzai today. Besides, they should be aware that the course and length of stay of flame burns due to substance use are different from other burn patients.

CONFLICT OF INETEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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