

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL
PURPOSES**

Name: Name Suppressed

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Partially Confidential

For the last 3 years, I have been suffering severe spinal and leg pain due to Degenerative Disc Disease. In [] my surgeon performed an Extreme lateral interbody fusion at L3/4 & L4/5 and extreme lateral total disc replacement, then 2 days later a posterior stabilised fusion of L3, L4 & L5. In other words, he replaced 2 discs and put a titanium cage on the spine to stabilize it. I still have back and leg pain as the nerves between L5 and S1 were also damaged, the surgeon will not operate as he feels he can do nothing more for me.

Until 4 weeks ago I was taking 16 mg of Jurnista (Morphine, reduced from 32mg over 1 year), Fentanyl 25mcg patch every 3 days, Oxycontin 10mg 3 times a day as needed, Pethidine injections 10 per month, Lyrica, Panadine Forte PRN, Valium PRN, Stilnox PRN. I was addicted to these medications as I went through withdrawals every time my GP tried to reduce them. My Migraine specialist was having fits as he believes narcotics cause migraines, I actually had a migraine that lasted for 4 months and required one week in hospital to resolve, he was also worried as the narcotics were causing problems with my Liver and Kidneys.

After a friend suggested cannabis, I purchased some and made cannabutter and cookies. After 3 days on the cookies I cut out ALL the narcotics except for the Jurnista, which I currently have down to 2mg every other day and will be off next week. The doctor was taking over 12 months to wean me off the narcotics. Cannabis got me off them in 3 days, after one week on the cookies, my pain was completely under control and I no longer have to worry about internal organ damage, the depression I was suffering due to chronic pain has also gone completely. Please consider cannabis for medical Use, it really is an amazing miracle plant. Apart from medical uses the hemp plant has so many industrial uses we could save the planet by utilizing the plant