



Better health through
laboratory medicine.

Topic: The Laboratory's Role in Drug Monitoring for Pain Management

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Q&A SESSION 8 Time: 3:30PM-3:40PM	
Paul Jannetto	Hello, this Paul Jannetto and I am happy to address any questions you may have.
Manoj Tyagi	I wonder if we have clue on Synthetic Cannabinoid PT / Split testing
Henning Proelss	Are there any statistics or estimates to indicate the prevalence of current usage of synthetic vs. natural Marijuana products on the street?
Manoj Tyagi	This was intriguing lecture and wonderful presentation
William Bennett	Hi Paul. Great job. Do the known synthetic cannabinoids require different column types for their LC/MS/MS analysis?
Paul Jannetto	Laboratories that offer synthetic cannabinoid testing are typically using alternate PT assessment and sample exchanges with other labs.
Manoj Tyagi	in fact, we cover whole range of synth cannabioids and its hard for us to find a lab that can collaborate for split testing on DEA approved such class
Carlos Martinez	I have known of several clinicians not wanting to test for marijuana use. My sense is that they might not be sure how to clinically interpret patient positive results. What are your thoughts?
Barbarajean Magnani	Interestingly, the new CDC guidelines urge clinicians not to test for substances for which results would not affect patient management or for which patient management is unclear. They use THC as an example. We do screen for it at our hospital for our chronic pain patients but we do not confirm. Any comments on this?
Manoj Tyagi	We confirm by LCMS/MS
Paul Jannetto	In speaking to many clinical colleagues and pain management physicians, some will (like the recent CDC guideline) not test for THC. However, this varies by state since some states have regulations that prohibit physicians from prescribing any controlled substance (opioids) if they know or should know a patient is using an illicit drug (THC)

Paul Jannetto	There are several methods published in the literature for measuring synthetic cannabinoids and more standards are available commercially now. We currently do not perform this testing in our laboratory in Rochester, MN. Our Toxicologists say the testing doesn't impact their treatment decisions and it's more academic. As far as prevalence, it is highly variable across the country.
Barbarajean Magnani	I agree, many State guidelines or hospital policies on chronic opioid use include a clause regarding any illegal substances as contract breakers.
Henning Proelss	Is THC-V testing currently available to differentiate smoked marijuana vs. Marinol use?
Paul Jannetto	I know some reference laboratories offer tests for alternative metabolites
Paul Jannetto	Besides the traditional carboxy-THC and THC.
Carlos Martinez	How effective are current spice/synthetic cannabinoid assays at detecting spice use, since current spice products seem to contain different synthetic cannabinoids than those from years ago?
Paul Jannetto	Thank you for your participation and I hope you enjoyed the presentation.
Shanin Lodhi	What are the most common synthetic cannabinoids you've heard of recently?
Paul Jannetto	There are a few commercial immunoassays that look for JWH-018 and JWH-250. These assays have some cross-reactivity to other synthetic cannabinoids and metabolites, but still will not detect every one.