

# Navigating Patients through the Maze of Information and Mis-Information about Medicinal Cannabis (Marijuana)



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## Biography

Penny has been the Gynecologic Oncology Nurse Navigator at North sides Hospital Cancer Institute in Atlanta, GA. for 7 years and is now certified via AONN+ (Academy of oncology Nurse and patient Navigators). She was the Clinical Research Director of South-eastern Gynecologic Oncology for 10 Years where she coordinated, managed and assisted in writing Investigator Initiated trials. As research director she participated in the National ONS team to create Core Competencies for Clinical Trial Nurses and prior to that practiced in surgical oncology in her home state of Florida for many years.

## Abstract

**Objectives:** This presentation was developed in response to the many questions posed by navigator colleagues, patients and physicians about the veracity of medicinal cannabis as an adjuvant to cancer treatment as well as a possible cytotoxic agent. It became obvious to me that there is a crucial need for accurate, evidence-based factual information to empower navigators to disseminate to their patients as well as the patients being empowered with credible data, with which to base their treatment choices upon as well as avoiding poor choices which could be detrimental to both their care and their pocketbook. All slide content will be based upon published data which will be referenced.

**Results:** This presentation is structured to provide a practical, multifaceted resource, enabling the navigator to factually answer the many questions patients and other health professionals are asking which will empower patients to partner in their choices related to medicinal cannabis based upon the data in all references noted in this Abstract.

**Conclusion:** Navigation is a multifaceted process that includes education, emotional and psychosocial reinforcement, all geared toward empowering patients to become partners in their care. With the plethora of information, anecdotal references, and blatant misinformation about medicinal cannabis, this presentation will offer navigators a valuable addition to their "tool-kit" as a part of the unique and intimate partnership between the navigator and patient as they traverse the "cancer journey from initial diagnosis throughout the continuum of care. The invaluable educations we provide our patients will not only assist their decisions but can also save them from potential physical as well as financial damage.

## References:

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