

MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR GLAUCOMA? WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW.

**EDUCATIONAL SERIES:
HEALTH CONDITIONS**

Updated 2026

FLORIDA LAW FORMALLY RECOGNIZES GLAUCOMA AS A QUALIFYING CONDITION FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA.¹

WHAT IS GLAUCOMA?

- Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can damage an important eye nerve named the optic nerve. Glaucoma may lead to vision loss or blindness without treatment.
- One cause of glaucoma is high pressure in the eye.^{2,3}
- Glaucoma can be treated with eye drops, oral prescription medicine, surgery, or a combination of treatments to lower pressure in the eye.³



CAN MEDICAL MARIJUANA HELP WITH GLAUCOMA?

- There is currently not enough evidence to recommend medical marijuana for regular glaucoma treatment.^{4,6} Some chemicals found in medical marijuana (called cannabinoids, such as THC and CBD) may temporarily lower eye pressure.⁴
- There is still very limited information about the short- and long-term side effects of medical marijuana in people with glaucoma.⁶

WHAT SHOULD I ASK MY HEALTHCARE PROVIDER?

1. Discuss any prescription medications you are taking including glaucoma eye drops, blood pressure medicines, antidepressants, pain medications, or drugs for other conditions.

Tell your provider about any other health problems you have. There are many possible interactions between medical marijuana and diseases, or other substances.⁷

2. Report sudden vision changes, such as blurry vision, dry eyes, eye pain, and other symptoms to your physician.⁶

The use of medical marijuana can cause side effects such as eyelid tremor, dizziness, sleepiness, confusion, and a fast heartbeat.^{4,6} Therefore, regular communication with your healthcare provider and your ophthalmologist can assist in identifying risks and side effects.

1. The 2020 Florida Statutes, Title XXIX, Chapter 381, section 381.986: Medical use of marijuana.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Glaucoma. Updated May 15, 2024. Accessed May 6, 2026. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/vision-health/about-eye-disorders/glaucoma.html>
3. Michels TC, Ivan O. Glaucoma: Diagnosis and Management. Am Fam Physician. 2023;107(3):253-262.
4. Joshi N, Mariam H, Kamath A. Cannabinoids for the Treatment of Glaucoma: A Review. Med Cannabis Cannabinoids. 2024;7(1):183-192. Published 2024 Sep 16. doi:10.1159/000541461

5. Gedde SJ, Bowden EC, Challa P et al. American Academy of Ophthalmology Preferred Practice Pattern Glaucoma Committee. Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma PPP 2025. American Academy of Ophthalmology. Published February 2026. Accessed May 9, 2026. Available from: <https://www.aao.org/preferred-practice-pattern/primary-open-angle-glaucoma-ppp>
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7. Ho JJY, Goh C, Leong CSA, Ng KY, Bakhtiar A. Evaluation of potential drug-drug interactions with medical cannabis. Clin Transl Sci. 2024;17(5):e13812. doi:10.1111/cts.13812