Pot found to ease HIV-associated pain

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

SmokÂ-ing maÂ-riÂ-juaÂ-na reÂ-duced inÂ-tense foot pain asÂ-soÂ-ciÂ-atÂ-ed with HIV inÂ-fecÂ-tion by 34 perÂ-cent in a ranÂ-domÂ-ized triÂ-al, reÂ-searchÂ-ers at the UniÂ-verÂ-siÂ-ty of California-San FranÂ-cisÂ-co reÂ-port.

The smokÂ-ersâ€™ pain reÂ-ducÂ-tion was found to be twice as much as that of a comÂ-parÂ-iÂ-son group, who smoked maÂ-riÂ-juaÂ-na with the acÂ-tive inÂ-greÂ-diÂ-ent reÂ-moved.The clinÂ-iÂ-cal triÂ-al was the first in many years in the UnitÂ-ed States, and helps fill in a maÂ-jor gap in knowÂ-lÂ-edge reÂ-sultÂ-ing from the pauÂ-ciÂ-ty of such reÂ-search, said the uniÂ-verÂ-siÂ-tyâ€™s Igor Grant. â€œThere has been inÂ-sufÂ-fiÂ-cient light shed on the posÂ-siÂ-ble therÂ-aÂ-peuÂ-tic valÂ-ue of canÂ-naÂ-bis,â€• or maÂ-riÂ-juaÂ-na, said Grant, a psyÂ-chiÂ-aÂ-trist who diÂ-rects the uniÂ-verÂ-siÂ-tyâ€™s CenÂ-ter for MeÂ-dicÂ-iÂ-nal CanÂ-naÂ-bis ReÂ-search. The study was the first comÂ-pletÂ-ed of sevÂ-erÂ-al clinÂ-iÂ-cal triÂ-als of canÂ-naÂ-bis beÂ-ing conÂ-ducted unÂ-der the cenÂ-terâ€™s ausÂ-picÂ-es, and the latÂ-est volÂ-ley in a decÂ-ades-long deÂ-bate over maÂ-riÂ-juaÂ-naâ€™s merÂ-its or danÂ-gers. One reÂ-cent paper proÂ-posed that the drug can be eiÂ-ther healthy or bad, deÂ-pendÂ-ing on the dose. The foot stuÂ-dy, pubÂ-lished in the FebÂ-ruÂ-ary 13 isÂ-sue of the reÂ-search jourÂ-nal NeuÂ-rolÂ-oÂ-gy, looked at 50 peoÂ-ple with HIV-asÂ-soÂ-ciÂ-atÂ-ed senÂ-soÂ-ry neuÂ-ropÂ-aÂ-thy, a painÂ-ful and ofÂ-ten deÂ-bilÂ-iÂ-tatÂ-ing conÂ-diÂ-tion. OcÂ-curÂ-ring usuÂ-alÂ-ly in the feet and charÂ-acÂ-terÂ-ized at times by tingling, numbÂ-ness, pins-and-neeÂ-dles senÂ-saÂ-tions, burnÂ-ing, and sharp inÂ-tense pain, seÂ-vere cases can make walkÂ-ing or standÂ-ing difÂ-fiÂ-cult.â€œThere is a measÂ-urÂ-aÂ-ble medÂ-iÂ-cal benÂ-eÂ-fit to smokÂ-ing canÂ-naÂ-bis for these paÂ-tients,â€• said DonÂ-ald I. Abrams, the lead auÂ-thor. PaÂ-tients smoked the study cigarettes three times a day for five days unÂ-der suÂ-perÂ-viÂ-sion. The maÂ-riÂ-juaÂ-na reÂ-sponse â€œwas comÂ-paÂ-raÂ-ble to strong pain reÂ-lievÂ-ers we have studÂ-ied, such as morÂ-phine,â€• said co-auÂ-thor KarÂ-in L. PeÂ-tersen.