

Factsheet: Cannabis legalization

Oral extracts

Basics

- Drops for oral administration
- Approved in the medical field according to DAB 2020 monograph "Adjusted Cannabis Extract".
- Consists of full spectrum cannabis extract (with terpenes) or THC/ CBD isolate dissolved in MCT oil
- Onset of action delayed due to absorption in the digestive tract, but longer lasting (after approx. 30 min at the earliest, peak after approx. 2-4 hours (Grotenhermen, 2003))
- Already decarboxylated/heated and effective upon ingestion
- Besides CO₂-extraction also distillation (in ethanol) possible



Cannabis extract to be taken orally

Pro

- Oral ingestion does not cause respiratory problems
- Discreet ingestion, without odor
- No device needed for ingestion (e.g. vaporizer)
- Small volume
- Long shelf life
- Easy transport and storage
- Plant residues (leaves, small flowers) can be optimally utilized in extraction process
- Basis for the production of edibles (e.g. cookies with extract)

Contra

- High investment costs of a CO₂ extraction machine necessary given the presumption that ethanol-based extracts are not allowed

Recommendation

- Sale should be permitted given:
 - It's an alternative dosage form to ingestion - no combustion process required
 - Easily dosed to recommended dosage with droplet pipette if declared
 - If it is not purchasable in the legal market, it is obtained from the illegal market
 - Good utilization of plant residues for holistic use of cannabis plant
 - Small volume and long shelf life simplify storage and transportation

Sources

- Grotenhermen (2003): Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of cannabinoids. Clin Pharmacokinet. 2003;42(4):327-60. doi: 10.2165/00003088-200342040-00003. PMID: 12648025.