

Impact of a Coordinated Specialty Care Program on Heavy Cannabis Use Among Youth Experiencing First Episode Psychosis

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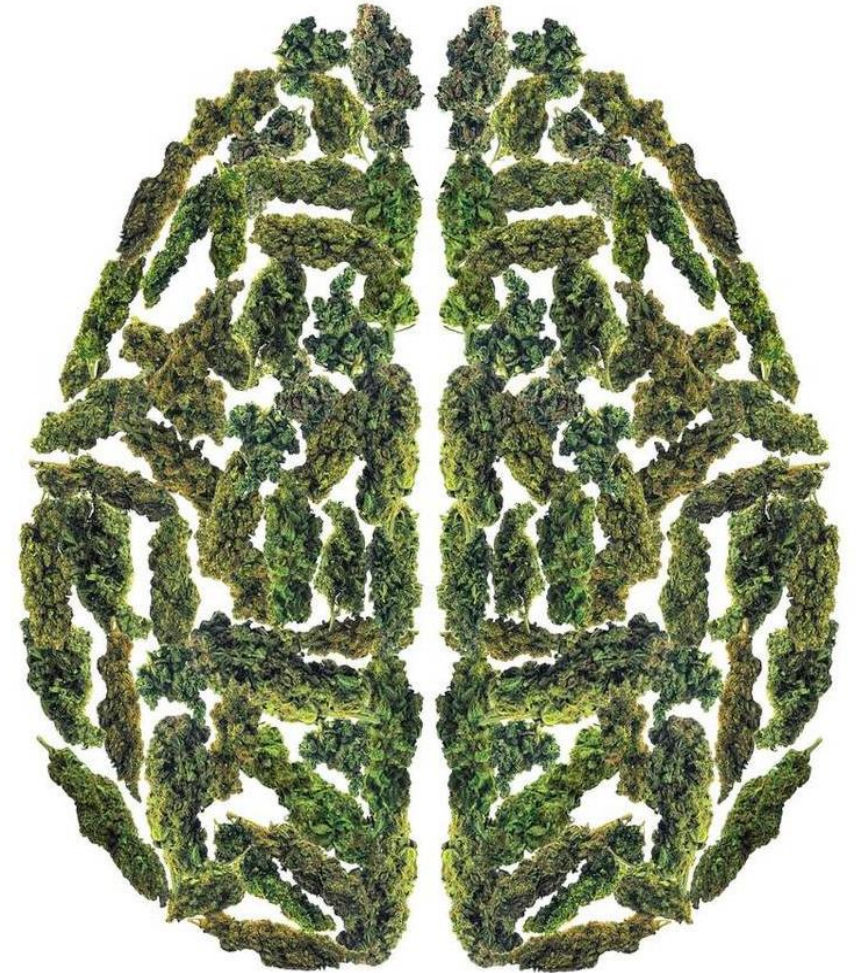


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First Episode Psychosis and Cannabis Use

- » Cannabis use is associated with increased risk of developing psychosis and increased psychotic symptoms (Hall & Degenhardt, 2008; Large et al., 2011)
- » Frequent or heavy cannabis use may be particularly problematic (Schoeler et al., 2016)
- » Heavy cannabis use might be an important treatment target for interventions designed to treat first episode psychosis



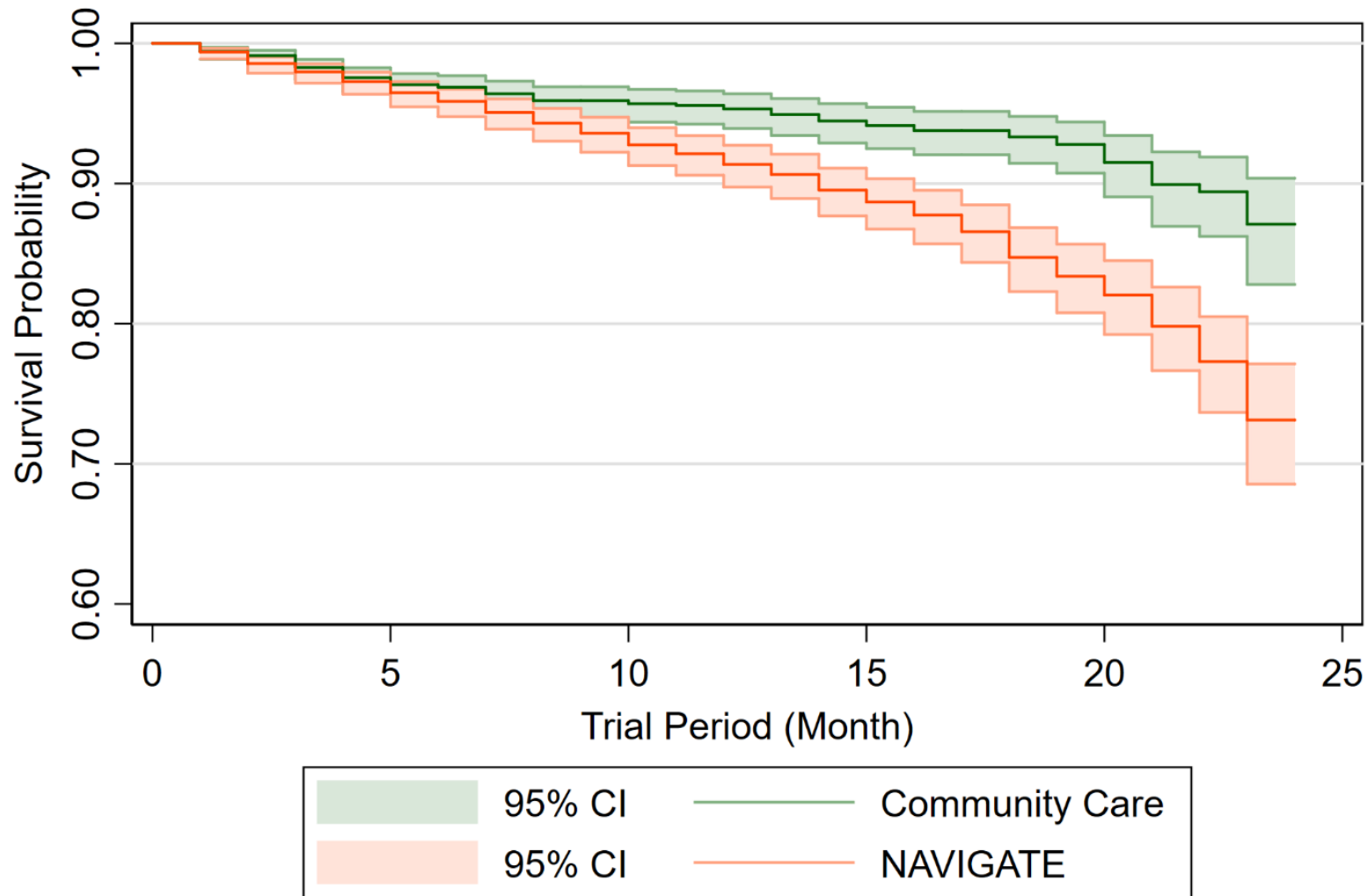
Coordinated Specialty Care and Cannabis Use

- » Coordinated specialty care models are multi-component interventions for first episode psychosis
 - Many include interventions for drug use
- » The Recovery After Initial Schizophrenia Episode-Early Treatment Program (RAISE-ETP) study was a cluster randomised trial (N=404) comparing a coordinated specialty care treatment called NAVIGATE to usual community care (Kane et al., 2016)
- » Cannabis use in RAISE-ETP (Cather et al., 2018)
 - 35% met criteria for a cannabis use disorder in their lifetime
 - There was no difference in cannabis use between groups during treatment

Secondary Analysis of Heavy Cannabis Use

- » Hypothesis: Those randomised to NAVIGATE would be less likely to engage in heavy cannabis use than those in the community care group over the 24 month treatment period
- » Heavy Cannabis Use: cannabis use > 19 of prior 30 days
- » Sample: n=132 cannabis users (33% of original study sample)
- » Analysis: Survival analysis with shared frailty, treatment group (main effect), controlling for age, sex, race/ethnicity, and baseline heavy cannabis use (Lin & Wei, 1989)

Cumulative Survival Probabilities of Heavy Cannabis Use



Hazard Ratio = 1.8 (95% Confidence Interval = 1.0-3.52)

Conclusion

- » Heavy cannabis use was more likely to occur in the NAVIGATE group, compared to the community care group
- » Potential explanations include:
 - The brief, optional individual therapy module in NAVIGATE might be insufficient
 - Community care providers might be more likely to refer for specialized substance use treatment, relative to NAVIGATE clinicians
 - Others
- » Next Steps
 - Clinical: enhance substance use treatment in coordinated specialty care programs
 - Continue to evaluate heavy cannabis use as a treatment outcome

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