Dravet Syndrome Foundation CBD Position Statement

Dravet syndrome is a severe and intractable epilepsy. The Dravet Syndrome Foundation (DSF) is dedicated to funding research into better treatments for those afflicted with this devastating condition. DSF recognizes that there is a growing interest among families, physicians and the medical community in the use of cannabidiol (CBD) for the treatment of Dravet syndrome. CBD is one of more than 100 cannabinoids in the marijuana plant and is not psychoactive. Recently, a Phase 3 clinical trial of purified plant-based CBD yielded a significant reduction in seizure frequency and severity with a well-tolerated side effect profile in patients with Dravet syndrome. Meanwhile, many states have changed their laws relating to the distribution and use of CBD and other components of hemp and medical marijuana.

As we continue to learn more about patients’ experiences with CBD - both successful and unsuccessful - DSF has become increasingly interested in promoting further research into the efficacy and safety of CBD treatment. DSF is currently funding a two-year research study involving the mechanisms of CBD as part of our annual research grant process. As further evidence concerning the safety and efficacy of CBD emerges through clinical studies and basic science research, DSF recommends that all families continue to work closely with their treating physicians to make the best decisions regarding medical care.

DSF applauds the efforts of all families, physicians, researchers, and advocacy groups who are advancing research into CBD and other potential treatments for Dravet syndrome and related epilepsies. DSF looks forward to the upcoming FDA decision on the first CBD-based medication and first medication with an indication for Dravet syndrome.

About DSF

The mission of Dravet Syndrome Foundation (DSF) is to aggressively raise research funds for Dravet syndrome and related epilepsies; to increase awareness of these catastrophic conditions; and to provide support to affected individuals and families.

Since its inception in 2009, DSF has awarded more than $3.6M in research grants

Questions about DSF and its research grant program may be directed to Nicole Villas, Board President/Scientific Director, at nicole@dravetfoundation.org.