Cannabinoids are widely used across the United States, with marijuana being the most commonly consumed “illicit” drug. As medicinal and/or recreational use of cannabinoids increases, more patients who are acute or chronic users will present for surgical procedures. This lecture aims to describe best practices for treating such patients in the perioperative period. We will discuss the various chemical compounds that comprise cannabinoids and the pharmacology thereof, the expected physiological effects of acute and chronic intoxication, and concerns for pre-, intra-, and post- operative management.

Learning objectives

• To recognize the numerous forms of cannabinoids that may be encountered in clinical practice.
• To understand the pharmacology and physiology of the available cannabinoids.
• To understand the influence of cannabinoids on perioperative care.
Cara J. Riley, DMD MS

Dr. Cara J. Riley is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at Children's Hospital Colorado and the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where she has worked for eight years. She earned a DMD degree at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and attended The Ohio State University for her dental anesthesiology residency. Dr. Riley is a Diplomate and Vice President of the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology. Dr. Riley grew up in coastal Maine, but now is happy to call Denver home. Her family consists of Tyler, husband; Weston and Mac, sons; and, of course, Pilot, hound dog.