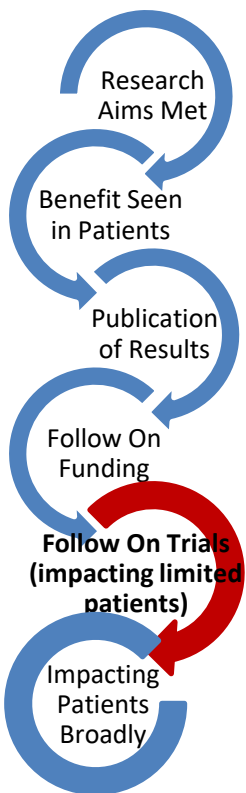


Treating Agitation in Alzheimer's Patients with a Therapy Used to Reduce Chemo Side Effects

Measuring CWR's Success



In 2019, Cures Within Reach supported **Dr. Krista Lanctôt** at the **University of Toronto** and the **Sunnybrook Research Institute** in repurposing **nabilone**, a cannabinoid used to treat **nausea and vomiting** caused by cancer chemotherapy, to treat **agitation in Alzheimer's disease (AD)**.



Severe agitation can increase progression of AD and physical health problems. There was an urgent need for safer medication options at the time, since the standard of care produced only small improvements, while increasing the risk of harmful side effects, including risk of mortality. Dr. Lanctôt's pilot study was the first randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial to observe the efficacy of nabilone in treating agitation, as well as its underlying cause, pain, and weight loss. She found that nabilone significantly reduced agitation, overall neuropsychiatric symptoms, and lowered caregiver distress in AD patients. With these promising preliminary findings, she is currently conducting a phase III trial.

KEY FACTS

- CWR provided \$30,000 to fund a clinical trial repurposing nabilone for agitation in Alzheimer's disease in partnership with Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF)

IMPACT

- CWR'S contribution helped to **leverage \$2.2 million** in follow-on funding from ADDF and others
- Early results allowed Dr. Lanctôt to continue research with a Phase II and III trials



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