

William R. Gallivan, Jr., M.D.

Peus, Birch, Kahmann, Gallivan and Romero

A Medical Corporation
2324 Bath Street • 2nd Floor • Santa Barbara • CA • 93105
Telephone (805) 682-7801 • Fax (805) 687-5342

J. Carl Peus, M.D.
William R. Gallivan, Jr., M.D.
Anthony C. Romero, M.D.
Eric F. Shepherd, M.D.

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Practice limited to
surgery of the spine

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David Bearman, M.D.
7394 Callereal, #c
Goleta, CA 93117

2011 OCT -4 11 09:50
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Dr. Bearman:

I find your promotion of the positive effect of cannabis quite concerning, extremely biased, and harmful to patients. As a physician and orthopedic surgeon who has taken the Hippocratic oath, I still feel an obligation to attempt to do no harm (Primum Non Nocere).

The overwhelming but not unanimous consensus from physicians in our community is that smoking cannabis makes patients less productive and actually less healthy. Quoting the AMA from 1937, "No dangers from cannabis," would be in line with touting health benefits from cigarettes, as was also done in the 1930s.

Are you familiar with Chronic Smoke Inhalation Disease (CSID)? Smoking cigarettes, marijuana, or exposure to high levels of car exhaust containing carbon monoxide and other toxins absolutely qualify as poisons and are indisputably harmful.

Have you ever noticed a certain unhealthy pallor that cigarette smokers and regular cannabis smokers have in common, even in their late teens and early 20s? Are you aware that 1 to 2 cigarettes smoked per day has been shown to delay bone healing by 80% after fracture or surgery? Wound infection rates are generally doubled in smokers and may be increased by as high as ten fold in certain surgeries, such as ankle fusions. We see similar trends in regular cannabis smokers.

Who is educating these patients?

If you are going to make these claims that cannabis may cure cancer and slow progression of neurological disease, you should at least feel obligated to mention potential harmful side effects. The

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next time you are at a pro cannabis protest or rally, look around at the speakers who are supporting medicinal marijuana. Why do you suppose that the person with insomnia, migraines, back pain, etc., appears chronically ill? That is right, chronic smoke inhalation disease, sometimes confused with "the face of addiction." Look closer!

I adamantly support the compassionate use of cannabis for those suffering with chronic conditions such as terminal cancer and doubt that they have significant problems with access. You must realize that the vast majority of medicinal marijuana cardholders are recreational users that pay their \$150 fee and list an unconfirmed diagnosis. Yes, as a surgeon I prescribe narcotic pain medication every day. I recognize that this has great potential for addiction and harmful side effects and therefore do my best to get my patients off narcotics as soon as possible. Please show some similar disdain for your "medicine."

William R. Gallivan, Jr., M.D.
Santa Barbara Orthopedic Specialists
Father of Five

Sincerely,

William R. Gallivan, Jr., M.D.
WRG/wdj/QASB
TID#: 58172768

cc: Editor