



Relationship between cannabis use and length of inpatient hospitalization among patients with schizophrenia spectrum disorder in a community Hospital

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Introduction

- There is evidence that use of cannabis results in an increased risk of developing schizophrenia in later life.
- Cannabis is the most commonly used illicit substance in the world.
- It is the second most commonly used substance in individuals with schizophrenia.
- It is unclear if cannabis use worsens the overall treatment outcome and cost-benefit for the patient.

Aim

- To determine if cannabis use increases the length of hospital stay of patients with schizophrenia spectrum disorder.

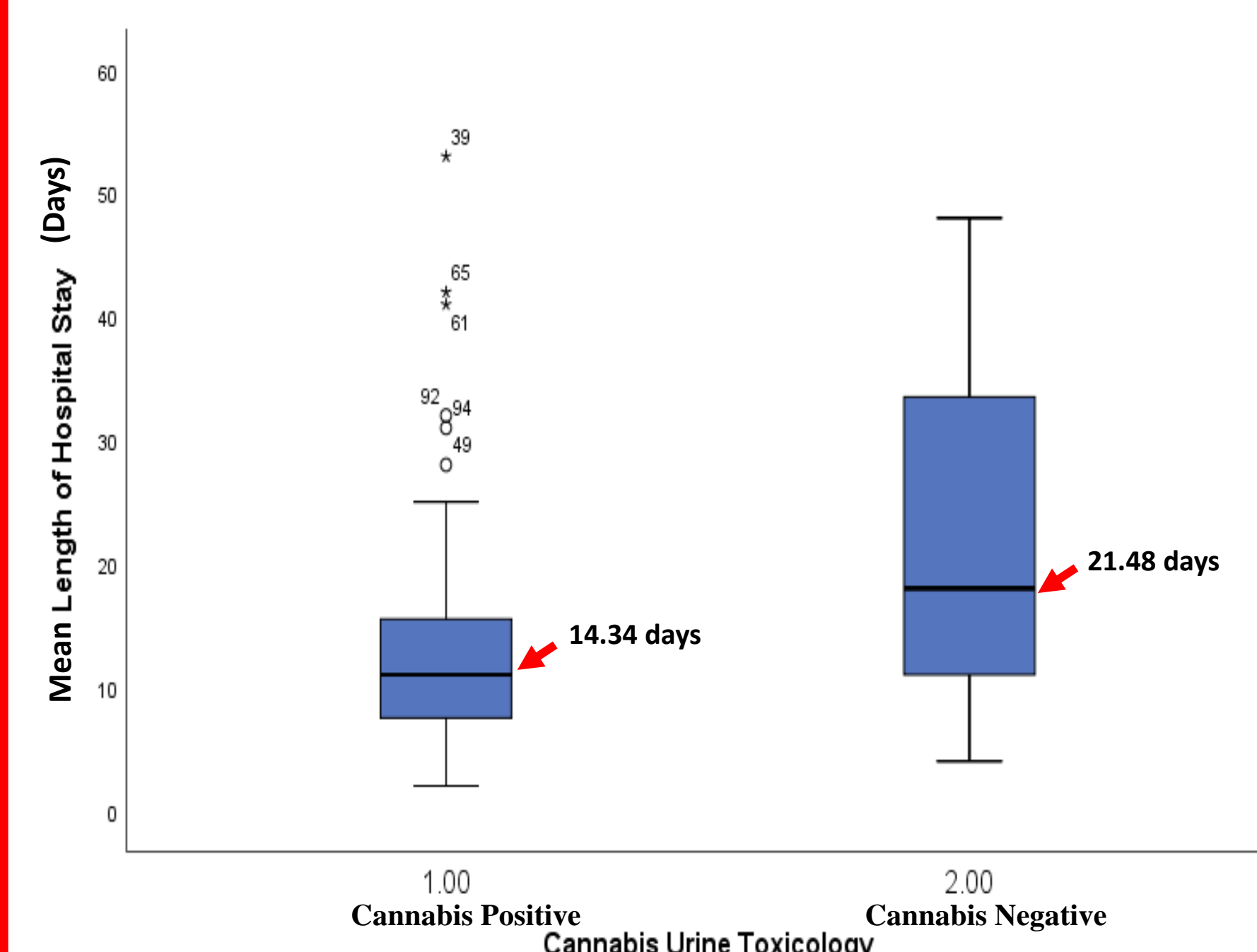
Method

- A retrospective review of 115 patient with a diagnosis of schizophrenia spectrum disorder discharged from the psychiatric units from July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.
- We analyzed the urine toxicology result for cannabis and the hospital length of stay (LOS).
- Statistical significance was defined as $p \leq 0.05$.
- Extracted data analyzed using SPSS version 20.
- We performed descriptive statistics, chi-square tests, and negative binomial regression analysis (due to the overdispersion of LOS data)

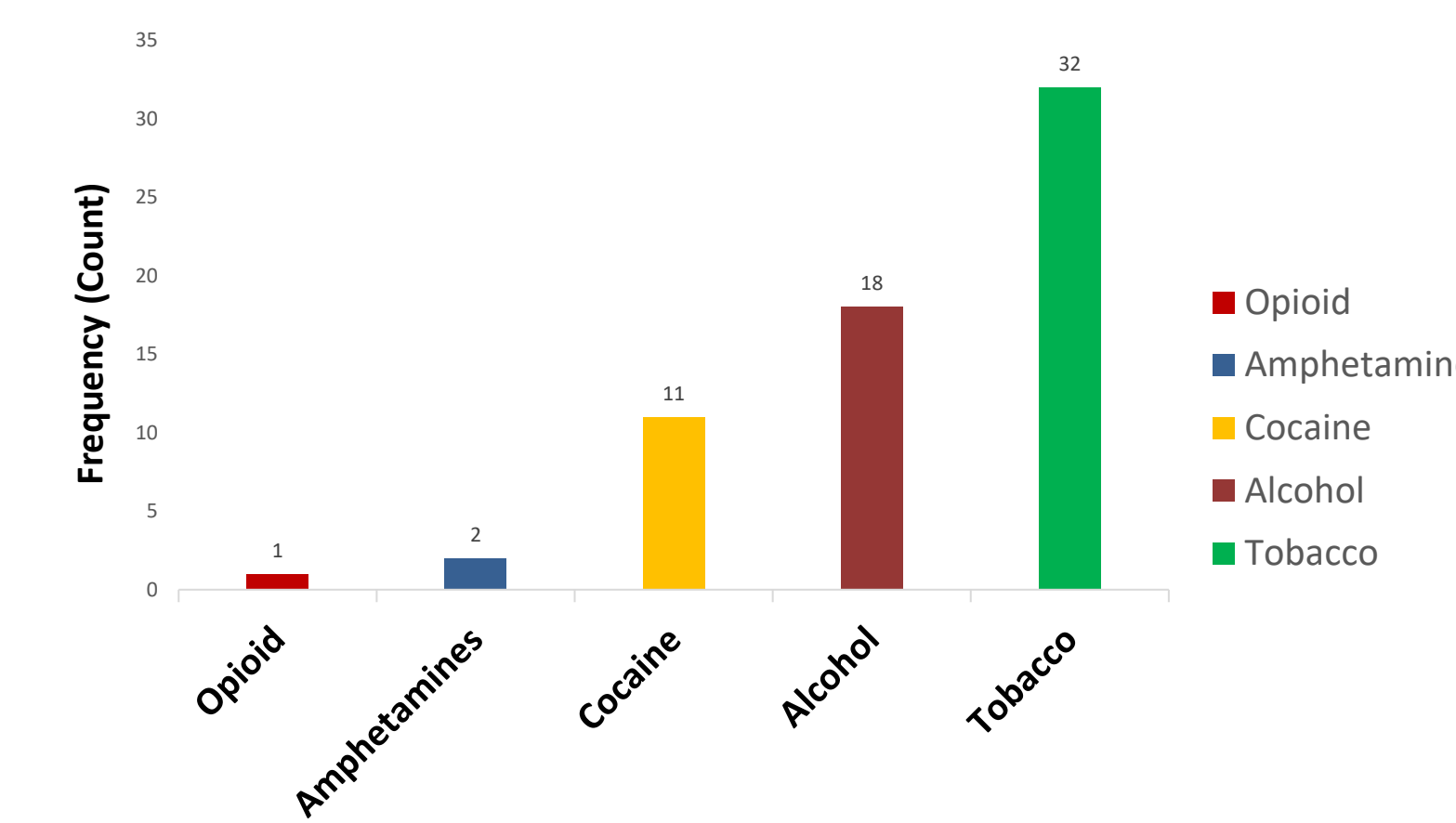
Results

Table of demographics and effect of Cannabis on inpatient hospital Length of Stay		
Patient Characteristics	Cannabis Negative N (%)	Cannabis Positive N (%)
Race		
Black	25 (32.0)	38 (49.0)
Hispanic	1 (1.3)	5 (6.4)
White	5 (6.0)	4 (5.1)
Marital Status		
Single	30 (38.5)	46 (60.0)
Married	1 (0.75)	1 (0.75)
Age		
18-44	11 (14.1)	32 (41.0)
45-64	15 (19.2)	15 (19.2)
> 65	4 (5.1)	0 (0.0)
Mean Hospital Length of Stay (Days)	21.48	14.34

Box plot of Hospital Length of stay and urine toxicology screen for cannabis.



Bar chart of Co-occurring substance use in patients with Cannabis positive urine toxicology screen



Results (contd.)

Median age

- Cannabis positive = 38 years
- Cannabis Positive = 52 years.

Negative Binomial regression controlling for age and living situation.

LOS

- Cannabis Positive: (N = 115, B=0.020, 95% CI [-0.426, 0.466], p= 0.929
- Cannabis negative for cannabis (N =115, B = 0.424, 95% CI[-0.660, 0.915], p= 0.090).

Conclusion

- There was no significant difference in the length of hospital stay between those patients whose urine toxicology was positive for cannabis and those whose urine toxicology was negative.
- The analysis, however, showed that patients whose urine toxicology is positive have a shorter median LOS.

Reference

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