

Researchers Suspect Link Between Synthetic Marijuana and Stroke

November 20, 2013




Image Credit: Thinkstock.com

redOrbit Staff & Wire Reports – Your Universe Online

Neurologists from the University of Southern Florida (USF) have discovered a link between smoking [synthetic marijuana](#) and [strokes](#) in otherwise healthy young adults.

Their findings, reported online in the journal [Neurology](#) Tuesday, feature case studies of two siblings who both experienced acute ischemic strokes shortly after smoking the substance known as spice. This type of stroke occurs when an artery to the brain becomes blocked.

Previous research has linked seizures, abnormal heart rhythms, heart attacks, psychosis, hallucinations and other serious adverse effects to the use of synthetic marijuana, which is also known as K2 and contains synthetic cannabinoid compounds, the university said. Experts have linked an increasing number of strokes to the use of actual marijuana, leading the USF team to explore whether or not spice could have a similar effect.

"Since the two patients were siblings, we wondered whether they might have any undiagnosed genetic conditions that predisposed them to strokes at a young age. We rigorously looked for those and didn't come up with anything," senior author said Dr. [Scott Burgin](#), a USF professor and the director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center at Tampa General Hospital.

"To the best of our knowledge, what appeared to be heart-derived strokes occurred in two people with otherwise healthy hearts. So more study is needed," he continued, adding that spice often contains chemicals that have not

Related Articles

- » [First Long-Term Artificial Heart Recipient Doing Well Following Surgery](#)
- » [McDonald's Outnumbered By Tanning Facilities In Florida: Study](#)
- » [Can Concussions Lead To Alzheimer's?](#)
- » [First Glow In The Dark Piglets Created Using Jellyfish Genes](#)
- » [Boosting An Existing Malaria Vaccine By Mixing It Up](#)
- » [Teens Using Less Synthetic Marijuana And More Of The Real Stuff](#)
- » [Marijuana Use In Washington State Nearly Twice As 'High' As Estimated](#)
- » [Marijuana May Cause Schizophrenia-Like Brain Changes](#)
- » [Cannabis Use Among Teens Is On The Rise In Some Developing Countries](#)
- » [Smoking Pot Particularly Dangerous For At-Risk Teens](#)

Related Videos

- » [Blind Rage Or Blood Inflammation?](#)
- » [Zapping Away Spinal Tumors](#)
- » [Multivitamin Myths Debunked?](#)
- » [Curiosity Finds More Evidence Of Past...](#)
- » [Marijuana Users More Likely to Suffer...](#)
- » [Marijuana May Increase Risk For Testicular...](#)
- » [Oreos As Addictive As Many Drugs](#)
- » [New Device Can Help Save Lives After...](#)
- » [Pet Dogs May Shield Kids From Later Allergies](#)
- » [Teen Marijuana Use Has Long-term Affects](#)
- » [New Study Examines Teen Marijuana Use](#)
- » [Marijuana Use is Higher Than Believed](#)

Related Images

- » [Mind-controlled flying robot \(Image 2\)](#)
- » [Studying disease virulence in house finches \(Image 3\)](#)
- » [Studying disease virulence in house finches \(Image 5\)](#)
- » [ISS031-E-140439](#)

been tested or approved for human consumption. "You don't know what you're getting when you smoke synthetic marijuana... you may be playing dangerously with your brain and your health."

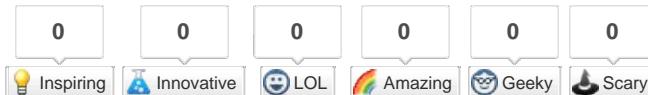
According to the university, synthetic marijuana is a term used to describe a mixture of herbs that have been doused with a solution of designer chemicals designed to produce a reaction similar to cannabis. However, according to Dr. Burgin, spice can actually be more potent than regular cannabis because the psychoactive ingredient it contains more completely binds to the cannabinoid receptors in the brain.

"Not identified in standard toxicology screens, spice has become the second only to natural marijuana as the most widely used illicit drug among high school seniors, according to a 2011 survey sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse," the university said. "In Florida, it is a third-degree felony to sell, manufacture, deliver or possess with the intent to sell these synthetic drugs, so they are more difficult to buy... but [are] still readily available online."

Dr. Burgin said that doctors and medical professionals need to be more cognizant of the potentially toxic effects of spice and other synthetic recreational drugs, particularly when it comes to strokes, [heart attacks](#) or other conditions not typically observed in younger patients. He advises physicians to ask about cannabis and spice use, as patients rarely volunteer such information and the substances do not typically show up during routine drug tests.

Source: redOrbit Staff & Wire Reports - Your Universe Online

Topics: [Health](#) [Medical](#) [Pharma](#), [Cannabis](#) [smoking](#), [Euphoriants](#), [Medicine](#), [Effects](#) [of](#) [cannabis](#), [Cannabis](#), [Medical](#) [cannabis](#), [Synthetic](#) [cannabis](#), [Antiemetics](#), [Biology](#), [Pharmacology](#), [Medicinal](#) [plants](#), [Entheogens](#), [strokes](#)



You Might Like

- » [Spraying vodka into the air is now a legit means of communication \(Gristlist\)](#)
- » [New Study Shows Environmentalists Wrong Again: Fracking Does Save Water \(Downtrend\)](#)
- » [First wind turbines, now tidal turbines \(EDF Pulse\)](#)
- » [Meet the 7 Best Outdoor Gadgets of 2013 \(Departures.com\)](#)
- » [30 Hottest Jewish Women Under 40 \(Rant Lifestyle\)](#)
- » [10 easy tips to help you avoid getting a virus \(TechRx, Inc. \(920\) 884-1195 -- World's Best Data Recovery Technology Expert In Green Bay, WI\)](#)
- » [The Amazing Story of a 59 Year Old Mechanic Who Literally Dreamed up a Way to Save Babies Lives \(Inc.com\)](#)
- » [Meet the Future of Consumer Robotics \(Kotaku\)](#)
- » [WINDTRAP: THE PORTABLE WIND TURBINE \(EDF Pulse\)](#)
- » [Finally, One Link Established- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome \(CFS\), Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Autoimmune disease and Chronic Lyme Disease \(Envita\)](#)

Recommended by

Sponsored From Around the Web



[How to Check and Manage Your Credit Score for Free](#)

[Rare Discovery Helps Lower Blood Pressure](#)

[How Cruise Ships Fill Their Unsold Cabins](#)

[How to Get Freakishly Long Eyelashes in 7 Days](#)

[What's Your Shoe Personality?](#)

» [ISS030-E-012600](#)

» [ISS030-E-012604](#)

Related Reference Library

- » [Obesophobia](#)
- » [Pharmacophobia](#)
- » [Phobophobia](#)
- » [Pork Tapeworm, Taenia solium](#)
- » [Echocardiogram](#)

Most Recent Blogs

- » [2013 In The Rearview Mirror](#)
- » [The Nanotech Treatment](#)
- » [Minstrel's Mailbag](#)
- » [MIT's Open CourseWare Promotes Education For All](#)
- » [Struggle In Warsaw](#)
- » [Top Speed's Car Of The Year](#)
- » [Lawsuit Filed Against EA Over "Buggy Game"](#)
- » [F.A.T.A.L.: How Low Can We Go?](#)
- » [Climate Change Shocker](#)
- » [Loving Ourselves By Figuring Out What We Hate And Changing](#)



How Penny Stocks Create Millionaires Every Day

What Happens When You Take a Testosterone Supplement

Probiotics: The Surprising New Way to Lose Weight

Tricks Car Insurance Agents Don't Want You to Know

Why Shampoos Are a Waste of Money

?



Post a new comment

Login



Post

0 Comments

[RSS](#) | [Subscribe](#)

| Breaking News | Streaming Video | Images and Photos | Space Exploration | Science and Research | Technology | My Health |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Space | YouTube Channel | Images of the Day | Astronomy | Instruments | Ask the Expert | Health |
| Science | Top Picks | Image Galleries | Human Spaceflight | Calculator | Technology Reviews | More... |
| Technology | Science | Wallpapers | Ask the Astronomer | Ask the Scientist | More... | |
| Health | Health | More... | Mars Science Laboratory | More... | | |
| CES 2013 | More... | | More... | | | |
| More... | | | | | | |

[Mobile](#) • [Widgets](#) • [Advertising](#) • [About Us](#) • [Contact Us](#) • [Privacy Statement](#) • [Terms of Service](#) • [Abuse Reporting](#) • [Search](#) • [Topics](#) • [Feeds](#) • [Jobs](#) • [Podcasts](#) • Follow us on:



© 2002-2013 redOrbit.com. All rights reserved
All other copyrights remain the property of their respective owners