

Cannabis for medical purposes

Dr. Michael Dor, M.D, M.P.A
Chief advisor, Israeli Ministry Of Health



ISRAEL

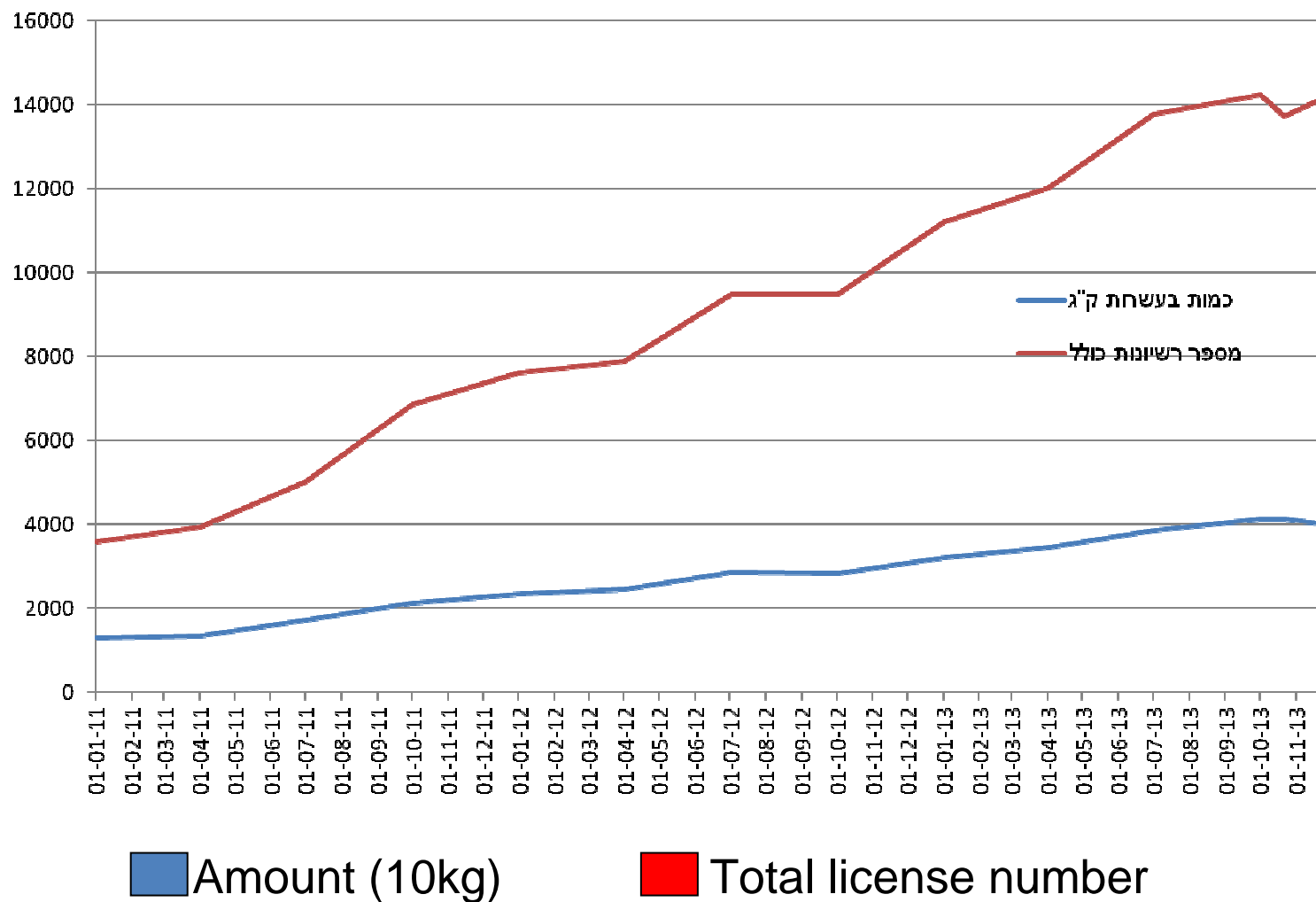


- Population: 8,000,000
- 17,000 approved licenses
- 13,000 active patients
- Daily influx of 200-300 new requests
- Media and political promotion of treatment

Israeli medical cannabis agency

- Single convention on narcotic drugs, 1961
- Israeli legislation
- Media involvement

Evolution of medical cannabis usage



Administration



- Smoking
 - Vapor
 - Oil extractions
 - Oral route – cookies and tea
-
- Average dosage ~33 gram per month
 - Maximal dosage 200 gram (questionable)

Process of approval



1. Request submission by a specialist
2. Medical data including confirmed diagnoses and treatments
3. Psychological\psychiatric opinion
4. Central cannabis unit physician approval
5. Approved licensees transferred to cannabis licensed distributors
6. Before usage instructors guidance

Renewal process



- Every 6-12 months after submitting physicians' follow up
- Demands for increasing dosages are carefully examined
- Transfer of authority to primary care physicians
- Follow-up by primary care physicians

Approved indications



- Preconditions for treatment for approval: failure of other conventional treatments
- Recognized indications published by the Ministry Of Health and constantly updated
- Ministerial appeal committee discusses special cases
- Expert committee evaluates new and old indications

Oncology



- Treatment of symptoms as vomiting, chemotherapy- associated pain, weight loss and nausea during and after treatment
- Treatment associated with primary and metastatic pain, after failure of conventional treatment
- End of life palliation
- Discontinuation of treatment ??

Palliative treatment



- Intractable pain after failure of treatment prolonged at least one year
- Neuropathic pain, recognized as of organic source, and not relieved after a year's treatment in pain clinic
- Oncology patients exempted from waiting

Neurology



- Patients diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis suffering from spasticity, not relieved by other treatments
- Parkinson patients suffering from chronic pain caused by rigidity, not relieved by other treatments
- Patients with Tourette syndrome suffering from severe functional disturbances and did not respond to other treatments
- The treatment is contraindicated in cases of active psychosis

Neurology⁽²⁾



- Uncontrolled epilepsy in children
- ALS
- Fibromyalgia- approved only by appeal committee with recommendation from a psychiatrist, rheumatologist\neurologist

Gastroenterology



- Crohn's disease- severe cases that did not respond to all other treatments
- Ulcerative colitis- not approved
- IBS – not approved

Psychiatry



- Unsolved dilemma- PTSD

Opthalmology



- Previously approved but lately revoked by the specialists in glaucoma cases

Pain clinics



- Over flowed
- Manipulation and violence

Import or export ?



**Uruguay to Relieve Israel's
Cannabis Drought?**

The future – From substance to drug

- Research to establish recognized indications
- Evaluation of efficacy and adverse events
- Start up projects – metered dose vaporizers
- Production of GMP approved medications
- Distribution via pharmacies
- Structured patient education process (e.g. – efficient material consumption)

Thank you for your kind attention

