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Why I Prefer Kratom Over Pharmaceutical Drugs

September 16, 2016

By William Johnson, Guest columnist

I've experienced much of what's wrong with our healthcare system and can think of only one possible solution people can do for themselves when it comes to pain management, which leads to another matter as well.

Kratom works well for pain and you don't need a prescription to buy this centuries old remedy from Southeast Asia. Did I say buy? Yes I did, which leads to the other matter. The Drug Enforcement Administration is currently in the process of classifying the leaf from this tree into a Schedule I drug, meaning no one will be able to prescribe it, much less buy it inside the United States.

At this very moment, thousands are telling and retelling their stories about kratom, trying to save it from the axe of the DEA; how it saved their lives or helped them stop taking

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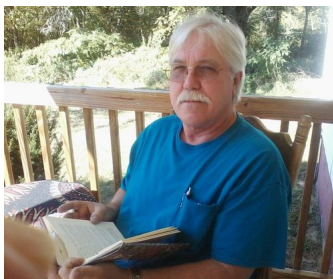
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pharmaceutical drugs that have horrible side effects, such as Xanax, OxyContin, Klonopin, Paxil and many others.

I was unaware of this plant until three months ago, when I first began taking kratom. I was fed up with pain clinics, tired of being treated like a criminal, and tired of waiting for hours each month just to have a prescription renewed.



WILLIAM JOHNSON

I was also tired of the adverse side effects from long term opiate use. Those include, but are not limited to, depression, lack of motivation, liver damage, and severe constipation. Sound familiar to anyone?

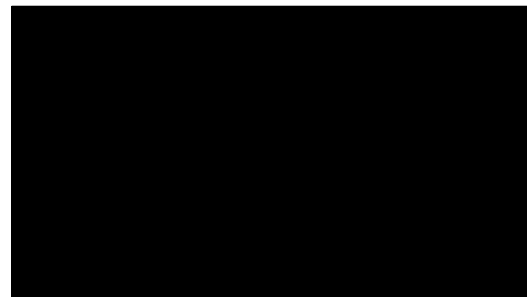
I've made some other discoveries along the way as well. My recent annual blood work to test liver function returned to normal for the first time in over a decade, after I contracted Hepatitis C at a dentist's office.

Not only that, while it relieved most of my pain from several conditions of the spine, ones I was told would require long term opiate use for the rest of my life, it also adequately treated the symptoms of Hepatitis C, like chronic fatigue, joint pain and a host of others common to those with this virus.

My doctor was amazed when he found out I was consuming kratom, a botanical he'd never heard of. He began to research it and concluded the same thing as I. Kratom is the most likely cause that my liver functions are normal. He's never seen this with any patient with such a high viral load, not to mention the Hepatitis-C, which also managed to give me stage three Cirrhosis.

Unheard of, you say? Needs more study, right?

Back Pain
Arthritis
Fibromyalgia
Medical Marijuana
Neuropathy
Migraine



Every kratom researcher to date has recommended more study on its potential benefits, but now the DEA comes along saying kratom presents an imminent danger to public health -- even though it cannot identify a single death associated with kratom use alone.

One of the points I'm hoping to make is that there are viable alternatives for pain sufferers that don't include dealing with the healthcare system. And because more patients are learning about kratom, costing the industry million upon millions of dollars, DEA has stepped in to ban kratom for its pharmaceutical buddies, using outright false information in the process.

For more on that, **click here** to see a letter to the DEA from the Center for Regulatory Effectiveness.

And if you haven't already, **sign the petition to the White House** opposing the DEA action.

While we're not going to fix the influence money has on the healthcare industry in a day, a week or even years, one thing we can do is remove as much of our business from that industry as possible. If herbal remedies work as well or better, I strongly suggest we work to keep them legal. Western medicine doesn't have all the answers and it might serve the public interests if we begin to realize this.



William Johnson lives in Virginia. He is a retired urban planner, who advocates for organic farming and gardening.

Pain News Network invites other readers to share their stories with us. Send them to: editor@PainNewsNetwork.org.

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Fred A week ago

I was reading some of the Facebook comments about this article which seemed to blame this man for some of his expressed opinions. Which then led me to think, why would anyone disparage someone who has found relief from his or her pain? When that person also says something negative about opioids that's when. Clearly, there are those people in chronic pain who would rather "eat their own" than to allow one of them to espouse an opioid opinion different than their own. If this man has found relief from Kratom, and is happy because he has found both relief and no longer has to confront the risks associated with opioids, just be happy for him and leave it at that. No need to hit him on his views about opioids...no need at all. Unfortunately, there are those in

chronic pain who simply cannot comprehend how a fellow pain sufferer may not worship at the "opioid altar" 24/7/365. God forbid there may be chronic pain patients who think opioids pose risks or who believe there are alternatives to the almighty opioid. Opioids are greatly beneficial...which I personally believe; but can also come with some huge risks and potential dangers...which I also personally believe. Seems to me that this man likely believes the same. He did opioids for a number of years, probably had some good relief from his pain, but all along was concerned about some of the risks that opioids can pose. And when he found Kratom he found not only relief from his pain but was glad he didn't have to face the risks from opioids anymore.

But his sin is mentioning those risks. God forbid he mentioned the risks! Seems there are people in chronic pain that just can't allow that to happen. Why is that? I mean opioids do pose risks...that is fact...and there is no way around that fact. As much as opioids help us, they do pose risks and potential danger. It seems to me that when one of us dismisses those risks virtually out of hand it doesn't help our cause in securing rational opioid prescribing practices...rather, I believe it hurts our cause. It makes us sound ignorant at worst and just plain naive at best.

One can have all the suspicion in the world about the government and what they tell us. When they distort the truth about opioids and chronic pain, stand up and set the record straight. But to categorically dismiss the risks associated with opioids is not the way to go. Tout their benefits, YES...Focus on the good that opioids can do, YES...but to ignore or dismiss their risks?? NOPE, not the way to go. And no need to disparage our fellow chronic pain patients who believe different than you do.



Dave A week ago

Some members of Congress are willing to petition the DEA to slow down their ban on Kratom- here is a link with information on what you can do to support their efforts to slow the DEA's ban-

<https://www.facebook.com/Americankratomassociation/posts/839295199539965>



Jackie A week ago

I just found out about Kratom yesterday. I am also in Virginia, but I cannot find it anywhere. Some help please.



Pam A week ago

Hi Jackie, if you are on facebook, search kratom and many sites come up, one is the American Kratom Association, and several others, There are many reputable vendors on those sites, I am not sure how long they plan on taking orders with this nightmare the dea created, good luck!



Dave A week ago

I agree there is a need and value to an exodus strategy for people in pain and with other health problems as the author suggests. We can and we should work on such in an energetic way and without delay for it has become clear that the iron law of oligarchy in pain care of professionals government and researchers has turned fascist and oppressive. Even the letter you link to indicates plebiscites should not make government decisions. And so it is clear that people with health conditions are viewed as quite incapable of self governance let alone having a say in our oligarchs decisions.

But to insure that the oligarchs dont continue to place barriers in our exodus we need to work together and put them in check. Failing that they will be emboldened to further burden Americans in pain and diminish our voice and our rights. And havent things become bad enough for so many in pain. So let us not hesitate in ensuring that we will cause the oligarchs costs for their cruel indifferentism toward our need for relief from physical pain.

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