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**Good news for cancer patients treated with medical cannabis and suffering from breakthrough cancer pain:**

**Panaxia has ended "In Human" phase in its clinical trial for**

 **one-of-a-kind metered-dose cannabis inhaler**

**Panaxia in collaboration with the Israeli Pharmaceutical company "Rafa", has announced today, that it had ended the "In Human" phase in a clinical research of medical cannabis concentrates for inhalation. This new method of delivery will increase accessibility mainly in cancer patients treated with long-term pharmaceutical cannabis (such as sublingual tablets), and suffering from breakthrough cancer pain who prefer to avoid smoking cannabis. The research has currently begun, and the products are due for distribution in pharmacies during 2019 under Rafa's medical cannabis brand.**

 The Israeli pharmaceutical company, Panaxia Pharmaceutical Industries, has announced a clinical trial for registration purposes at the Ministry of Health, to examine the biological availability of delivering medical cannabis via a metered-dose inhaler. After the "In Human" phase ended, Next phase (blood analysis and data analysis) is expected to take few months and then the final results will be published.

The inhaler includes an attached vaporizer to which the patient adds the measured dose of cannabis extract for inhalation. The cannabis extract includes a precise dose of active ingredients, whose concentration does not rely on the actual flower itself, but rather on the precision of the pharmaceutical production. Using the extract ensures a precise and reproducible intake in comparison to smoking.

Panaxia's advanced medical cannabis products, marketed by Rafa Pharmaceuticals, will be tested as part of the clinical trial and its registration will revolutionize the way medical cannabis is used for treating patients. The great potential of cannabis, delivered via a metered-dose inhaler, is its designation for palliative cancer patients, which are eligible for treatment with medical cannabis and suffer from symptoms which are characterized inter alia with breakthrough cancer pain (BTcP).

Today, about 30% of all medical cannabis permits are given to oncology patients.

According to **Dr. Itay Gur-Aryeh, M.D, Director of the Pain Unit at Sheba Hospital, Tel Hashomer**, "Every clinical research that helps us to better understand and manage our treatment using medical cannabis is important. Delivering treatment via inhalation is characterized by a quicker response time than oral or sublingual tablets, but its duration is shorter. As such, it is better suited to cancer patients which take longer-lasting medical cannabis products, but suffer from breakthrough cancer pain and need a 'lifeline'."

Another advantage of using medical cannabis extract for inhalation, is in preventing possible smoking effects in the patient and his surroundings, without the need to inhale damaging components found in the cannabis flower. The inhaler is a product which includes a precise and consistent concentration of active ingredients, free from undesirable components, which allows to better manage the patient's treatment.

According to **Dr. Dadi Segal, Panaxia CEO**, "The clinical trial is performed as part of the registration procedure of the new products which we are about to launch in Israel this year, in collaboration with Rafa. Through access to cannabis inhalers, and subject to a medical specialist's recommendation, we strive to help more patients suffering from acute pains. The inhaler will provide patients that are unable or unwilling to smoke, the right to be treated consistently and precisely with medical cannabis."

**Anat Savion, Rafa CEO,** adds, "This innovative product is an additional method of delivery from a variety of innovative delivery methods of medical cannabis products which we are intending to launch. The future of treatment with medical cannabis is the ability to match medical cannabis treatment to each patient in the best possible way by integrating precise concentrations of active ingredients to the different delivery methods according to the patients profile and the symptoms from which he is suffering."

The companies are working on manufacturing and ensuring accessibility for about 30 medical cannabis based products, including rectal suppositories, pastilles, oils, tablets and more, intended for patients who need treatment with medical cannabis against illnesses such as cancer, chronic pain, epilepsy, palliative conditions and many more illnesses. The products are undergoing trials and registration procedures in Israel, and are expected to be manufactured in Israel during 2019 under Rafa's medical cannabis brand. Distributing products according to pharmaceutical standards in Israel and globally, is expected to increase our potential patients' clientele, to include patients that are not current medical cannabis users.

**About Panaxia Israel**

**Panaxia Israel is part of the pharmaceutical group of the Segal family, operating for over four decades, and manufacturing over 600 different pharmaceutical products, which it distributes in over 30 countries. Panaxia was founded by Dr. Dadi Segal, Dr.Eran Goldberg and Assi Rotbart, LL.b, and constitutes the Group's cannabis division. In addition, the sister-division of North America manufactures over 60 pharmaceutical products based on medical cannabis, including sublingual tablets, oral tablets, oils, inhalers, and more, intended to treat conditions such as post-traumatic stress, cancer, chronic pains, epilepsy, anorexia, burns, and many other medical conditions. Panaxia employs around 100 employees and all clinical experiments are conducted by the company.**

**The pharmaceutical group of the Segal family includes the Luminera divisions, which manufacture wrinkle filler injections, and TREE OF LIFE, which manufactures non-prescription drugs.**

**About Rafa**

**Rafa is an Israeli pharmaceutical company established in 1937 in Jerusalem by Dr. Baruch Samuel Levin, son of the Zionist leader Shmaryahu Levin. In 2013, Rafa established a cutting-edge manufacturing plant which operates under strict quality assurance standards in every production phase, and complies with the strictest European and American standards. The company employs over 300 employees.**

**As part of its commitment to improving the health and the quality of life of the population in Israel, Rafa delivers innovative and quality treatments, that assist thousands of babies, children, adults and the elderly, every single day. The company has extensive experience in producing and distributing a wide variety of medications and therapeutic devices in several therapy areas such as pain, palliative care, gastroenterology, respiratory illnesses, dermatology, psychiatry, products for exterminating lice, and more.**

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