In a study done at Yale University, researchers found three genetic variants linked to marijuana dependence. The study looked at the genetics of 14,000 Americans who took part in one of three different substance-abuse studies. The researchers looked at various SNP’s that were linked to symptoms of marijuana dependence, and found 18-36% of the participants had a genetic risk for marijuana dependence. The researches believe the variants in SNP’s are located on a gene involved in regulations blood concentrations of calcium, and they believe calcium signaling is an important factor in other substance abuse disorders. Another variant was found on the CSMD1 gene involving the growth of the central nervous system, which has also been linked to risk of developing schizophrenia, suggesting a possible relationship between susceptibility to marijuana dependence and risk for developing schizophrenia. The researchers said they hope their findings can raise public awareness about the potential dangers of cannabis use, it can be detrimental to those with a high genetic risk. The study also sheds light on the importance of calcium signaling in the blood in risk for substance abuse.

Researchers believe there could also be an underlying genetic link between depression, schizophrenia, and marijuana dependence. People with depression or schizophrenia may use marijuana because it can alleviate some of their symptoms, and they may become dependent on the drug as a way to self medicate. I think this is an important find for the medical field, and may play a factor in the movement to legalize medical cannabis. It raises concerns that if people were prescribed medical cannabis as treatment, they could become dependent on the drug and may turn to alternative, possibly illegal, sources if their prescriptions run out, which adds to the argument that medical cannabis could be a gateway drug.

This finding is also harmful to the argument to legalize marijuana for recreational use. If a genetic variant could increase risk for potential marijuana dependence, it could be harmful to have the drug that accessible. I think there needs to be more research done on the genetic factors behind marijuana dependence and if it leads to the use of more harmful drugs, like heroine. This finding is also important for medical professionals in finding ways to treat marijuana dependence, which may make medical cannabis safer if there is a treatment available for people who may become dependent. These findings are also important in uncovering a potential link between marijuana dependence, depression, and schizophrenia. Researchers believe there may be an underlying genetic link between them, and I think more research on this link could lead to a better understanding of the causes of all three disorders, and could potentially lead to better treatment options. I think medical cannabis has shown to be a very promising treatment for many disorders, but more research needs to be done to identify the potential risks of dependence, and if the risks outweigh the benefits.