

# TecSalud to carry out study for COVID-19 with cannabis derivative



**TecSalud**, in collaboration with the Canadian firm **Cardiol Therapeutics**, is running the first study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the semi-synthetic molecule CBD in patients with COVID-19 and cardiovascular disease.

This study, which is in **phase 2b/3**, is the **first of its kind to be approved in Mexico**. It uses a **CBD compound from the cannabis plant** with a high level of anti-inflammatory bioactivity. However, unlike tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), **it has no psychoactive effects**.

The objective of this study is to **prevent secondary cardiovascular complications** in patients with **COVID-19**.



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### **What is CBD or cannabidiol?**

The **cannabis plant** has more than five hundred chemical compounds, called cannabinoids. These chemical compounds include **CBD**, which has been proven to have **significant anti-inflammatory properties**.

**Cannabidiol** is a chemical that does not contain **Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)**, the psychoactive ingredient found in the cannabis plant.



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### 30 Mexicans to be studied out of the 200 participants in the protocol

This study, written and developed by doctors from the **Institute of Cardiology and Vascular Medicine at TecSalud's Zambrano Hellion Hospital**, will study **200 volunteers in Mexico, Canada, the USA, and Brazil**.

TecSalud will start screening:

- *30 male and/or female patients;*
- *Over 18 years old;*
- *Who are in a non-critical condition;*
- *Who have a history of cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or peripheral vascular disease and/or risk factors, such as those over 65 years of age who are diabetic with hypertension.*

*"Today, we have a **compound with anti-inflammatory properties** that could reduce or limit myocardial complications in patients with moderate **COVID-19** and whose therapeutic effect, in the future, **could be extended to cardiovascular diseases** and other conditions related to the inflammatory response.*

*Carrying out this study is a great step for future research,"* said **Dr. Guillermo Torre**, Rector of TecSalud and Vice President of Research at Tecnológico de Monterrey.



*“Today we have a compound with anti-inflammatory properties that could reduce or limit myocardial complications in patients with moderate COVID-19.” -Guillermo Torre*



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### **Counting on the therapeutic benefits of cannabidiol**

*“Holding this study in Mexico is the result of a great effort over **more than 10 years** by TecSalud, which will bring hope for people with cardiovascular problems.*

*Although it is just beginning, we must highlight its **importance within the world of medicine** since a new path is being opened to offer **innovative therapeutic** options that are available to the entire population,” said **Dr. Servando Cardona**, National Director of Clinical Research at TecSalud.*

**Dr. Gerardo García Rivas**, Director of Translational Research at TecSalud said:

*“We started preclinical studies in our laboratory a little **over six years ago**, observing the **therapeutic benefits of CBD**. As of now, we already have an idea of how this compound works to protect the heart cells.*

*It’s a great contribution for Mexico and the world: a **molecule that was developed through in vitro studies and animal models until it was ready to treat patients**. The use of this molecule in patients was approved by [COFEPRIS](#) and by the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#).”*



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### **Aiming to find new solutions and therapies in health**

*“One of the objectives of the study is **to validate anti-inflammatory effects in patients with moderate COVID-19.***

*If the molecule manages to contain myocardial inflammation, it is also possible that **it will be able to contain respiratory inflammation** and stop it from evolving,” said **Dr. Carlos Jerjes Sánchez**, Director of Clinical Research at TecSalud’s Institute of Cardiology and Vascular Medicine.*

*“If the molecule manages to contain myocardial inflammation, it’s also possible that it can contain respiratory inflammation and stop it from evolving.”- Carlos Jerjes Sánchez*

Finally, Dr. Guillermo Torre stressed the importance of [TecSalud’s](#) relationship with national and foreign companies to develop this type of compound:

*“Interaction with public and private companies is very important. **COVID-19 is a global health crisis** and there is an urgent need to **find solutions and new therapies** for the benefit of humanity,” he said.*

It should be noted that these types of **high-impact projects and initiatives** allow TecSalud to continue advancing towards a healthy culture based on: Well-being, Prevention, and Longevity, pillars on which the Institution aims to **improve the quality of life for Mexicans**.

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