

THE ENDOCANNABINOID SYSTEM (ECS)

ECS HAS 3 PARTS:

1. *Endocannabinoids or endogenous cannabinoids*
 - *Naturally and internally produced molecules*
2. *Endocannabinoid Receptors*
 - *Receptors receives and transmits signals Found throughout the body. Endocannabinoids bind to them, receiving information to signal the ECS to either down-regulate or up-regulate a chemical signals to establish homeostasis*
 - *2 main endocannabinoid receptors:*
 - *CB1 receptors - are mainly expressed in the brain and central nervous system. The THC family of cannabinoids are the only compounds that can robustly active these receptors*
 - *CB2 receptors - are more widespread in tissues of the immune system, peripheral nervous system, digestive system, and have been identified in key regions of the brain*
3. *Enzymes that either synthesize or metabolize*
 - *Responsible for breaking down endocannabinoids once they have carried out their function*

Sources:

- Backes, M. (2017). *Cannabis Pharmacy: The Practical Guide to Medical Marijuana*. New York: Black Dog and Leventhal.

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- Furrer, N. (2018). *A woman's guide to cannabis: Using marijuana to feel better, look better, sleep better--and get high like a lady*. New York: Workman Publishing.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/endocannabinoid-system> <https://www.periodicedibles.com/blog/ecs> <https://www.uclahealth.org/cannabis/human-endocannabinoid-system>

ACTIVATE CANNABINOID RECEPTORS

The only way to activate the endocannabinoid receptors in your body is through 3 types of cannabinoids:

1. *Endocannabinoids or endogenous cannabinoids - internally and naturally cannabinoids produced in the body*
2. *Phytocannabinoids - cannabis plant produced cannabinoids*
3. *Synthetic cannabinoids - created in a laboratory*