

Light buzz, or hallucinations? Gene predicts may how marijuana users react to high

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We've long known that [pot can affect different people in various ways](#) — some smokers only experience a slight “buzz” while others can become paranoid or even hallucinate.

Now, a team of researchers in the U.K. has found a way to identify which cannabis users are more at risk of developing such strong reactions.

A variation of the gene called “[AKT1](#)” is linked to people being more susceptible to the mind-altering effects of cannabis than otherwise, according to a provocative new study [published in the journal Translational Psychiatry](#).

While some previous studies suggest [only around 1-5 percent of cannabis users end up developing psychosis](#), it's the AKT1 gene variant that may put those users more at risk, study lead author Dr. Celia Morgan, [professor of psychopharmacology](#) at England's University of Exeter, told The Huffington Post.

For the study, the researchers tested 442 marijuana users for psychotic-like symptoms while they were high and then again about a week later when they were sober. The researchers measured the extent of the symptoms and effects on memory loss and compared results.

They found that the study participants with a certain variant of the AKT1 gene had a much stronger reaction to cannabis — including symptoms like paranoia, magical thinking and visual distortions — than their counterparts.

Read full, original post: [This Gene May Predict How You React To Marijuana](#)