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Phytochemical action and thereuptic affinity of curcuma longa-homoeopathy medicine

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Abstract

Curcuma longa beginning echoed from ancient times. It is an herb which is used in different system of medicine. It is known for its religious, medical use. It has different phyto constituents with different pharmacological activity. Study of this drug in homoeopathy helps us to know about its thereuptic activity.

Keywords: Cucurmin, rhizome, thereuptic affinity

Introduction

Curcuma is very lesser known drug in Homoeopathy which is native of India and south East Asia. It's a plant having both aroma and medicine power. It is used as traditional medicine since ancient times mainly for injuries. It introduced first as dye then as a spice and cosmetic. Commonly known as turmeric but it has many names based on region, like haldi, pasupu, etc., Indian curries without this spice is very rare. It is also used in preparation of biscuits, dairy products etc. curcumin paper which also known as curcumapaper in German literature is used as indicator in chemical assay of ph indicator ^[6].

History: Genus name 'curcuma' came from Arabic word 'kurkum' which means saffron. It is called as Indian saffron. From India it had reached China by 700A.D to East Africa by 1200 AD. Other than its use as spice and medicine people in India use it as precious substance during wedding ceremony.

Botanical description

Botanical name: curcuma longa

Family: zingiberaceae

Common name: Hindi- Haldi, English – turmeric, saffron, Sanskrit- laksmi, harita,

Habitat: throughout India

Part used in homoeopathy as medicine – Rhizome



Fig 1: Inflorescence



Fig 2: Whole plant

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Fig 3: Curcuma rhizome

Turmeric is modified underground stem with distant nodes and internodes growing horizontally. It is perennial herbaceous plant which grows approximately 1m in height. Leaves are arranged alternatively in two rows which are further divided in to leaf sheath, petiole, and leaf blade. Inflorescence of turmeric is a central spike of 10-15 cm length. 1-4 flowers are in axil of the bract it opens once at a time. Capsules are produced by Seeds and there will be numerous sunken capsules in an inflorescence. It grows in black and red soils in irrigated and little rainfall places [7]. These rhizomes are boiled, dried and then it is grounded to get deep orange- yellow color [16].

Phytochemistry

Active principles of turmeric are curcuminoids: it includes curcumin diferuloylmethane, primary active principle responsible for yellow color of turmeric, and its structure determined as diferuloylmethane [1, 7-bis (4-hydroxy-3 methoxyphenyl)-1, 6-heptadiene-3, 5-Dione] in 1910 [11] It exists in enolic form in organic solvents and in keto form in water [6]. And others are demethoxycurcumin, and bisdemethoxycurcumin. Volatile oils - tumerone, atlantone, and zingiberene. Sugars, proteins, and resins are also ingredients in turmeric [1].

Pharmacological action

Curcumin pharmacological activities includes antioxidant, hepatoprotective, antibacterial, antiviral, antineoplastic, anti-inflammatory, antifungal, antidiabetic, anticoagulant, and cardiovascular protective. The anticancer activity of curcumin is mainly because of its ability to inhibit and or to activate various intracellular transcription factors, by this it regulates the expression of various proteins that participate in tumor growth and development [2]. Some study showed that an ethanol extract from *C. longa* will inhibits gastric acid secretion by blocking H (2) histamine receptors [14]. One of limitation of curcumin is its chemical instability, absence of selective target activity, low bioavailability, water insolubility, limited tissue distribution. Some amount of curcumin escapes the GI tract and most is excreted in feces which will be unchanged. If curcumin enter plasma in limited amounts it could create toxicity, interacts with several proteins which further increase the risk of adverse effects [6].

Thereuptic activity: central council of Homoeopathy had conducted research on this drug. According to it rhizome of curcuma is potentised. 6X trituration is used for drug proving. This is peculiar method in Homoeopathy in which

drug is proved on healthy human beings and symptoms are noted. A wide range of symptoms had been showed by turmeric.

Symptoms observed

Mind: dullness, difficult concentration with forgetfulness, he thinks friends and relatives are against him restless and worries about future.

Head: bursting type of pain in whole right side of head, pricking sensation in right side of eye.

Eyes: burning sensation in eyes with lachrymation, redness of right eye with pain.

Nose: frequent sneezing with watery discharge from nose

Face: Itching of right cheek, amelioration on cold application.

Mouth: dryness with white coated tongue.

Tooth: pain on holding cold water in mouth.

Throat: pain in left side amelioration with hot drinks.

Stomach: thirst for cold water whole day for small quantity, feels hungry immediately after eating, has desire to chew betel leaves and smoking

Abdomen: fullness and heaviness, rumbling and distension of abdomen.

Rectum: Constipation, hard and scanty stool

Stool: yellowish, offensive contains undigested particles,

Renal system: increased frequency of urination during night time.

Female: During menses pain in lower abdomen.

Larynx: dry cough, agg at night.

Expectoration: scanty yellow in color, tastes like pus

Chest: pain in right side of chest, agg-night, there will be palpitation with sensation as of weight over sternum

BACK: shifting type of pain in in hip joints with aching pain in sacral region. Agg on changing of posture, feels stiffness in cervical region more on turning head

Extremities: trembling of hands while writing there will be pain in knee and elbow joints better by rest

Skin: Itching all over body without eruptions after taking bath, macular rashes on body.

Conclusion

Curcumin which shows huge pharmacological activities in crude form is potentised according to principles of Homoeopathy through which latent form of medicinal power are aroused and exhibits high thereuptic power. With help of its pharmacognosy and pharmamacodynamis we can cure diseases permanently. Hence this review throws light on its thereuptic properties, efficacy to cure carcinoma, ability to act on different organs of body.

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