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A pilot study to evaluate the cholesterol lowering effect in camellia sinensis 3x

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Abstract

One of the best natural sources of antioxidants is Camellia Sinensis (green tea), and it has one positive effect on cholesterol levels. Moreover, Homoeopathy increases the medicinal value of the particular medicine. Thus, this study is to evaluate whether Homoeopathically prepared Camellia sinensis in its 3x potency can bring changes to the Cholesterol levels.

A sample of minimum 40 cases were selected from Out Patient Department and other Peripheral centres of Father Muller Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, according to inclusion and exclusion criteria. After selecting the cases, informed consent was taken from each patient. A blood Investigation to know the level of Plasma triglycerides, Total Cholesterol, Low density Lipoprotein, High Density lipoprotein and Very Low Density Lipoprotein was done and filed. The selected patients were given Homoeopathically prepared Camellia sinensis 3X, three pills thrice a day (3-3-3) for a time period of 3 months. After 3 months of administration of the remedy, the levels of Plasma triglycerides, Total Cholesterol, High Density Lipoprotein, Low density Lipoprotein and VLDL were investigated and filed. The data available were then statistically analysed with the help of paired t test.

Out of the 40 patients, it was seen that the 60% of the subjects were females. The age group mostly affected were that of 20 years – 25 years having 22.5%. 45% of the subjects belonged to Christian community, 42.5% were from Islamic community and 12.5% were Hindu community.

Out of the 40 cases, most of the cases showed significant reduction in the levels of Total Cholesterol, Plasma Triglyceride and Low Density Lipoprotein, it also saw a reduction of the levels of High Density Lipoprotein and increase in the levels of Very Low Density Lipoprotein. The statistical analysis clearly stated the non-significant action of Camellia sinensis 3x on the High Density Lipoprotein ($p > .001$) and Very Low Density Lipoprotein ($p > .001$). It also stated the significant action of Camellia sinensis 3x on Total Cholesterol ($p < .001$), Plasma Triglyceride ($p < .001$) and Low Density Lipoprotein ($p < .001$).

Keywords: Homoeopathy, camellia sinensis, green tea, hyperlipidemia.

Introduction

The most prevalent disease condition in this day and age is the rising cholesterol levels in many people. The development of coronary artery disease, cardiovascular disease, tendon xanthomas, lipemia retinalis, and many other conditions is brought on by a variety of factors, including changing lifestyles and eating habits as well as an inevitable rise ^[1].

Tea is regarded as the highest-ranking beverage on the planet. Actually, tea is the beverage that people drink the most worldwide, second only to water ^[2]. Green tea (Camellia sinensis), one of the many varieties of tea, is one of the best natural sources of antioxidants ^[3,4] There are so many different ways that green tea is good for your health. One of them is a decrease in cholesterol levels ^[5,6].

In Homoeopathic preparation of a medicine, it is said to increase the medicinal value of the particular medicine ^[7] We, in this study, Homoeopathically gave Camellia Sinensis to the patients having increased Cholesterol levels and evaluated whether it has got the cholesterol lowering effect. Thus it can render help to the fraternity to use the remedy.

Materials and Methods

Source and method of collection of data: A sample of minimum 40 cases were selected from Out Patient Department and other Peripheral centres of Father Muller Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, according to inclusion and exclusion criteria.

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Sample Size

Prevalence – 37.5%

$$n = \frac{z^2 p(1-p)}{e^2}$$

Z α = 1.96 at 95% C.I

p = 0.375

e (allowable error) = 15%

n = 40.016 = 40 cases

Inclusion Criteria

1. Subjects of both sexes aged 20 – 65 years
2. Subjects treated with same dietary therapy
3. TG >150mg/dl, Cholesterol >200 mg/dl, LDL >100 mg/dl
4. Subjects having a Body Mass Index of 19 – 40 kg/m²

Exclusion criteria

1. Patient who have a history of recent trauma, surgery, Myocardial Infarction within 12 weeks.
2. Pregnant women and Lactating Mother
3. Patients having moderate to severe liver dysfunction
4. Patients having Abnormal Renal Function, Severe dysfunction of Heart.
5. Patients having history of acute diabetes mellitus complication
6. Patients diagnosed to have psychiatric illness
7. Presently using drugs for treatment of diabetes mellitus or dyslipidemia.
8. Patients with history of familial hypercholesterolemia.

Study Design: This study was a Pretest – Post test study design.

Methodology

After selecting the cases, informed consent was taken from each patient. A blood investigation to know the level of Plasma triglycerides, Total Cholesterol, Low density Lipoprotein and VLDL was done and filed. The selected patients were given Homoeopathically prepared *Camellia sinensis* 3X, three pills thrice a day (3-3-3) for a time period of 3 months. After 3 months of administration of the remedy, the levels of Plasma triglycerides, Total Cholesterol, High Density Lipoprotein, Low density Lipoprotein and VLDL were investigated and filed. The data available were then statistically analysed with the help of paired t test.

Research Hypothesis

- Alternate Hypothesis:** Significant improvement in level of Plasma triglycerides, Total Cholesterol, Low density Lipoprotein, High density Lipoprotein and VLDL after taking *Camellia sinensis* 3X.
- Null Hypothesis:** No significant improvement is observed in the level of Plasma triglycerides, Total Cholesterol, High density Lipoprotein, Low density Lipoprotein and VLDL after *Camellia sinensis* 3X

Plan for data analysis: The changes in the Plasma triglycerides, Total Cholesterol, High density Lipoprotein, Low density Lipoprotein and VLDL were evaluated before

and after the homoeopathic treatment by paired-‘t’ test using Statistical Package for the GNU PSP Software.

Results

The aim behind this study was to check the cholesterol lowering effects in the Homoeopathically prepared *Camellia sinensis* 3x (Green Tea). 40 patients were selected with regards to the Inclusion and Exclusion criteria. The remedy was administered to the patients with high cholesterol levels for a period of 3 months. The parameters taken into consideration are Total Cholesterol, Triglyceride, Low Density Lipoprotein, High Density Lipoprotein and Very Low Density Lipoprotein.

Out of the 40 patients, it was seen that the 60% of the subjects were females. The age group mostly affected were that of 20 years – 25 years having 22.5%. 45% of the subjects were Christians, 42.5% were from Islamic community and 12.5% were Hindu.

Out of the 40 cases, where were most of the cases showed significant reduction in the levels of Total Cholesterol, Plasma Triglyceride and Low Density Lipoprotein, it also saw a reduction of the levels of High Density Lipoprotein and increase in the levels of Very Low Density Lipoprotein. The statistical analysis clearly stated the non-significant action of *Camellia sinensis* 3x on the High Density Lipoprotein ($p > .001$) and Very Low Density Lipoprotein ($p > .001$). It also stated the significant action of *Camellia sinensis* 3x on Total Cholesterol ($p < .001$), Plasma Triglyceride ($p < .001$) and Low Density Lipoprotein ($p < .001$).

Discussion

The 40 subjects with high cholesterol levels (Total Cholesterol, Plasma Triglyceride, Low Density Lipoprotein, High Density Lipoprotein, Very Low Density Lipoprotein) were selected scrutinising with the Inclusion and Exclusion criteria.

The p-value obtained after analysing the before and after values of Total Cholesterol is $< .001$, suggestive of the significant changed levels of Total Cholesterol with *Camellia sinensis* 3x.

The p-value obtained after analysing the before and after values of Plasma Triglyceride is $< .001$, suggestive of the significant changed levels of Plasma Triglyceride with *Camellia sinensis* 3x.

The p-value obtained after analysing the before and after values of Low Density Lipoprotein is $< .001$, suggestive of the significant changed levels of Low Density Lipoprotein with *Camellia sinensis* 3x.

The p value obtained after analysing the before and after values of High Density Lipoprotein (.245) is $> .001$, suggest that *Camellia sinensis* 3x could not bring changes in the level of High Density Lipoprotein.

The p value obtained after analysing the before and after values of Very Low Density Lipoprotein (.005) is $> .001$, suggest that *Camellia sinensis* 3x could not bring changes in the level of Very Low Density Lipoprotein.

By observing the results, we can state that *Camellia sinensis* 3x can bring significant changes in Total Cholesterol, Plasma Triglyceride and Low Density Lipoprotein. But it fails in bringing significant change in High Density Lipoprotein and Very Low Density Lipoprotein.

Table 1: Distribution according to Age

AGE	Number of patients	Percentage
21-25yrs	9	22.5
26-30yrs	3	7.5
31-35yrs	3	7.5
36-40yrs	6	15
41-45yrs	4	10
46-50yrs	6	15
51-55yrs	4	10
56-60yrs	1	2.5
61-65yrs	4	10

Table 2: Distribution according to Gender

Gender	Number of patients	Percentage
Male	16	40
Female	24	60

Table 3: Distribution of levels according to levels of Total Cholesterol

SL	REG NO	Total Cholesterol	
		BEFORE	AFTER
1.	HCC1	208	160
2.	HCC2	284	180
3.	HCC3	270	110
4.	HCC4	253	145
5.	HCC5	208	200
6.	HCC6	203	212
7.	HCC8	245	274
8.	HCC10	290	292
9.	HCC13	265	298
10.	HCC14	318	210
11.	HCC19	246	150
12.	HCC25	280	195
13.	HCC28	298	154
14.	HCC29	204	191
15.	HCC30	272	190
16.	HCC31	205	184
17.	HCC34	295	192
18.	HCC35	290	192
19.	HCC36	210	154
20.	HCC37	250	152
21.	HCC38	210	178
22.	HCC39	280	180
23.	HCC42	210	181
24.	HCC45	207	148
25.	HCC46	235	164
26.	HCC47	235	187
27.	HCC49	285	172
28.	HCC51	258	158
29.	HCC52	230	191
30.	HCC54	210	189
31.	HCC55	286	65
32.	HCC56	287	187
33.	HCC57	276	200
34.	HCC58	286	178
35.	HCC59	298	175
36.	HCC60	282	179
37.	HCC61	277	176
38.	HCC9	296	187
39.	HCC7	293	154
40.	HCC17	280	160

Table 4: Distribution of levels according to levels of Plasma Triglyceride

SL	Reg. No	Plasma Triglyceride	
		Before	After
1.	HCC1	157	66
2.	HCC2	156	61
3.	HCC3	159	145
4.	HCC4	173	79
5.	HCC5	158	151
6.	HCC6	157	123
7.	HCC8	219	189
8.	HCC10	157	125
9.	HCC13	178	137
10.	HCC14	185	116
11.	HCC19	185	82
12.	HCC25	850	352
13.	HCC28	157	107
14.	HCC29	155	149
15.	HCC30	270	186
16.	HCC31	169	103
17.	HCC34	180	198
18.	HCC35	210	181
19.	HCC36	166	78
20.	HCC37	170	81
21.	HCC38	197	83
22.	HCC39	163	146
23.	HCC42	190	138
24.	HCC45	157	82
25.	HCC46	155	109
26.	HCC47	210	191
27.	HCC49	180	108
28.	HCC51	168	143
29.	HCC52	152	102
30.	HCC54	186	117
31.	HCC55	152	65
32.	HCC56	151	124
33.	HCC57	158	136
34.	HCC58	180	116
35.	HCC59	167	124
36.	HCC60	153	58
37.	HCC61	195	135
38.	HCC9	167	125
39.	HCC7	159	113
40.	HCC17	173	68

Table 5: Distribution of levels according to levels of Low Density Lipoprotein

SL	Reg. No	Low Density Lipoprotein	
		Before	After
1.	HCC1	124	135
2.	HCC2	107	74
3.	HCC3	183	77
4.	HCC4	161	98
5.	HCC5	117	126
6.	HCC6	138	102
7.	HCC8	140	98
8.	HCC10	107	121
9.	HCC13	179	123
10.	HCC14	145	132
11.	HCC19	139	93
12.	HCC25	145	102
13.	HCC28	134	98.6
14.	HCC29	191	105
15.	HCC30	184	105
16.	HCC31	180	107
17.	HCC34	190	104
18.	HCC35	196	106
19.	HCC36	188	90
20.	HCC37	194	93

21.	HCC38	190	82
22.	HCC39	189	102
23.	HCC42	117	110
24.	HCC45	179	72
25.	HCC46	130	98
26.	HCC47	107	98
27.	HCC49	170	104
28.	HCC51	106	89
29.	HCC52	188	127
30.	HCC54	121	108
31.	HCC55	103	95
32.	HCC56	104	100
33.	HCC57	102	98
34.	HCC58	112	93
35.	HCC59	221	113
36.	HCC60	109	85
37.	HCC61	128	106
38.	HCC9	105	87
39.	HCC7	110	85
40.	HCC17	190	92

Table 6: Distribution of levels according to levels of High Density Lipoprotein

SL	Reg No	High density lipoprotein	
		Before	After
1.	HCC1	45	46
2.	HCC2	53	46
3.	HCC3	61	57
4.	HCC4	67	62
5.	HCC5	62	45
6.	HCC6	39	54
7.	HCC8	61	46
8.	HCC10	53	43
9.	HCC13	62	46
10.	HCC14	56	50
11.	HCC19	43	47
12.	HCC25	66	52
13.	HCC28	42	34
14.	HCC29	54	46
15.	HCC30	38	47
16.	HCC31	54	46
17.	HCC34	57	49
18.	HCC35	42	47
19.	HCC36	44	48
20.	HCC37	46	46
21.	HCC38	43	40
22.	HCC39	48	56
23.	HCC42	43	43
24.	HCC45	32	39
25.	HCC46	50	42
26.	HCC47	45	48
27.	HCC49	36	46
28.	HCC51	49	54
29.	HCC52	45	48
30.	HCC54	50	49
31.	HCC55	42	43
32.	HCC56	48	50
33.	HCC57	43	47
34.	HCC58	43	41
35.	HCC59	54	56
36.	HCC60	39	42
37.	HCC61	43	47
38.	HCC9	69	69
39.	HCC7	57	43
40.	HCC17	38	44

Table 7: Distribution of levels according to levels of Very Low Density Lipoprotein

Sl.	Reg no	Very low density lipoprotein	
		Before	After
1.	HCC1	22.4	13
2.	HCC2	23.2	12
3.	HCC3	25.8	14.8
4.	HCC4	24.2	12
5.	HCC5	23.6	30.2
6.	HCC6	25.4	18
7.	HCC8	43.5	37.8
8.	HCC10	29.4	25
9.	HCC13	23.6	27
10.	HCC14	31	23
11.	HCC19	17	16
12.	HCC25	170	87.8
13.	HCC28	23.6	23.4
14.	HCC29	28	29.8
15.	HCC30	54	37.2
16.	HCC31	13	20.6
17.	HCC34	36	39
18.	HCC35	42	36.2
19.	HCC36	13	15
20.	HCC37	14	16
21.	HCC38	19	16
22.	HCC39	33	32.6
23.	HCC42	38	27.6
24.	HCC45	21	16
25.	HCC46	23	21.8
26.	HCC47	42	23.8
27.	HCC49	36	21.6
28.	HCC51	13	13.5
29.	HCC52	8	11.4
30.	HCC54	37	23.4
31.	HCC55	30.4	21
32.	HCC56	30.2	27
33.	HCC57	25.6	17.2
34.	HCC58	16	23.3
35.	HCC59	23	12
36.	HCC60	10	8
37.	HCC61	19	12
38.	HCC9	21.8	17.2
39.	HCC7	25.8	22
40.	HCC17	24	13

Paired Sample Statistics

Table 8: Statistical Analysis of the change in Total Cholesterol

Pair 1	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	S.E. Mean
Before	257.75	40	35.13	5.55
After	177.72	40	22.15	3.50

Table 9: Paired Samples Correlations

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	40	.80	.602

Table 10: Paired Sample Test

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Pair 1 Before - After	80.03	39.91	6.31	67.26	92.79	12.68	39	.000

Paired Sample Statistics

Table 11: Statistical Analysis of the change in Plasma Triglyceride

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	S.E. Mean
Pair 1 Before - After	190.60	40	109.46	17.31
	123.00	40	51.52	8.15

Table 12: Paired Samples Correlations

Pair 1		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	40	.78	.000

Table 13: Paired Sample Test

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Pair 1 Before - After	67.60	76.77	12.14	43.05	92.15	5.57	39	.000

Paired Sample Statistics

Table 14: Statistical Analysis of the change in Low Density Lipoprotein

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	S.E. Mean
Pair 1 Before	148.07	40	36.27	5.73
After	100.84	40	14.81	2.34

Table 15: Paired Samples Correlations

Pair 1		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	40	.06	.720

Table 16: Paired Sample Test

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Pair 1 Before - After	47.23	38.36	6.07	34.97	59.50	7.79	39	.000

Paired Sample Statistics

Table 17: Statistical Analysis of the change in High Density Lipoprotein

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	S.E. Mean
Pair 1 Before	49.08	40	9.15	1.45
After	47.63	40	6.32	1.00

Table 18: Paired Samples Correlations

Pair 1		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	40	.55	.000

Table 19: Paired Sample Test

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Pair 1 Before - After	1.45	7.78	1.23	-1.04	3.94	1.18	39	.245

Paired Sample Statistics

Table 20: Statistical Analysis of the change in Very Low Density Lipoprotein

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	S.E. Mean
Pair 1 Before - After	29.46	40	24.84	3.93
	22.85	40	13.27	2.10

Table 21: Paired Samples Correlations

Pair 1		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Before & After	40	.91	.000

Table 22: Paired Sample Test

	Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Pair 1 Before - After	6.61	13.91	2.20	2.16	11.06	3.00	39	.005

Conclusion

Hyperlipidemia is the abnormally elevated levels of any or all lipids or lipoproteins in the blood. Due to the alarming rate of the patients, medical professionals are implementing strategies for the management of this condition. Green tea that is been widely used as a drink has its own medicinal property.

This study was designed to Homeopathically give *Camellia Sinensis* 3x to the patients having increased Cholesterol levels and evaluate whether it has got the cholesterol lowering effect. After this study it can be stated that *Camellia sinensis* 3x can bring significant changes in Total Cholesterol, Plasma Triglyceride and Low Density Lipoprotein. But it fails in bringing significant in High Density Lipoprotein and Very Low Density Lipoprotein.

It is highly recommended to expand this research work with further vast and deeper study with a control group under favorable conditions and more scientific parameters.

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Author's Contribution

Not available

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

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