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Safety of traditional herbal medicines: From birth of a plant to its clinical application

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In spite of recent developments of antibiotics and newer synthetic drugs, a vast majority of people depend on traditional medicines for their primary health care needs and it can safely be presumed that a major part of traditional therapy involves the use of plant extracts or their active principles. In recent years with ever-growing commercialization in the field of herbal medicines, there has been an instant demand for quality control of the drugs used in this system. The studies on the identity, purity, and quality of the genuine drug will enhance information in checking the adulteration. A set of standards would no doubt be a deterrent to substitution and adulteration and also an aid for 'Drug law Enforcement. The present talk incorporates study from the birth of the plant to its clinical application which is a dire need for all concerned to have knowledge of GAP, GFCP, GLP, CGMP, and the possible adulterations.

Besides the above protocols, this study deals with approaches toward establishing the Safety & Quality starting from a preliminary examination of a medicinal plant, its morpho-anatomical, pharmacognostic, physicochemical, and analytical parameters, foreign organic matter, pesticide residue, radioactive and microbial contamination, chemical assay, fingerprinting of different extractives using modern extractors, Chromatographic and Spectroscopic techniques, phytochemical screening, quantitative analysis of inorganic constituents and standardization with special reference to marker compounds in plant species and their fingerprinting along with its modern perspectives. Different stages, i.e Quality Control Studies of Raw medicinal plant, Controlled Studies on Method of Processing, Quality Control Studies of Finished Phyto Medicines, and Standardization Procedures at each stage from the birth of the medicinal plant up to the clinical application of herbal medicine have been described. An emphasis has been given on the adulteration of pharmaceuticals in phytopharmaceutical preparations.In

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