Phytomedicine in endodontics

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Commentary:
The microorganisms present in the root canal of the human teeth are the primary cause for dental caries, pulpal and periapical inflammation, necrosis of the pulp, and root canal treatment related complications¹. With the increase in the development of bacterial resistance to newer antibiotics, it has become a constant necessity to innovate alternative therapies. In addition, the most frequently used irrigants in endodontics such as NaOCl, EDTA, CHX, and intracanal medicaments like Ca(OH)₂ and triple antibiotic pastes can have detrimental effects. Thus, it is essential to develop alternative therapeutic regimens which are non-toxic, affordable, and effective. Plant and herbs-based medicine is one such alternative which is commonly used for therapeutic purposes².

The method of utilization of herbs for therapeutic purposes is called “Phyotherapy or Phytomedicine”³. A wide range of medicinal plants is found in India. Various constituents present in herbs have been applied to treat a wide range of disease entities. Herbs and plants can potentially be used in endodontics with minimal or no systemic complications³. Phytomedicines can be used as an anti-inflammatory, antibiotic, analgesic, and sedative agents⁴. The advantage of phytomedicines is their ease of availability, low cost, prolonged shelf life, low toxicity, and the absence of microbial resistance. The present poster summarizes the use of phytomedicines in Endodontics.

References

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