

Editorial

Guidelines for Investigation of Traditional Medicinal Preparations in the Control of Diabetes

First WHO/IDF International Teaching Seminar on Appropriate Laboratory Technology in Diabetes. Convenors : Prof. Z. Skrabalo, M.D., D.Sc., & Prof. K.G.M.M. Alberti, M.D., D.Sc., October 17-24, 1983, Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

The drug formulations available in traditional systems could broadly be classified into :

- a) Preparations from medicinal plants
- b) Mineral preparations

Methodology for Scientific Investigations

1. Compilation of a list of traditional formulations for the treatment of diabetes.
2. Botanical identification of medicinal plants.
3. Preparation of the drug in accordance with the traditional medicinal practices.
4. Animal experiments :
 - a) Effect of the preparation on the fasting blood glucose level and oral glucose tolerance in laboratory animals.
 - b) Effect of the preparation on experimentally induced diabetic animals using the parameters :
 - a) Blood glucose
 - b) Plasma insulin levels
 - c) Body weight
 - d) Serum lipids
5. Toxicity studies in different animals.
6. Controlled clinical trial on human subjects :
 - a) Phytochemical investigations of the plants and isolation and characterization of active principles.
 - b) Physico-chemical analysis of mineral preparations.

This special issue of Diabetes Bulletin is to provide a comprehensive update information on the subject of indigenous drugs with hypoglycaemic effects—trials and tribulations. Our special gratitude to Dr. G.V. Satyavati, Dr. Vaidya and Dr. Mukherjee for their valuable contributions for this special issue.