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Pharmaceutical, Therapeutically and Nutraceutical Potential of Aloe Vera: A Mini-review

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Authors MR and RA designed the study, wrote the protocol, managed the analyses of the study and prepared the draft of the manuscript. Authors TA and JD managed the literature searches. Author RA and MR reviewed the scientific contents of the manuscript and updated it. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Mini-review Article

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ABSTRACT

Aloe vera belongs to the family of Asphodelaceae, the oldest medicinal herb ever found and the world's most common medicinal plant. It is known as Ghritkumari, is used in medicine sources of homeopathy, ayurvedic, and allopathy. The species is a good source of repository of chemical ingredients that shows a precise range of biological activities such as wound healing, burn treatment, mitigating frost bite damage, defense against, lung cancer, intestinal problems, x-ray damage to the body, raising and decreasing high density and low lipoprotein content, reduction of diabetic blood sugar, battle against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and strengthening of the immune system. Aloe vera leaves are used to create drinks, perfume, skin lotion, cosmetics, or ointments. The plant's key ingredients are different kinds of vitamins, proteins, carbohydrates, minerals, saponins, amino acids, and salicylic acids. The plant is a good source of antioxidants. It also contains folic acid and vitamin A, C, E and B12. Aloe vera gel includes important ingredients, including the essential amino acids required by the human body. The plant can be used in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industry. This research article is an effort towards Aloe Vera's industrial and ethnobotanical characteristics.

Keywords: Aloe vera; nutraceutical; ethnobotanical; ghritkumari; antioxidants; anticancer.

ABBREVIATIONS

- AIDS : Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- AZT : Azido Thymidine
- DNA : Deoxyribonucleic acid
- WHO : World Health Organisation

1. INTRODUCTION

Herbs have been used as an effective treatment in medicine for thousands of years. As per the WHO assessment, up to 80 percent of the population still relies on conventional therapy [1]. Aloe Vera (syn. Aloe barbadensis Miller) botanical family Xanthorrhoeaceac (include in Aloaceae and Asphodelaceae). Aloe vera plays a fundamental role in pharmaceutical and cosmetic approaches and the most applicable homeopathic plant worldwide [2]. This plant is believed to be begun in the African continent, precisely in Egypt [3]. Aloe Vera is traditionally used digestive disorders, including constipation, weak appetite, irritable bowel syndrome, diabetes, peptic ulcers and also used in immune boster [4]. The plant is also used in the various topical medicine for better effects on skin sensitivity to radiation, anti-inflammatory, antiviral and antitumor, anti-aging, antiseptic, immune enhancement, hypoglycemic, cytotoxic, anti-ulcer and anti-diabetic, anti-bacterial, antioxidant, cardiovascular effects [5-7]. In Sanskrit, Aloe Vera gel is known as Ghrit Kumari. Ayurveda has been described as a multifunctional herb, such as а blood detoxification. diuretic. spermatogenic, laxative, anti-inflammatory and fever reliever. It also used in traditional medicine & Ayurveda for purgative, appetite-stimulating and coughing, cold, piles, fatigue, dyspnea, asthma and jaundice [8]. Currently, Aloe Vera gel broadly used for both commercial and medicinal properties of plants. In 2008, Americans spent almost \$40 billion on functional foods, beverages and supplements to improve their manifestations and provide dynamism and energy to tackle metabolic health problems such as diabetes, Hypertension and hyperlipidemia. Aloe Vera containg herbal products are most popular for these applications [9]. Nowadays, the Aloe Vera usages is growing as industry are booming, and gel is used in many herbal products such as fresh gel, juice, and other formulations for nutritional, medicinal, and cosmetic purposes [10]. Therefore, it is essential to explain the mechanism of action of the lead components of Aloe Vera to identify the maximum efficient way of utilizing and improving the applications of these active species effectively. Now Aloe Vera is promoted in large quantities because of its high requirement in pharmaceutical, cosmetics and industrial sector. The present analysis therefore discusses the following aspects: (a) the research deals primarily with botany; (b) the lead active composition of the gel of Aloe; (c) the pharmacological function of Aloe Vera gel: (d) the concluding remarks. The purpose of the analysis is to include a brief overview of the information on Aloe Vera to act as a guide for further investigation into this possible ingredient in order to establish an efficient method for the discovery of Aloe Vera leaf.

Botany: Aloe Vera looks like a xerophyte with a fierv cactus. It is a perennial clump, which forms a plant with a strong fibrous root; it produces about 12 to 16 basal leaves per plant, which, when mature, weight about 1500gm. If the plant is about 4 years old, it's mature, it has 12 years as its life span. The length of the leaves is about 0.5m long and 8 to 10 cm wide, with a saw-like tooth across its margins. The plant flowers stalk grown to about 1.5m in height, while the fruits contain many seeds in a triangular capsule shape [11]. Aloe Vera is virtually free from infections, but often there is a black spot on the plant due to fungal disease, which can kill the whole plant. Soft rotting is typically caused by bacterial infection; So, Aloe Vera is frost-free since it can't survive in frost-free environments. Most Aloe Vera is not poisonous, but some contain hemlock like a toxic substance [11].

Chemical constituents: Herbal medicine and Cosmetics products are made from aloe vera leaf mucilaginous tissue also called Aloe Vera gel. Aloe Vera peripheral bundle cells develop highly bitter, yellow color latex due to aloe-emodin chmical and its related compounds. Many compounds of around 200 different types of molecules with diverse structures have been synthesis from Aloe Vera leaves' central parenchyma tissue and the exudate produced by cells adjacent to the vascular bundles [12,13]. The active constituents of Aloe Vera leave, including the gel and exudate, are given in Table-1 and Table 2 [13-21].

SI. No.	Name	Molecular formula	IUPAC name	Chemical structure
1	Aloe-emodin	C15H10O5	1,8-dihydroxy-3- (hydroxymethyl)anthracene-9,10- dione	
2	Barbaloin/Aloin	C21H22O9	(10S)-1,8-dihydroxy-3- (hydroxymethyl)-10- [(2S,3R,4R,5S,6R)-3,4,5- trihydroxy-6-(hydroxymethyl)oxan- 2-yl]-10H-anthracen-9-one	
3	Aloesin/Aloeresin	C19H22O9	7-hydroxy-5-methyl-2-(2- oxopropyl)-8-[(2 <i>S</i> ,3 <i>R</i> ,4 <i>R</i> ,5 <i>S</i> ,6 <i>R</i>)- 3,4,5-trihydroxy-6- (hydroxymethyl)oxan-2-yl]chromen- 4-one	

Table 1. Anthraquinone compounds Strucure of aloe vera

SI. No.	Name	Molecular formula	IUPAC name	Chemical structure
4	Aloenin	C19H22O10	6-[4-hydroxy-2-methyl-6- [(2S,3R,4S,5S,6R)-3,4,5- trihydroxy-6-(hydroxymethyl)oxan- 2-yl]oxyphenyl]-4-methoxypyran-2- one	
5	Aloeresin A	C28H28O11	[(2S,3R,4S,5S,6R)-4,5-dihydroxy- 6-(hydroxymethyl)-2-[7-hydroxy-5- methyl-4-oxo-2-(2- oxopropyl)chromen-8-yl]oxan-3-yl] (E)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)prop-2- enoate	
6	Aloin B/ Isobarbaloin	C21H22O9	10R)-1,8-dihydroxy-3- (hydroxymethyl)-10- [(2S,3R,4R,5S,6R)-3,4,5- trihydroxy-6-(hydroxymethyl)oxan- 2-yl]-10H-anthracen-9-one	

Name	Chemical Compounds	Use	
Anthraquinones/anthrones	Aloe-emodin, aloetic-acid, ethanol, barbaloin, isobarbaloin, emodin, cinnamic acid ester	Aloin and emodin act as anti-bacterial and antiviral analgesics	
Carbohydrates	Pure mannan, acetylated mannan, acetylated glucomannan, glucogalactomannan, galactan, galactogalacturan, arabinogalactan, galactoglucoarabinomannan, pectic material, xylene, cellulose	Glycoprotein with anti-allergic properties, called alprogen and novel anti- inflammatory agent.	
Chromones	8-C-glusoly-(2'-O-cinnamoly) -7-O-methlyaloediol A, 8- C-glucosyl-(S)-aloesol, 8-C-glucosyl-7-O- methylaloediol A, 8-C-glucosyl-7-0-methylaloediol, 8-C- glucosyl-noreugenin, isoaloeresin D, isorabaichromone, neoalosin A	The novel anti-inflammatory orders.	
Enzymes	Alkaline phosphatese, amylase,bradykinase, carboxypeptidase, catalase,cyclooxidase, cyclooxygenase,lipase, oxidase, phosphoenolpyruvate, carboxylase, superoxide dismutase	Bradykinase helps to reduce excessive inflammation when applied to the skin topically, while others help in the breakdown of sugars and fats.	
Inoraganic compounds	Calsium, chlorine, chromium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, potassium, phosphorous, sodium, Zinc	They are essential for the proper functioning of various enzymes systems in different metabolic pathways and few are antioxidants	
Miscellaneous including organic comounds and lipids	Arachidonic acid, Y-linolenic acid, steroids (campestrol, cholesterol, Bsitosterol), triglycerides, triterpenoid, gibberillin, lignins,potassium sorbate,salicylic acid, uric acid		
Proteins	Lectins, lectin-like substance	It also contains salicylic acid that possesses anti-inflammatory and anti- bacterial properties.Lignin, an inert substance, when included in topical preparations, enhances penetrative effect of the other ingredients into skin. Saponins that are the soapy substances from about 3% of the gel and have cleansing and antiseptic properties.	
Saccharides	Mannose, glucose, L-rhamnose, aldopentose		
Vitamins	Vitamin A, B12, C, E, choline and folic acid	Vitamin A, C and E are antioxidants and antioxidant neutralize free radicals.	
Hormones	Auxins and gibberellins	That helps in wound healing and have antiinflammatiory action.	

Table 2. Summary of the bioactive compound in *Aloe Vera* [14-22]

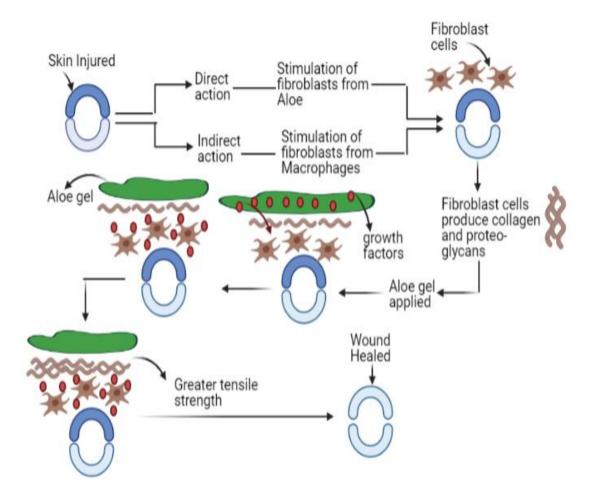


Fig. 1. The use of Aloe gel causes fibroblast cells to migrate and proliferate in the injured region. Aloe's growth factors bind to fibroblast IGF receptors and draw them to the wound. This boosts collagen content and cross-linking even more. As a result, the wound's tensile strength is increased

1.1 Pharmacological Function

Burn and wound healing property: Scientific studies indicated that tannic acid [21] and the form of polysaccharide could be effective constituents for wound healing and tissue repair activity [22]. Other researchers have reported that glucomannan, a polysaccharide containg high mannose and gibberellin growth hormone interacts with fibroblast growth factor receptors, stimulating its development thereby and proliferation, significantly improve the collagen synthesis after oral and topical use of Aloe Vera [23]. Aloe gel improved the quality of the wound collagen and modified the structure of the collagen and improved the degree of crosslinking of the collagen. This intensified the wound's constriction and increased the resulting scar tissue's breaking strength [24]. Increased

dermatan sulfate and hyaluronic acid synthesis in the healing wound's granulation tissue improved the healing process has been identified (Fig. 1) [23,25-27].

Moisturizing and anti-ageing effect: Aloe Vera manufacturing usages increased to 95% of dermatologically products in recent year. This is because it has incredible moisturizing properties. It improves the skin's ability to hydrate itself and helps in the removal of dead skin cells [28]. It does so by producing collagen and elastin fibres, making the skin more elastic and less wrinkled, thereby reversing the degenerative skin changes. It softens the skin by its lubricating properties on superficial epidermal cells of skins and also by the action with amino acids [18,29]. For such incredible usages of it, Aloe vera also used as an ideal herbs in cosmetics industry.

Immune System Restoration: Aloe Vera gel studied suggest that its higly protective for skin damage and improve skin cells repair process [30,31]. The precise function is unknown, however after applying Aloe Vera gel to the skin, metallothionein, a powerful antioxidant protein that scavenges hydroxyl radicals and protects the skin's superoxide dismutase and glutathione peroxidase from being suppressed, is produced. It prevents UV-induced reduction of delayed hypersensitivity by inhibiting the production and of immunosuppressive cytokines release generated from keratinocytes, such as interleukin-10 [32,33].

Antimicrobial: Aloe vera has various antimicrobial properties due it contains various chmical like phenols, urea nitrogen Lupeol, salicylic acid, cinnamonic acid, and sulfur. They all have properties of inhibitory effect on fungi, bacteria, and viruses. Acemannan works individually on HIV disease management and he used herbs with azido thymidine (AZT) and acyclovir to prevent the replication of the AIDS virus [34]. Antifungal Aloe vera extract in study of guinea pig legs contaminated with trichophyton mentagrophytes resulted in a 70% growth inhibition relative to untreated animals [35]. In recent research, the polysaccharide fraction has been shown to inhibit benzopyrene binding to hepatocytes cells of rat, thus preventing the development of potentially cancer-inducing benzopyrene-DNA adducts. Induction of glutathione S-transferase resulting inhibition of the tumor protecting effects of phorbol myristic acetate have also been reported suggesting the possible advantage of the use of aloe gel in chemoprevention in cancer disease [18,36-38].

Antitumor and Anticancer Activity: Various aloe Vera studies reported that antitumor and anti-ulcer effects is due to present of various glycoproteins and it also help normalized human carcinogenic cells. None, less, statistically relevant clinical trials on Aloe Vera gel's effectiveness in human health, are minimal and mostly inconclusive [36]. The polysaccharide fraction has been found to block benzopyrene binding to primary rat hepatocytes, reducing the possibly formation of cancer-causing benzopyrene-DNA adducts, according to current study. Induction of glutathione S-transferase and suppression of phorbol myristic acetate's tumorpromoting action have also been reported, indicating that Aloe gel may be useful in cancer chemoprevention [37,39]. Aloe's carcinogenicity hasn't been well investigated. Chronic misuse of

anthranoid containing laxatives has been believed to play a role in colorectal cancer but there has been no proof of a causal association anthranoid laxative between misuse and colorectal cancer [40]. Some report on cancer prevention is done by aloe vera [41,42]. Aloe Vera juice helps the body to cure itself of cancer and the damage done by radiotherapy and chemotherapy that kills healthy immune cells essential to recovery. Aloe Vera emodin, an anthraquinone, can suppress or prevent cancer cells' development, rendering it anti-neoplastic [11,43].

Laxative effects: Aloe Vera gel is one of the most potent laxative compounds and is commonly used to treat constipation [19]. If taken at doses of 0.25mg, laxative effects begin within 6-12 h, resulting in loose bowel movements. It is healthy for nursing mothers as there are no laxative effects in their infants [44,45].

Effect on gastric acid secretion and ulcers: In both animals and humans, aloe vera gel has the ability to cure or prevent the development of stomach ulcers. Many possible pathways have been connected to Aloe vera's anti-ulcer action, including its anti-inflammatory characteristics, benefits, mucus-stimulating healing effects, secretion regulation, stomach and lectin synthesis [19]. Lectins block the absorption of antipyrine by the parietal cells. This unusual capacity of the extract to inhibit gastric acid production may be the product of direct action on the acid-producing cells [46].

Anti-diabetic effects: Aloe Vera gel is well known for maintaining the blood sugar levels low. However, the results may not constant based on differences in the separation of a mucilaginous layer from anthraquinones [47]. It decreases blood glucose levels and reduces hepatic transaminases, plasma and tissue cholesterol, triglycerides, free fatty acids, and phospholipids [19,48].

2. CONCLUSION

Aloe vera has been utilized worldwide for its therapeutic activities in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and food sectors as an ethnomedicinal potential plant. It is well-known for its therapeutic properties. Aloe vera is known as a "wonder plant" for its antibacterial and antiinflammatory properties, as well as its usage in the treatment of cancer and diabetes. It is also used in the beauty industry. A number of research on the bioactivity of this plant in people and animals have been published, and it has been proven to be suitable for medical, cosmetic, and food uses. The plant requires more study focus in order to be used more effectively for humankind. Aloe vera is unquestionably nature's gift to humanity for beauty, burns, and medicine, and it is up to us to use it and appreciate nature for her never-ending gift. This study comprises a researcher study on Aloe Vera, with the goal of explaining the different therapeutic uses of medicinal plants. The development research of Aloe vera in the treatment of cancer and AIDS has already been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. Controlled research will be required in the future to demonstrate the efficacy of Aloe vera under diverse situations.

CONSENT

It's not applicable.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

It's not applicable.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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