



Role of Ayurveda in Oral Cancer

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ABSTRACT

Cancer is one of the most dreaded diseases of the 20th century and spreading further with continuance and increasing incidence in 21st century. At present Chemoprevention and Radiotherapy is main stay of management.

Oral cancer is the sixth most common malignancy in the world. Oral cancer is of major concern in Southeast Asia primarily because of the prevalent oral habits of betel quid chewing, smoking, and alcohol consumption. Despite recent advances in cancer diagnoses and therapies, the 5-year survival rate of oral cancer patients has remained at a dismal 50% in the last few decades.

But these can produce toxic side effects, which have limited their extensive use. Ayurveda drugs available in different part of the world have been extensively studied for their anti-cancer activity.

Ayurveda also have provided with many such drugs which can be proved to be a good anti-cancer substitute to conventional treatment or also provide benefit as an adjuvant therapy. Researches on many such Ayurvedic plants available in India like Azadirachta indica, Carica papaya, Plumbago zeylanica, Ocimum sanctum, Tinospora cordifolia, Catharanthus roseus are reviewed, and found to be effective as anti-cancer in many types of cancers and adjuvant therapy along with chemotherapy and radiotherapy. There is a broad scope to derive the potent anticancer agents from medicinal plants, which need thorough research. Present review reveals the anticancer potential of various Ayurveda drugs so that the findings can be applied in the benefit of oral cancer patient.

KEY WORDS: oral cancer, risk factors, tobacco, viruses, Ayurveda

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