

COMMON INDIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS TRADITIONALLY USED FOR ANTICANCER ACTIVITY—A REVIEW

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Abstract: Cancer is an abnormal growth and proliferation of cells. It is the world second biggest killer after cardiovascular disease. Medicinal plants have been used for healing and preventative health for thousands of years all around the world. The use of herbal medicines in cancer prevention and treatment is increasing worldwide, now days because of their natural origin and lesser side effects. Traditional medicines are widely used in India. There are 21,000 plants which are used for medicinal purposes around the world as listed by World Health Organization. Among these, 2500 species are in India, out of which 150 species are used commercially on a large scale. India is called as botanical garden of the world and is the largest producer of medicinal herbs (Seth *et al.*, 2004) Research indicates several possible mechanisms of action for herbal medicines and their phytochemicals may act alone or in concert to reduce cancer risk through their anti-oxidant (Ahmed *et al.*, 2013), and anti-tumorigenic properties, as well as their direct suppressive effect on carcinogen bioactivities. In this article we gather the information about the easily available plants used previously and recently identified in the treatment of cancer.

Keywords: Ayurveda, Cancer, Medicinal plants, Treatment

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