

Review Article

Herbal Anti Hypertension Drugs

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ABSTRACT

Hypertension or high blood pressure is a chronic medical condition in which the arterial blood pressure is elevated (normal blood pressure is 120/80 mm Hg). High Blood Pressure may lead to heart failure, stroke, coronary heart disease, kidney failure etc and may affect lungs, brain and heart. It is an important global problem and a very good percentage of people all over the world are affected by blood pressure. As there is no definite cure for this condition, hence controlling it is a big challenge. The main focus on BP management is to lower the elevated blood pressure and to prevent or reduce target organ damage. Although various antihypertensive drugs are available, they are usually associated with many sides –effects. The following article deals with the alternative measures used for lowering high blood pressure giving more importance on the various herbal drugs to be used as combination therapy.

Keywords: Hypertension, Conventional Antihypertensive drugs, Herbal Antihypertensive

INTRODUCTION

Hypertension refers to the prolonged and persistent elevation of blood pressure above the normal range. If not treated properly, hypertension can cause severe complications such as stroke, coronary heart disease and kidney failure.

Patients with hypertension must take antihypertensive drugs on a long-term basis. Although such drugs cannot give a radical cure, they can prevent heart failure, kidney failure and acute stroke induced by hypertension and delay the development of atherosclerosis by controlling the blood. [1]

Hypertension or high blood pressure is often called the" Silent killer". "Silent" because it

does not produce any significant recognizable symptoms and "killer" because even slightly high blood pressure can increase the risk of heart disease significantly.^[2]

RISK FACTORS IN HYPERTENSIVE PATIENTS (3)

- 1. Smoking
- 2. Age (women older than 65 years and men older than 55 years of the age)
- 3. Diabetes
- 4. Dyslipidemia(↑LDL, ↓HDL, ↑TG)
- 5. Microalbuminuria or g.f.r < 60 ml/min
- 6. Family history of cardiovascular disease
- 7. Sex (men and postmenopausal women)
- 8. Obesity

PHARMACOLOGY OF ANTIHYPERTENSIVE AGENT [4]

Hypertension: systolic BP ≥140mmHg and/or diastolic≥90mmHg Classification of hypertension for adults:

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| CATEGORY | SYSTOLIC (mmHg) | | DIASTOLIC (mmHg) |
|------------------|-----------------|-----|------------------|
| Optimal BP | <120 | AND | <80 |
| Normal BP | <130 | AND | <85 |
| High-normal BP | 130-139 | OR | 85-89 |
| Stage1(mild) | 140-159 | OR | 90-99 |
| Stage2(moderate) | 160-179 | OR | 100-109 |
| Stage3 (severe) | ≥180 | OR | ≥110 |

DRUG TREATMENT FOR HYPERTENSION –

FACTOR TO CONSIDER

- Primary (essential hypertension) secondary (10-15% patients) E.g-pheochromocytoma, renal artery constriction, Cushing's syndrome. 2. Diagnosis (based on separate office visits) hypertension. and severity of 3. Individualization (age, gender, ethnicity) and patient compliance. 4. Pre-existing risk factors and medical
- 4. Pre-existing risk factors and medical conditions Smoking, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, CHF, asthma, current medication.
 5. Single –drug therapy (mono therapy) vs. multiple drug therapy (poly pharmacy).

PRIMARY HYPERTENSION (ESSENTIAL HYPERTENSION)^[5]

Essential hypertension is the most prevalent type of hypertension, affecting 90 to 95% of hypertensive patients. Although no direct cause has identified itself, there are many factors such as sedentary life, stress, visceral obesity, potassium deficiency, alcohol intake, and vitamin D deficiency that increase the risk of developing hypertension.

Risk also increases with aging, some inherited genetic mutations, and having a family history of hypertension. An elevation of renin, an enzyme secreted by the kidney, is another risk factor, as is sympathetic nervous system over activity.

Consuming foods that contain high fructose cron syrup may increase one's risk of developing hypertension.

SECONDARY HYPERTENSION

This type is important to recognize since it is treated differently than essential hypertension, by treating the underlying cause of elevated BP. Hypertension results compromise or imbalance of pathophysiological mechanisms, such as the hormone regulating endocrine system, that regulate blood plasma volume and heart function. Some are common and well-recognized secondary causes such as Cushing's syndrome, which is a condition where the adrenal glands overproduce the hormone cortisol.

MALIGNANT HYPERTENSION [6]

The term hypertensive emergency is primarily used as a specific term for a hypertensive crisis with a diastolic blood pressure greater than or equal to 120 mmHg and/ or systolic blood pressure greater than or equal to 180mmHg. Hypertensive emergency differs from hypertensive crisis in that, in the former, there is evidence of acute organ damage.

A hypertensive emergency (formerly called "malignant hypertension") is hypertension (high blood pressure) with acute impairment of one or more organ systems (especially the CNS, cardiovascular system and/or the renal system) that can result in irreversible organ damage. In a hypertensive emergency, the blood pressure should be slowly lowered over a period of minutes to hours with an antihypertensive agent.



COMMON HYPERTENSION DRUGS [8]

| CLASS | TRADE NAME | GENERIC NAME | SIDE EFFECTS | SPECIAL MEASURES |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Angiotensin II | Atacand | candesartan | 1.Dizziness, | ARBs can be taken |
| Receptors | Atacand HCT | candesartan+HCT | Light headedness | on an empty or full |
| Blockers | Avalide | irbesartan+HCT | Or faintness upon | stomach. |
| (ARBs) | Avapro | irbesartan | Rising | |
| | Benicar | olmesartan | Physical | Monitor B/P,CBC, |
| | Benicar HCT | olmesartan+HCT | problems: Muscle | electrolytes and |
| | Cozaar | losartan | cramps or | renal function |
| | Diovan | valsartan | weakness, back or | |
| | Diovan HCT | valsartan+HCT | legs pain, | Fall risk precaution |
| | Exforge | valsartan+amlodipine | insomnia, irregular | especially early in |
| | Hyzaar | losartan+HCT | heartbeat or rapid | therapy |
| | Micardis | telmisartan | or slow heartbeat. | |
| | Micardis HCT | telmisartan+HCT | 3.Confusion | |
| | Teveten | eprosartan | 4.Severe vomiting | INDICATIONS |
| | Teveten HCT | eprosartan+HCT | or diarrhea | Hypertension, alone |
| | | | 5.Cough | or in combination |
| | | | | with other |
| | | | | antihypertensive |
| | | | | drugs |
| | | | | Nephropathy in |
| | | | | type II diabetes |
| | | | | mellitus |
| | | | | Heart failure in |
| | | | | combination with |
| | | | | ACE inhibitor |
| | | | | Reduce the risk of |
| | | | | stroke |

| CLASS | TRADE NAME | GENERIC NAME | SIDE EFFCT | SPECIAL MEASURE |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Angiotensin | Accupril | Quinapril | 1.Cough | Take on an empty |
| Converting | Accuretic | Quinapril/HCT | 2.Red,itchy,skin | stomach one hour |
| Enzyme | Aceon | Perindopril | rash | before meals. |
| Inhibitors | Altace | Ramipril | 3.Dizziness, | |
| (ACEIs) | Capoten | Captopril | Lightheadedness, | Do not use salt |
| | Capozide | Captopril/HCT | Or faintness upon | substitutes while |
| | Lexxel | Enalipril/felodipine | rising | taking ACE |
| | Lotensin | benazepril | 4. Physical | inhibitors. |
| | Lotensin HCT | benazepril/HCT | symptoms: sore | |
| | Mavik | trandolapril | throat, fever, | Avoid NSAIDs like |
| | Monopril | fosinopril | mouth sores, chest | Aleve and Mortin. |
| | Monopril HCT | fosinopril/HCT | pain, and swelling | |



| Prinivil | lisinopril | of feet, ankles and | Fall risk |
|------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Prinzide | lisinopril/HCT | lower legs. | precautions |
| Taka | trandolapril/verapamil | 5. Swelling of the | especially early in |
| Teczem | enalapril/diltiazem | neck, face, and | therapy. |
| Uniretic | moexipril/HCT | tongue. | |
| Univasc | moexipril | 6.High potassium | Do not interrupt |
| Vaseretic | enalapril/HCT | levels | therapy without a |
| Vasotec | enalaprilat | 7.Kidney failure | MD order. |
| Zestoretic | lisinopril/HCT | 8. Severe vomiting | |
| Zestril | lisinopril | or diarrhoea. | INDICATIONS |
| | | | Hypertension, |
| | | | alone or in |
| | | | combination with |
| | | | other |
| | | | antihypertensive |
| | | | drugs. |
| | | | |
| | | | Congestive heart |
| | | | failure in |
| | | | conjunction with |
| | | | diuretics. |
| | | | |
| | | | Diabetes |
| | | | neuropathy. |
| | | | 11 |
| | | | Hypertension in |
| | | | the presence of |
| | | | kidney disease. |

| CLASS | TRADE NAME | GENERIC NAME | SIDE EFFCETS | SPECIAL MEASURES |
|----------|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Beta | Blocadren | timolol | 1.Dizzness or | Monitor pulse, report |
| Blockers | Brevibloc | esmolol | lightheadedness | if<60/min. |
| | Bystolic | nebivolol | 2.Slepping problems | |
| | Cartrol | carteolol | and drowsiness | Monitor B/P |
| | Coreg | carvediol | 3.Fatigue | |
| | Corgard | nadolol | 4.Cold hands and | Contraindicated with |
| | Corzide | nadolol/ | feet | asthma or |
| | | bendroflumethiazide | 5.Slow heartbeat | emphysema, |
| | Inderal | propanolol | 6.Edema(swelling in | extremely low blood |
| | Inderide | propanolol+HCT | ankles, feet, or legs) | pressure, heart |
| | Inno-PranXL | propanolol | 7.Troublebreathing, | block, or bradycardia |
| | Kerlone | betaxolol | Especially asthma | |
| | Normodyne | labetaol | symptoms | Take with meal or |
| | Levatol | penbutolol | 8.Depression | right after meals |
| | Lopressor | metoprolol | | |



| Lopressor HCT | metoprolol+HCT | DRUG INTERACTIONS |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Sectral | acebutolol | Allergy or cold |
| Tenoretic | atenolol/chlrothalidone | medications |
| Tenormin | atenolol | including over-the- |
| Timolide | timolol+HCT | counter products. |
| Toprol | metaprolol | |
| Trandate | labetalol | Diabetes medicines, |
| Visken | pindolol | including insulin |
| Zebeta | bisoprolol | |
| Ziac | bisoprolol/HCT | Other |
| | | antihypertensive |
| | | medication |
| | | |
| | | INDICATIONS |
| | | Hypertension |
| | | Angina pectoris |
| | | Myocardio infarction |
| | | Migraine |
| | | Congestive heart |
| | | failure |

| CLASS | TRADE NAME | GENERIC NAME | SIDE EFFECT | SPECIAL MEASURES |
|-----------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Calcium | Adalat | nifedipine | 1.Dizzness or | Take with food or milk. |
| Channel | Azor | amlodipine/olmesartan | lightheadedness | |
| Blockers: | Cardene | nicardipine | 2.Hypotension | Monitor pulse and B/P. |
| | Cleviprex | clevidipine | 3.Heart rhythm | |
| | Dynacirc | isradipine | Problems | No alcohol interferes |
| | Exforge | amlodipine/valsartan | 4.Dry mouth | with the effects of the |
| | Lexxel | felodipine/enalapril | 5. Edema of ankles, | drug and Increases the |
| | Lotrel | amlodipine/benazepril | feet, or lower legs. | side effects. |
| | Nimotop | nimodipine | 6.Headache | |
| | Norvasc | amlodipine | 7.Nausea | Other blood pressure |
| | Plendil | felodipine | 8.Fatigue | medication in |
| | Procardia | nifedipine | 9.Skin rash | combination |
| | Sular | nisoldipine | 10.Constipation or | With a calcium channel |
| | Calan | verapamil | Diarrhoea | blocker may cause a |
| | Cardizem | diltiazem | | sudden drop in blood |
| | Covera | verampril | | pressure. |
| | Dilacor | diltiazem | | |
| | Diltia | diltiazem | | |
| | Isoptin | verampril | | |
| | Tarka | verampril/trandolapril | | INDICATIONS |



| Teczem | diltiazem/enalapril | Angina Pectoris |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tiamate | diltiazem | |
| Tiazac | diltiazem | Hypertension |
| Vasocor | bepridil | |
| Verelen | verampril | Subarachnoid |
| | | hemorrhage |
| | | |
| | | Atrial fibrillation/flutter |
| | | |

| CLASS | TRADE NAME | GENERIC NAME | SIDE EFFECTS | SPECIAL MEASURES |
|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alpha-I- | Cardura | doxazosin | 1.sudden | Administer at bed time |
| Adrenergic | Dibenzyline | phenoxybenzamine | hypotension and | to minimize fainting |
| Blockers | Esimil | guanethidine+HCT | syncope | |
| Agents | Hylorel | guanadrel | 2. Angina, | Monitor for angina, B/P |
| | Hytrin | terazosin | arrhythmia | |
| | Ismelin | guanethidine | 3. Nausea, and Vomit | Take with milk/meals |
| | Minipress | prazosin | ting | to avoid GI upset |
| | Minizide | prazosin+polythiazid | Dry mouth | |
| | Regitine | е | 4.Diarrhoea | Avoid OTC cold |
| | | phentolamine | constipation and | medications |
| | | | Abdominal pain | |
| | | | 5.Depression | |
| | | | anxiety and, | |
| | | | nervousness | |
| | | | 6.Joint pain | |
| | | | 7. Dyspnea, sinusitis, | |
| | | | cough | INDICATIONS |
| | | | 8.Edema,weight | |
| | | | gain | Hypertension, alone |
| | | | 9.Urinary | Or in combination |
| | | | frequency | With other |
| | | | 10.Drowsiness | antihypertensive drugs |
| | | | | |
| | | | | BPH for doxazosin, |
| | | | | terazosin |

| CLASS | TRADE NAME | GENERIC NAME | SIDE EFFECTS | SPECIAL MEASURES |
|-----------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Alpha-II | Aldoctor | methyldopa/chlorothia | 1.Dizziness,drows | Sound A like:do |
| Agonists | Aldomet | zide | iness, | Not confuse |
| and | Aldoril | methyldopa | fatigue | With Aldomet and |
| Other | Catapres | methyldopa/HCT | 2.Headache | Aldoril. |
| Centrally | Clorpres | clonidine | 3.Dry mouth, | |
| Acting | Combipres | clonidine/clorthalidone | vomiting | Fall risk related to |
| Drugs | Duraclon | clonidine/clorthalidone | Nausea, | dizziness |



| Tenex | clonidine | flatulence | |
|-------|------------|-------------|------------------------|
| | guanfacine | 4.GI upset | Monitor B/P for |
| | | 5.Skin rash | fluctuations |
| | | | INDICATIONS |
| | | | Hypertension in person |
| | | | with impaired renal |
| | | | function , renal |
| | | | hypertension |
| | | | and resistant cases |
| | | | related to stroke. |
| | | | Hypertension in |
| | | | conjunction with a |
| | | | diuretic. |

| CLASS | TRADE NAME | GENERIC NAME | SIDE EFFECTS | SPECIAL MEASURES |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Diuretics | Aldactazide | spironolactone/HCT | 1.Frequent urination | IN Blood test |
| | Aldactone | spironolactone | 2.Arrythmias | monitoring of |
| | Bumex | bumetanide | 3.Electrolyte | electrolytes in |
| | Demadex | torsemide | abnormalities | important |
| | Diucardin | hydroflumethiazide | 4.Extreme tiredness | Before and during |
| | Diuril | chlorothiazide | or weakness | drug use. |
| | Dyazide | hydrochlorothiazide/ | 5.Muscle cramps or | |
| | | triamterene | weakness | Monitor for signs of |
| | Dyrenium | triamterene | 6.Dizziness, | low potassium |
| | Edecrin | ethacrynic acid | Lightheadedness | levels. |
| | Enduron | methyclothiazide | 7.Skin rash | |
| | Esidrex | hydrochlorothiazide | 8.Loss of appetite, | Alcohol and sleep |
| | Hydrodiural | hydrochlorothiazide | Nausea, vomiting, or | aids should be |
| | Hygroton | chlorthialidone | muscle cramps | avoided |
| | Inspra | eplerenone | 9.Fever, sore throat, | |
| | Lasix | furosemide | cough, | Monitor weight and |
| | Lozol | indapamide | Rapid and excessive | B/P |
| | Maxide | triamterene/HCT | weight loss. | |
| | Microzide | hydrochlorothiazide | | Take with food/milk |
| | Midamor | amiloride | | to minimize gastric |
| | Modiuretic | amiloride/HCT | | upset. |
| | Mykrox | metolazone | | |
| | Oretic | hydrochlorothiazide | | Indication |
| | Renese | polythiazide | | Hypertension ,in |
| | Saluron | hydroflumethiazide | | combination with |
| | Thalitone | chlrothalidone | | other |
| | Zaroxolyn | metolazone | | antihypertensive |
| | | | | drugs |



| | | | | Edema associated with CHF |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| | | | | Acute pulmonary edema |

| CLASS | TRADE NAME | GENERIC NAME | SIDE EFFECTS | SPECIAL MEASURES |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Direct | BiDil | Hydralazine/ | 1.Headache , | Sound Alike/look |
| Vasodilator | | Isosorbide dinitrate | Vascular headache | Alike drugs |
| | Hydralazine | hydralazine | 2.Hypotension, | Do not confuse Isordil |
| | Hyperstat | diazoxide | Lightheadedness | with Isuprel |
| | Imdur, ismo | isosorbide | 3.Cough | Or Inderal |
| | | mononitrate | 4.Edema,(Rogaine- | Do not confuse |
| | Isordil | | minoxidil) | minoxidil with |
| | | isosordibe dinitrate | 5.Changes in cardiac | monopril |
| | Lonitrin | minoxidil | rhythm(Rogaine- | |
| | Nitro-Bid | nitroglycerine | minoxidil) | Take of empty side |
| | Nitroprusside | sodium nitroprusside | | stomach unless |
| | | minoxidil | | resident experiencing |
| | Rogaine | isosorbide dinitrate | | headaches. Then |
| | Sorbitrate | | | takes with meals. |
| | | | | Do not chew or |
| | | | | swallow sublingual |
| | | | | tablets. |
| | | | | INDICATIONS |
| | | | | Angina pectoris |
| | | | | Severe hypertension |
| | | | | (Rogaine) |

ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE OF HERBAL MEDICINE (9)

Advantages of Herbal Medicine

- 1. Allopathic medicines are very costly. In contrast, herbal medicines are very cheap. This cost effectiveness makes them all the more alluring.
- 2. Herbal medicines can be brought without prescription and they are available in all most all health stores. Some herbs can even be grown at home.
- 3. For certain aliment, herbal medicine are consider to be more effective than allopathic medicines.
- 4. The natural detoxification process of body is effectively enhanced by herbal medicines. They can be used to cleanse the colon, improve digestion and food absorption. Herbal medicines are also very good in boosting the immune system.
- 5. Herbal medicines are very effective in curing various digestive disorders like colitis, indigestion, peptic ulcers and irregular bowel movements.



- 6. These types of medicines are best for people who are allergic to various types of drugs.
- 7. Herbal medicines are also effective in boosting the mental health.
- 8. Most of the aliments related to blood circulation like high blood pressure, varicose ulcers, and many others can be controlled through herbal medicine.
- 9. Some herbal medicines are very good in reducing the cholesterol level in the blood stream. They are also used to treat coronary artery diseases.
- 10. Herbal medicine can be used to reduce weight by regulating appetite.

DISADVANTAGES OF HERBAL MEDICINES Herbal medicines do have quite a few disadvantages.

- 1. The main drawback is that herbal medicines take too much time to act. The entire process is very slow. When you go for herbal medicines, it is best to have immense patience.
- 2. There is also a remote chance that herbal medicine may not give the desired result.

- 3. Herbal medicines are not good for serious trauma like broken bones. It also cannot heal a heart attack. It is also ineffective in sudden illnesses and accidents.
- 4. Some plant chemicals can be toxic to the body. In addition, certain ingredients react differently with different people. So, it is always necessary to test the herbal medicine to check that it is not allergic to the body.
- 5. For some aliments, herbal medicines can cause negative side effects. These side effects may also take a long time revel.
- 6. Herbal medicines are also not properly regulated and so they do not carry any quality assurance.
- 7. Herbal medicines require very good practitioners and these are very few. Most of the 'doctors' that populate the commercial herbal remedy market are not qualified and so people must stay away from them.
- 8. Some herbal medicines can interact with medications like antidepressants.

LIST OF HERBAL DRUGS

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME OR | PARTS USED | MEDICINAL USED |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | FAMILY | | |
| 1.Garlic | Allium sativum | Bulbs ⁽¹⁰⁾ | It is a high blood pressure herb, which is |
| | Fam-Liliaceae | | useful for heart by stimulating blood |
| | | | circulation. |
| | | | It used as a carminative, expectorant, |
| | | | stimulant And disinfectant in the treatment of pulmonary conditions. (11) |
| 2.Arjuna ⁽¹²⁾ | Terminalia arjuna | Stem bark | It is used as a cardiotonic. The drug exhibits |
| | Fam-Combretaceae | | hypotensive action with vasodilatation and |
| | | | decreased heart |
| | | | Rate. |
| 3.Sarpagandha ⁽¹³⁾ | Rauwolfia Serpentina | Root | This herb has sedative and |
| | | | antihypertension property. |
| 4.Punarnava | Boerhaavia diffusa | Herb ⁽¹⁴⁾ | It is a excellent natural diuretics(thus do |
| | Fam-Nyctaginaceae | | lower blood pressure) and heart tonic. It is |
| | | | useful in treating obesity, improving |
| | | | appetite jaundice and general fever. (15) |
| 5.Coriander ⁽¹⁶⁾ | Coriandrum sativum | Seed,Leaf | It is a good diuretic; it makes the kidneys |
| | Fam-Umbelliferae | | perform their roles of excertion better and |
| | | | thus lower high blood pressure. |



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|---|--|---|---|
| 6.Ashwagandha | Withania somnifera Fam-Solanaccac | Root and stem ⁽¹⁷⁾ | It is a sedative, diuretic, good for stress related hypertension. (18) |
| 7.Gingerroot | Zingiber officinale Fam-Zingiberaceae | Dried scrapped or unscrapped rhizomes. ⁽¹⁹⁾ | Ginger aids to improve blood circulation and relaxes muscles surrounding blood vessels thus used to lessen blood pressure. Ginger is also a powerful digestive herb that helps relieve uneasiness and nausea. (20) |
| 8.Gingko | Gingko biloba Fam-Gingkoaceae | Dried leaves ⁽²¹⁾ | Gingko biloba improves blood circulation and dilates arteries, reducing blood pressure. Gingko also aids in improving memory and mental alertness because of increased blood flow to the brain. (22) |
| 9.Rauwolfia ⁽²³⁾ | Rauwolfia serpentine Benth Fam-Apocyanceae | Root | It is used to treat mild essential hypertension and may be an effective adjunct to the treatment of more severe hypertension. |
| 10.Neem ⁽²⁴⁾ | Azadiracta indica | Rhizome | Hypertensive, Sedative, analgesic, epilepsy. |
| 11.Bach ⁽²⁵⁾ Sweet flag | Acorus Calamus Fam-araceae | Rhizome | Hypertensive, sedative, analgesic, epilepsy |
| 12.Cardamom ⁽²⁶⁾ | Elettaria cardamomum Maton Var, minuscule Burkill Fam-Zingiberaceae | Dried ripe fruits | It is used as an aromatic, a carminative, and stimulant. It is also a good flavouring agent and antihypertensive properties. |
| 13.Cinammon ⁽²⁷⁾ | Cinnamomum zeylanicum Fam-Lauraceae | Bark | Lower blood pressure, carminative, stomachic, flavor, stimulant, aromatic, antiseptic, astringent |
| 14.Hawthorne berries ⁽²⁸⁾ | Crataegus oxyacanthas | Branches | Regulates high and low blood pressure, hypoglycemia and heart disease. |
| 15.Ginseng | Panax ginseng | Herbs ⁽²⁷⁾ | It will lower high blood pressure, but raise low blood pressure. It is also taken to reduce the effects of stress, improve performance boost energy levels ,enhance memory. (29) |
| 16 Coleus ⁽³⁰⁾ | Coleus forshkoli Fam-Lamiaceae | Root | Vasodilator, Cardio stimulants, lowering blood pressure and intra-ocular pressure used in glaucoma. |
| 17.Gotu Kola | Centella Asiatica Fam-Appiaceae | Whole plant ⁽⁵⁾ | It is used for high blood pressure, sentility, aging, and the help the body protect itself against toxins. (27) |
| 18.Nutmeg ⁽³¹⁾ | Myristica fragrans | Seeds | Lower blood pressure It is used as an aromatic. Carminative and |

| 18.Nutmeg ⁽³¹⁾ | Myristica fragrans | Seeds | Lower blood pressure |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---|
| | Fam-Myristicaceae | | It is used as an aromatic, Carminative and |
| | | | stimulants. ⁽³²⁾ |
| 19.Kelp ⁽³³⁾ | Fucus vesiculosus | Whole plant | Lower blood pressure |
| | Fam-Fucaceae | | It has been used in the treatment of goiter |
| | | | and Scrofulous swelling. |



| 20.Onions ⁽³⁴⁾ | Allium cepa Fam-Lillaceae | Bulbs | Lower blood pressure |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|--|
| 21.Buchu ⁽³⁵⁾ | Agathosma betulina | Leaves | It is an effective diuretics and anti- |
| | Fam-Rutaceae | | inflammation. |
| 22. Carrot ⁽³⁶⁾ | Daucus carota | Root | It has been used in traditional medicine to |
| | Fam-Umbelliferae | | treat hypertension. |
| 23. Hardy fuchsia, | Fuchsia magellanica | Leaf | Infusion of the leaf extract reduced body |
| Chiko,Tilco (37) | Fam- Onagraceae | | temperature acts as a diuretics and lower |
| | | | blood pressure. |
| 24.Soybeen ⁽³⁸⁾ | Glycine max | Seeds | It has been found to effective as |
| | Fam-Fabaceae | | hypotensive agents. |
| 25.Mistletoe ⁽³⁹⁾ | Viscumalbum | Leaves | The crude extract produced a significant |
| | Fam-Santalaceae | | decrease in BP i.e. 11.28, 23.98,18.80% in |
| | | | the normotensive occluded hypertension |
| | | | and sham-induced Hypertensive treated sub groups. (40) |
| 26.Curry leaves (41) | Murraya koenigii | Leaves | Curry laves is found to be effective as |
| | Fam-Rutaceae | | antioxidant, antidiabetic, antibacterial, |
| | | | antihypertensive. |

SIDES EFFECTS OF THE DRUGS

Side effects of antihypertensive drugs vary with individual drugs. Common side effects include the following temporary reactions:

- 1. Headache, weakness or fatigue.
- 2. Dizziness upon rising quickly from a sitting or lying position.
- 3. Numbness or sharp pain in fingers or toes.
- 4. Cold hands and feet.
- 5. Dry eyes, mouth and throat.
- 6. Nightmares or sleeping difficulties.

Advice on Medication

The following should be borne in mind when taking antihypertensive drugs:

- 1. Learn the name and dosage of the drugs you are taking.
- 2. Take the drugs regularly as instructed by your doctor in order to have effective control of hypertension. Keep on taking the drugs even if your conditions improve.
- 3. Do not stop medication without your doctor's instruction. Take your medicines at the same fixed time every day as far as possible. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible unless it is almost time for the next scheduled dose. In

that case, skip the missed dose and take the next dose directed .Do not take double doses.

- 4. The drugs should not be taken with alcoholic drinks to avoid dizziness or fainting.
- 5. Do not put different drugs in the same bottle. Each drug should be put into its original labeled container.

Life Adaptation

People with hypertension should take note of the following in their daily lives:

- 1. Quit smoking.
- 2. Reduce salt intake. Eat less preserving and processed food such as sauages, pickles and potato chips.
- 3. Drink less caffeinated beverages likes strong tea, coffee and coke.
- 4. Do moderate exercise regularly
- 5. Keep optimal body weight.
- 6. Learn self –relaxation because anxiety, loss of temper and overstrain all give rises to increased blood pressure.

CONCLUSION

The World Health Organization has identified hypertension, or high blood pressure, as the



leading cause of cardiovascular mortality so; proper awareness is required to reduce the consequences of high blood pressure and reduce the need for antihypertensive drug therapy. The conventional Pharmacologic therapy has various side effects and hence the hypertensive individuals prefer natural alternatives instead of conventional medications as they are not only effective but are comparatively safe. The widely used alternative measures for lowering high blood pressure are Lifestyle modifications; Dietary changes and use of combination therapy with herbs. Normally the herbal medicines do not have any side effects, at the same time they give additional side benefits.

Hence it can be concluded that a even though a person may have an elevated Blood Pressure, with proper medication and lifestyle one can lead a normal life.

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