



Overview of Pharmacognosy and Medicinal or Health Benefit Purposes

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DESCRIPTION

Pharmacognosy is the study of the chemical, physical, biological and therapeutic properties of drugs from natural sources. This is the branch of pharmacy concerned with identifying, isolating and purifying biologically active compounds from natural products and using them as medicines. Pharmacognosy involves the study of the structure, function and biosynthesis of natural products and the evaluation of their pharmacological and toxicological properties. The history of herbal medicine can be traced back to early civilizations when plants and herbs were used for medicinal purposes.

The ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans used a variety of plant extracts and animal products to treat ailments. Many of these traditional medicines are still in use today, and modern pharmacognosy seeks to investigate their chemical and biological properties. It targets the natural world. The focus of pharmacognosy is the identification and isolation of biologically active compounds from these sources and the study of their chemical and biological properties. These natural products are often used as starting materials for the synthesis of new drugs or as adjuncts to existing drugs. One of the main sources of natural products for pharmacognosy is plants. Many plant extracts have been used for centuries to treat various ailments. For example, the leaves of the ginkgo tree have been used in traditional Chinese medicine for centuries to treat memory loss, dizziness. It has been used to treat tinnitus. The active compounds found in ginkgo biloba leaves are flavonoids and terpenoids, which have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Another example of a plant used in herbal medicine is poppy, which is used to make morphine and other opiates. Morphine is a powerful pain reliever and is used to treat severe pain, such as that associated with cancer or surgery. However,

because it is addictive, it is highly regulated and requires a prescription. Animals are also sources of natural products for pharmacognosy. For example, snake venom is being studied for its potential medical uses. Some components of snake venom have been found to have anticoagulant properties that may help prevent blood clots. Other ingredients have been found to have analgesic properties that may be useful in the development of new pain relievers. Microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi are another source of natural products for pharmacognosy. Many antibiotics, such as penicillin, were originally discovered to be natural products of microorganisms. These compounds are used to treat bacterial infections and have saved countless lives. Other natural products derived from microorganisms have been found to have antifungal, antiviral, and anticancer properties.

Pharmacognosy includes various techniques for identifying, isolating, and purifying natural products. These techniques include chromatography, spectroscopy, and chemical assays. Chromatography is a separation technique that separates the components of mixtures based on their physical and chemical properties. Spectroscopy is a technique that uses light to study the properties of molecules. A chemical assay is a test used to determine the presence or amount of a particular chemical compound. Pharmacognosy also includes the study of pharmacological and toxicological properties of natural substances. Pharmacological studies examine the effects of natural compounds on living organisms, including humans. These studies help identify potential therapeutic uses for natural products. Toxicology studies examine the potential toxicity of natural products and their potential effects on organisms. These studies are essential to ensure that natural products are safe for human use. Germany has numerous applications in the pharmaceutical industry. Natural substances are the starting point for new drug development.

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