

## INDIGENOUS DRUGS AND LIVER DISEASE

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A wide variety of herbs and their active principles have undergone experimental studies in diverse models of liver injury, and cholestasis. Pretreatment with extracts of these plants has shown hepato-protective activity and/or choleric activity based on biochemical and/or histopathological assessment. However, only a few have undergone proper clinical trials, e.g. Pk and Tc in viral hepatitis/obstructive jaundice. Most of these plants have a broad spectrum of activity on the cardiovascular and nervous systems gastrointestinal tract, etc.

Only well-planned, placebo-controlled, clinical studies with due attention to efficacy and safety parameters (effect on other organs) will allow us to judge the true potential of indigenous drugs in the treatment of liver disease. Current experimental approaches on indigenous drugs focus on the allopathic approach to jaundice and liver disease. We believe there is a need to discuss and develop clinical models of liver diseases based on Ayurvedic theory in order to provide new insights into hepato protection.

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