

Review of: "The pros and cons of utilizing crude herbal preparations as opposed to purified active ingredients, with emphasis on the COVID pandemic"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Comprehensive Evaluation: The authors present a thorough examination of the pros and cons associated with crude herbal preparations and purified active ingredients. This comprehensive analysis offers readers a well-rounded understanding of the topic.

Emphasis on Traditional Knowledge: The article effectively highlights the rich history of plant-based treatments in various medical traditions, drawing attention to the potential therapeutic benefits derived from these ancient practices.

Practical Application: The authors provide real-world examples of patients who used *Artemisia* extracts in conjunction with breathing exercises as a potential treatment for COVID-19. These case studies add a practical dimension to the discussion, illustrating how such treatments could be applied in clinical settings.

Acknowledgment of Limitations: The authors appropriately acknowledge the limitations of using herbal preparations, such as variations in active ingredient concentrations and the lack of large-scale randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to support their use.

Suggestions for Improvement:

Further Clarification on Safety: While the authors briefly touch on the safety of herbal preparations, it would be beneficial to elaborate more on potential risks and adverse effects associated with their use. Addressing safety concerns could help readers make more informed decisions.

Addressing Skepticism: The authors discuss the reluctance of some medical professionals to adopt herbal treatments due to the lack of large-scale RCTs. It would be valuable to address this skepticism in more detail and explore strategies to bridge the gap between traditional and evidence-based medicine.

Comparison of Traditional and Modern Approaches: A more direct comparison between the traditional use of crude herbal preparations and the modern approach of purified active ingredients could further emphasize the unique benefits and challenges of each approach.

Ethical Considerations: Discussing the ethical considerations of using herbal preparations in the absence of large-scale RCTs, particularly in the context of a pandemic, would provide a well-rounded perspective on the topic.

Future Research: It would be helpful to suggest avenues for future research in this area, such as potential studies to explore the efficacy of herbal treatments and the development of guidelines for their safe and evidence-based use.