

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.

Clarify Terminology and Scope: Begin by clearly defining terms such as "crude herbal preparations," "purified active ingredients," and "traditional knowledge." This will provide readers with a solid foundation to understand the context of the paper.

Highlight Traditional Knowledge: While acknowledging the lack of large-scale randomized controlled trials, elaborate on the historical and cultural significance of traditional herbal remedies. Discuss the wealth of anecdotal evidence as mentioned in a latest perspective paper <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsomega.3c00596>, expand the knowledge that has been accumulated over centuries and how it can guide modern research citing this paper.

Address Physician Reluctance: Explore the reasons behind physicians' reluctance to use herbal preparations. Is it solely due to the lack of randomized controlled trials, or are there other factors, such as regulatory concerns, standardization issues, or unfamiliarity with herbal medicines?

Evidence Grading and Heterogeneity: When discussing the need for evidence, consider differentiating between various types of evidence, ranging from anecdotal accounts to well-designed clinical studies. Acknowledge the potential heterogeneity of herbal preparations and the challenge of applying a standardized approach to grading evidence.

Risk-Benefit Assessment: Citing a latest report <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crtox.2023.100118>, emphasize the importance of a rigorous risk-benefit assessment when incorporating herbal treatments into modern medical practices as mentioned in a this recent report. Discuss how such assessments can help identify situations where herbal treatments may be suitable and situations where they might pose unnecessary risks.

Comparative Analysis with Purified Compounds: Draw comparisons between the use of crude herbal preparations and purified active ingredients. Highlight cases where the combination of multiple compounds in herbal preparations could potentially provide synergistic effects or mitigate adverse reactions.

Ethical Considerations: Address ethical concerns related to the use of traditional knowledge and indigenous practices. Discuss the significance of respecting cultural heritage and intellectual property rights when integrating herbal remedies into mainstream medicine.

Case Study of Artemisia in COVID Treatment Citing a seminal work <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.160503>, elaborate on the specific case study involving Artemisia in the treatment of COVID-19. Provide comprehensive details about the pharmacological properties of Artemisia, its historical use, any existing studies on its efficacy against viral infections, and the safety profile of its herbal preparation.