



EDITORIAL

Diabetes Mellitus: Local Treatment from Natural Products

The term 'Diabetes' was coined by Apollonius of Memphis who lived in Egypt around the year 250 BC. The term '*Mellitus*' was added later because the urine of patients with diabetes was found to be sweet like honey.

Early treatment in all patients for most diseases centered around animal and botanical products. It was through these practices that treatment of Diabetes Mellitus (DM) has evolved leading to insulin purification from pancreatic extracts by Banting, Best and colleagues in Toronto in the 1920s.

Botanical (herbal) products though widely used in the management of type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, their mode of action is hardly known. Reproducible efficacy in management of DM is also lacking in use of botanical products to manage DM as metabolic syndrome. It is however laudable that traditional medicine practices in management of complex diseases like hypertension, DM and bronchial asthma are preserved from generation to generation since these are the products that have been used to take care of us over many thousands of years.

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