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## PREVENTIVE ROLES OF BIOACTIVE NATURAL COMPOUNDS IN OXIDATIVE AND NITROSATIVE STRESS MEDIATED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF DIABETES MELLITUS

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## ABSTRACT

Oxidative stress has emerged as one of the targets in several medical conditions and in several types of clinical researches. Growing evidences from research on diverse diseases show that oxidative stress is conjoined with the pathogenesis of diabetes and its complications. This review has examined the role of oxidative stress in the pathogenesis of insulin resistance and beta-cell dysfunction. A vast variety of medicinal plants and products have been utilized for the prevention of diabetes and its related complications. Natural products such as phenolic acids and flavonoids construct one of the most ubiquitous groups of plant phenolics. At present, the effect of dietary phenolics is of extreme concern due to their antioxidant, free radical scavenging, and as quenchers of singlet oxygen formation. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) as well as reactive nitrogen species play either harmful or beneficial roles in biological systems depending on pathophysiological conditions. This review extends on the fundamental aspect of ROS in biological processes and diseases and how natural bioactive compounds of fruits and vegetables regulate their health improving properties. Flavonoids and phenolics acids are the most important groups of secondary metabolites and bioactive compounds in plants. Diverse phytochemical agents have become the backbone in pharmacotherapy of diabetes by virtue of their antioxidant properties along with their other pharmacological actions. Consequently, accession to obstruction the generation of reactive free radicals or abduct the reactive free radical may yield direct and casual approach for the medication of diabetes and its complications.

Keywords: Natural products, Diabetes mellitus, Free radicals, Oxidative stress, Prevention.

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## INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus is a universal health complication that causes a leading risk of vascular diseases, decline in the quality of life, and enhanced mortality rate. Diabetes mellitus patients undergo several alterations in metabolism, which exert detrimental effects in many organs in the body. particularly the cardiovascular system [1]. Basically. it is a syndrome defined by hyperglycemia, polydipsia, and polyuria and complications to the kidney, eyes, nerves, and it also conjoins with an enlarged prevalence of cardiovascular diseases [2]. The contemporary knowledge of free radicals and reactive oxygen species (ROS) in biological systems is bringing forth a revolution in the medical field. ROS plays an important role in living systems through their beneficial and detrimental effects [3]. The diabetes control and complications trial revealed that tight regulation of blood glucose is capable of diminishing clinical complications notably, but even optimal control over blood glucose could not prohibit diabetic complications. This suggests that there must be some alternative treatment procedures [4]. Several studies have manifested that hyperglycemia-induced generation of free radicals causes oxidative stress which imparts toward the development and progression of diabetes and related complications (Fig. 1). It became clear that mitigation of oxidative stress through antioxidants therapy maybe an impressive policy for decreasing diabetic complications [5]. Plants are potential sources of natural bioactive compounds such as secondary metabolites. Most of the secondary metabolites of herbs and spices are commercially important and find use in a number of pharmaceutical compounds with diverse properties including anticancer effects [6]. A large cluster of plant-derived various bioactive compounds have exhibited activity persistent with their possible role in the pathophysiology of diabetes [7]. Among these are polysaccharides, alkaloids, galactomannan gun, peptidoglycans, glycosides, hypoglycans, carbohydrates, steroids, glycopeptides, guanidine, terpenoids,

inorganic ions, and amino acids. In fact, the disclosure of extensively used hypoglycemic drug metformin emerges from the conventional access to using Galega officinalis [8]. Nowadays, there is a developing concern in the applicability of medicinal plants for the medication and execution of type 2 diabetes. These plants have been inked in mythical medicine from prehistoric time by virtue of their antioxidant and antidiabetic activities. However, they are easily available and cost-effective having lower side effects in comparison to synthetically designed antidiabetic remedies [9]. Recently available therapies for diabetes comprises insulin and numerous antidiabetics orally agents such as biguanides, sulfonylureas, and glinides. However, most of them have a genuine detrimental effect consequently, the investigation for a more potent and secure hypoglycemic remedy is one of the essential areas of research [10]. This review involved an extensive focus on the oxidative stress-mediated pathophysiological conditions of diabetes and the use of a vas variety of medicinal plants and products for the prevention of diabetes and its related complications.

### **OXIDATIVE STRESS AND ANTIOXIDANTS**

Diabetes mellitus is defined by high levels of glucose and ROS overproduction is a characteristic feature (Fig. 2). High glucose can commence the generation of superoxide and hydrogen peroxide, precursors of reactive free radicals, which causes to stimulate the weakening of antioxidant systems, damage biomolecules, raise lipid peroxidation, and promote the insulin resistance in diabetes [11]. Numerous biochemical mechanisms have become known to reveal the detrimental issue of hyperglycemia, including protein kinase C (PKC), mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK), polyol pathway, advanced glycation end (AGE) products, and oxidative stress [12]. Hyperglycemia influences conversion of glucose to sorbitol which leads to a collateral decline of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate

and glutathione, which, in turn, is liable for the failure of antioxidant equivalents that are more prone to increase intracellular oxidative stress [13].  $\alpha$ -tocopherol, a phenolic compound, and ascorbic acid occurred in fruits, grains, vegetables, and pulses retain the potentiality to reduce oxidative damage affiliated with many diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, cataracts, diabetes, atherosclerosis, arthritis, immune deficiency diseases, and aging [14]. Increased oxidative stress is considered to show a significant aspect in the etiology and pathophysiology of the chronic complications linked with diabetes [15,16].

Streptozotocin (STZ) toxin has been widely used to produce diabetic animal models. In STZ treated rats, it has been implied that increased generation of ROS, hyperglycemia, and auto-oxidation of glycated protein are associated with pancreatic  $\beta$  cell damage [17,18]. Vitamin C acts as an essential antioxidant in human, capable of steal oxygenderived free radicals. Vitamin C is structurally related to glucose and can displace it in various chemical reactions, and this is efficient in a prohibition of non-enzymatic glycosylation of proteins [19]. Oxidative stress has been implied broadly as a potential mechanism for diabetic nephropathy because oxidative stress stimulates the production of AGE as well as activation of PKC-MAPK pathways [20,21]. Basically, an action of oxidative stress has been marked by the existence of lipid peroxidation products and 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine in the kidney of STZ-induced diabetic rats [22,23]. In relation to the defense system to oxidative stress, antioxidant enzymes such as Cu/Zn-superoxide dismutase (Cu/Zn-SOD) and catalase were found to be elevated in kidneys of STZ-induced diabetic rats [24]. A plentiful dose of antioxidants either from the diet or from another route might help to prohibit or delay the presence of oxidative drift. Cobalt only or with a union of ascorbate has been determined to decline lipid peroxidation in STZ-induced diabetic rats in different organs such as the kidney, liver, heart, and aorta [25,26].

Ruination in the oxidant/antioxidant equilibrium generates oxidative stress, which causes molecular and cellular tissue damage in a wide range of human diseases [27]. There are many endogenous enzyme systems that keep safe the cell and tissue from oxidative stress, for example, SOD, catalase, and glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px). Despite the fact there is disputation about the antioxidant status in diabetic complications, various studies described decline levels of SOD and GSH-Px in both clinical and experimental diabetes, reveal an impaired defense system for scavenging of free radical. Autoxidation of glucose is the sources of ROS in Yu [28].

Oxidative stress plays an essential role in diabetic complications; it is assumed to be linked with increased lipid peroxidation. Hyperglycemia and dyslipidemia in diabetes mellitus promote increased lipid peroxidation and peroxyl radical formation which are important mechanisms in the genesis of microangiopathy [29]. Other factors that are increased in diabetics are free fatty acids and leptin which are also associated with the increased of ROS. Protein AGE products also increases with age, which is also increased in diabetics. The aggregation of AGE causes to increase in the microvascular lesions, present in diabetic retinopathy and is also liable for cardiovascular complications, commonly present in diabetic patients [30].

## SOURCE OF OXIDATIVE STRESS IN DIABETES

Free radicals are the elementary part of any biochemical action and exhibit a crucial role in our metabolism and aerobic life. The greater detrimental effect of free radicals is on DNA. Alteration in DNA has been recommended to be liable in the processes of diabetes mellitus. Every living cell has the strength to struggle against free radicals besides its enzymatic defense systems such as SOD, catalase, glutathione reductase, and GSH-Px [31]. Evaluation of oxidative stress markers such as plasma and urinary F2-isoprostane as well as plasma and tissue levels of nitrotyrosine and  $\bullet O_2$  provides direct evidence of the oxidative stress in diabetes and their complications [32]. Sources of oxidative stress in diabetes mainly include enzymatic, nonenzymatic, and

mitochondrial pathways. Enzymatic sources of enhanced production of reactive species in diabetes include NOS, NAD(P)H oxidase, and xanthine oxidase [33]. Nonenzymatic sources of oxidative stress derived from the oxidation of glucose. Hyperglycemia can directly cause enhanced ROS production. Glucose can go through autoxidation and form •OH radicles [34], and also reacts with proteins in a nonenzymatic manner leading to the formation of AGEs. ROS is generated at multiple steps during this process. In hyperglycemia, there is increased metabolism of glucose through the polyol (sorbitol) pathway, which also results in enhanced production of •O<sub>2</sub>. The ROS are also formed in the mitochondrial respiratory chain as a non-enzymatic way by the oxidative phosphorylation process, from electron carriers NADH and FADH2, transferred electrons through the four complexes in the inner mitochondrial membrane to the oxygen, originate adenosine triphosphate in the process [35]. Nonenzymatic antioxidants comprise Vitamins A, C, and E, glutathione,  $\alpha$ -lipoic acid, carotenoids, and trace elements such as copper, zinc, and selenium, coenzyme Q10, and cofactors such as folic acid, uric acid, albumin, and Vitamins B1, B2, B6, and B12. Variations in the antioxidant defense system in diabetic complications have latterly been examined [36].

## MEDICINAL PLANTS AS BIOACTIVE NATURAL COMPOUNDS AS ANTIDIABETICS

In India, ethnobotanical and ethnopharmacological therapies have been used a vast variety of medicinal plants and products in the medication of diabetes mellitus since the time of Sushruta and Charaka (6th century BC) [37]. Plants have always been an excellent source of drugs, and most of the currently accessible drugs have been borrowed directly or indirectly from them. The ethnobotanical data reports that there are about 800 plants which may retain the potential of antidiabetic [38]. Numerous medicinal plants have been used as a dietary supplement from a long time and in the medication of various diseases without the proper doctrine of their function. Although phytotherapy continues to be used in many countries, rare medicinal plants have gotten scientific and medical scrutiny. Moreover, a large number of medicinal plants retain some extent of toxicity. It is also proclaimed that one-third of medicinal plants used in the remedy of diabetic complications is examined to be toxic [39,40]. Since a long time, several plants are examined to be a wealthy source of potent antidiabetic drugs and these herbal extracts are examined to be lacking any side effects. It has been predicted that more than 400 plants species and their secondary metabolites such as glycosides, alkaloids, terpenoids, flavonoids, carotenoids, tannins, and polyphenolic derivatives are being used for the execution of diabetes mellitus and their complications [41]. Dried ripe fruit of Terminalia chebula Retz (Combretaceae) is broadly used in Ayurveda and is generally found throughout India, Sri Lanka, and Burma. It is commonly known as black myroblans in English and has conventionally used in the medication of asthma, vomiting, hiccough, diarrhea, bleeding piles, sore throat, gout and bladder, and heart diseases. A herbal production "TRIPHALA" composed of T. chebula is a precise common medicine for the cure of chronic complications along with diabetes, also reported having free radical scavenging and strong antioxidant activities [42]. Tamarindus indica has been used as source of dietary modifications for reducing diabetes associated cardiovascular disease risk factors. Its extract showed antioxidant action by lowering oxidative stress and lipid-lowering mechanisms. The extract caused improvement in the efficiency of the antioxidant enzymes activity, especially SOD, catalase, and GSH-Px activities [43]. An ethanolic extract of Commiphora mukul gum resin was assessed for its antidiabetic effects on the brain of STZinduced diabetes in rats [44]. Diabetic rats showed remarkable decline in the levels of total lipids and other lipid molecules, triglycerides, acetylcholine, and proteins level. The extract, when treated at a concentration of 200 mg/kg in STZ-diabetic rats dramatically, reversed the degenerative changes through a mechanism involving antioxidant effects [44]. This represents a significant example of preventing diabetes using a natural plant product.

At present, there has been an expanded interest globally to find antioxidant compounds that are pharmacologically potent and have low

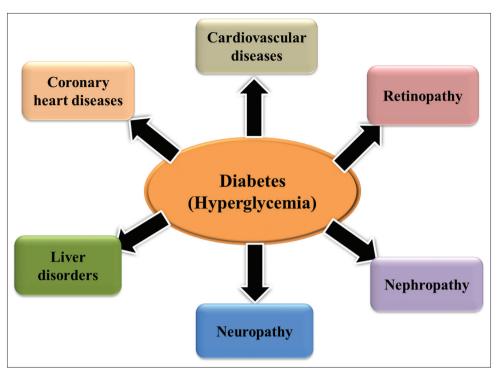


Fig. 1: Complications associated with diabetes. Diabetes may be classified as a syndrome containing conditions of hyperglycemia, polydipsia, and polyuria, as well as, it affects functions of several vital organs leading to complications of kidney, eyes, nervous system, and cardiovascular system

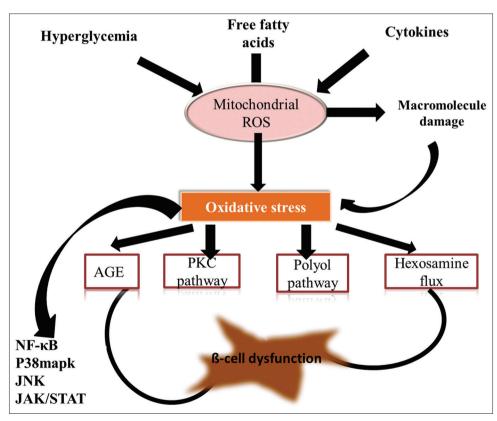


Fig. 2: Cumulative effect and mechanism of ROS generation through hyperglycemia, free fatty acids, and cytokines. Excess generation of mitochondrial ROS activates stress-sensitive pathways including polyol, advanced glycation end products, PKC, and hexosamine flux. Detailed mechanisms are discussed in the text of the present study. NF-κB: Nuclear factor-kappa B; JNK: c-Jun N-terminal kinases; JAK: Janus kinase; STAT: Signal transducer and activator of transcription

Plants	Compound present	Mode of action	Reference
Tamarindus indica (Family: Caesalpiniaceae)	2-hydroxy-30,40-dihydroxyacetophenone, methyl 3,4- dihydroxyben- zoate, 3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetate	Free radical scavenging activity	[14,43]
	Methyl 3,4- dihydroxyben- zoate		
Prosopis glandulosa (Family: Fabaceae)	Flavan-3-ol dimer, mesquitol, and catechin Flavan-3-ol dimer	Free radical scavenging activity	[45,52]
Andrographis paniculata (Family: Acanthaceae)	How	Enhanced secretion of insulin and regeneration of pancreatic $\beta$ cells	[53-55]
Agaricus campestris (Family: Agaricaceae)	Andrographolide HO OH <sub>CH3</sub>	Increase insulin secretion	[56-58]
Teucrium polium (Family: Lamiaceae)	$\alpha$ -Terpineol and hexanol H <sub>3</sub> C OH	Insulin secretagogues or insulin mimetic activity	[59]
Scrophularia nodosa (Family: Scrophulariaceae)	Apigenin $\dot{O}H$ Diosmin (3',5,7-trihydroxy-4'-methoxyflavone 7-rutinoside) $HO_{I,I}$	Lowered plasma glucose and increased plasma insulin levels	[60,61]
<i>Lactuca indica</i> (Family: Asteraceae)	$\begin{array}{c} \bullet H  \bullet H  \bullet \\ Lactucain C \\ \downarrow \downarrow$	Regeneration of pancreatic $\beta$ cells, insulin secretion	[62]
Bauhinia variegata (Family: Caesalpiniaceae)	Roseoside	Insulin mimetic or insulin secretagogues activity	[63]
Trigonella foenum-graecum (Family: Fabaceae)	Diosgenin (3b-hydroxy-5-spirostene),	Pancreatic β-cells stimulation for insulin secretion; promotion of adipocyte differentiation; enhanced insulin-dependent glucose uptake; antioxidative effects	[64-66]
	4-hydroxyisoleucine HO		

## Table 1: Comparative list of natural plant products in diabetic remedies

(contd...)

## Table 1: (Continued)

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Plants	Compound present Mode	e of action	Reference		
Gymnema sylvestre (Family: Apocynaceae)	Gymnemic acids I–VII, Gymnemosides A–F, Gymnema saponins, Gurmarin Gymnemic acid Gymnemic acid Gymnemic acid Gymnemic acid Gymnemic acid	Increased secretion of insulin; islet cell regeneration; delayed glucose absorption	[67,68]		
Achillea millefolium (Family: Asteraceae)	Luteolin (3×,4×,5,7-tetrahydroxyflavone) HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO	Scavenge ROS and reactive nitrogen species; activating the PPARγ pathway	[69,70]		
Grevillea robusta (Family: Fagaceae)	Quercetin (3,3',4',5-7-penta-hydroxyflavone)	Inhibiting GLUT 2 in CaCo-2 intestinal cells; activation of PI3K; elevated insulin secretion via ERK1/2 pathway	[71-73]		
Zingiber officinale (Ginger) (Family: Zingiberaceae)	Gingerols, shogaols, paradols, and zingiberene 6-Gingerol HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO	Inhibition of COX, iNOS, and LOX; Suppressed prostaglandin synthesis and cytokine signaling	[74-76]		
Allium sativum (Garlic) (Family: Amaryllidaceae)	Alliin, allicin, diallyl, diallyl trisulfide, disulfide, S-allyl	Reduction in blood glucose level, lipid metabolism; improvement in antioxidant enzymes; increased insulin secretion	[77,78]		
Ginkgo biloba (Family: Ginkgoaceae)	Allicin $H_3C \to H$ Ginkgolides $H_4C \to H$ $H_4C \to H$ $H_4C$	Enhanced insulin secretion	[79]		
Sclerocarya birrea (Family: Anacardiaceae)	Epigallocatechin (EGCG), epicatechin-3-galloyl ester $H \rightarrow H \rightarrow$	Secretagogue activity; radical-scavenging capacities; antioxidant activities	[80,81]		
Salacia reticulata (Family: Celastraceae)	Salacinol, kotalanol, ponkorinol, salaprinol, and HO HO $O_3S$ $O_4$	α-Glucosidase-inhibiting activity; enhanced glucose uptake	[82]		
<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> (Family: Fabaceae)	Glabridin (flavonoid)	Enhanced glucose transport mechanism; enhanced glucose uptake	[83]		

(contd...)

Table 1:	(Continued)

Plants	Compound present M	lode of action	Referenc
Panax ginseng (Family: Araliaceae)	Ginsenosides and Gintonin HO H OH HO H OH HO H OH HO H OH HO H OH OH OH OH OH OH OH OH OH OH	Activation of PPARs; regulation of glucose and lipid metabolism; upregulation glucose and fatty-acid uptake	[84,85]
<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Family: Combretaceae)	Ginsenoside Arjunolic acid (2,3,23-trihydroxyolean-12-en-28-oic acid	Downregulation of ERK1/2-p38-NF-κB signaling; reduced mitochondrial dependent apoptosis	[86-88]
Mangifera indica (Family: Anacardiaceae)	Mangiferin (glycosylxanthone polyphenol)	Enhanced expression of GLUT4 transporters; ameliorate diabetic cardiomyopathy by preventing inflammatory cytokines release; inhibition of ROS accumulation	[89,90]
Polygonum Cuspidatum (Family: Polygonaceae)	Resveratrol (3,4',5- trihydroxy-trans-stilbene) но сон	Blocking caspase-3 activity; inhibition of PARP cleavage; enhanced GLUT4 translocation	[91,92]
Curcuma longa (Family: Zingiberaceae)	но Сurcumin, diferuloylmethane сна он Curcumin	cytokines (tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$	[93,94]
Artemisia campestris (Family; Asteraceae)	Flavanones (pinostrobin, pinocembrin, sakuranetin, and naringenin), dihydroflavonol (7-methyl aromadendrin) Naringenin $HO_{++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++$	Free radical scavenging activity; improved antioxidant enzymes activity	[95]
Rehmannia glutinosa (Family: Scrophulariaceae)	Catalpol (iridoid glucoside)	Inhibition of oxidative stress- induced apoptosis; inactivation of caspase cascade	[96,97]
Terminalia chebula (Family: Combretaceae)	Ellagic acid, cherubic acid, chebulin, chebulinic acid, gallic acid, ethyl gallate, arjunglucoside I, arjungenin,	Enhanced insulin secretion; Pancreatic β-cells activation; antioxidant and free radical scavenging activities	[42,98]
	Ellagic acid		
Ficus benghalensis (Indian Banyan tree) (Family: <i>Moraceae</i> )	Leukocyanidin HO + O + OH + OH + OH + OH + OH + OH +	Raised insulin levels or inhibited insulinase activity in liver and kidney	[99]

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Plants	Compound present	Mode of action	Reference
Clerodendrum volubile (Family: Labiatae)	Kaempferol and 4',-methoxy-5,7-dihydroxy HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO	Increased serum insulin and pancreatic Ca <sup>2+</sup> levels; improved β-cell distribution and function; improved glucose tolerance	[9,100]
<i>Momordica charantia</i> (Bitter melon) (Family: Cucurbitaceae)	Momordicine II and 3-hydroxycucurbita-5, 24-dien-19-al-7, 23- di-0- $\beta$ -glucopyranoside $\overrightarrow{H}$	Activation of AMP protein kinase activity	[101]
Hemidesmus indicus (Family: Asclepidaceae)	Amyrin, sitosterol, hemidesmin, 2-Hydroxy 4-methos the second se	ky Antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory activities; protection from oxidative stress-induced DNA strand breaks	[49]

Table 1: (Continued)

side effects for use in antidiabetic therapy. Even though various types of synthetically prepared oral hypoglycemic agents and insulin are there for the medication of diabetes mellitus, synthetic agents can cause toxicity and genuine side effects over the body. Consequently, investigation for secure and impressive agents has extended to be an essential area of active research. Thus, there is a developing concern to find natural antidiabetic remedies to cure diabetes. In available literature plant species having hypoglycemic activity is more than 400. Despite, seeking for new antidiabetic remedies from natural plants is still an attractive aspect of research. Most of the plants contain glycosides, alkaloids, terpenoids, flavonoids, and carotenoids that are generally involved as having antidiabetic effects [45]. Polyphenolic compounds may influence in glycemia by distinct mechanisms, along with the prohibition of absorption of glucose in the gut or restraint of its uptake by peripheral tissue. Polyphenols trigger secretion of tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  and interferon-y, thus restraining status of inflammation and evolvement of microvascular diabetic complications [46]. Polysaccharides obtained from higher plants are almost nontoxic and do not cause significant side effects, which is a major problem associated with synthetic compounds. Polysaccharides are the main active compounds present in Momordica charantia L. which shows antioxidant and immunoenhancing properties and could protect against cerebral ischemia/reperfusion injury [47]. Taking of flavonoids rich compounds has been noted to reduce the incidence of chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular complications. Naringenin (4,5,7-trihydroxy flavanone), the active form of naringin, occurred in Citrus paradisi (grapefruit) has shown potential biomedical applications in diabetes remedy [48]. Hemidesmus indicus (Asclepiadaceae) locally known as anantamul (Indian sarsaparilla) is widely dispersed all over India. H. indicus root extract is commonly used as anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, immunomodulatory, and antidote in the Indian system of medicine. H. Indicus root extract has been disclosed to secure from radiation-induced DNA strand breakage. The hypoglycemic response of H. indicus root extract in the STZinduced diabetic model has earlier been described [49]. Quercetin is the most extensively used and widely radiated flavonols in human dietary with proclaimed antidiabetic and anti-inflammatory activity. Numerous mechanisms of its action enclose prohibition of intestinal glucose absorption by the interference of GLUT2 transporter, a decline of lipid peroxidation, and suppression of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and  $\alpha$ -amylase.

With the accelerated incidence of diabetic complications, a demand of active phytochemicals with antidiabetic activity emerge [50]. A piece of growing evidence proved that flavonoids derived from medicinal plants and vegetables have a valuable response on diabetes by ameliorating antioxidant status, glycemic control, and lipid profile.

Rutin (Vitamin P) is a bioflavonoid that is present in several plants notably *Ruta graveolens, Sophora japonica*, and *Fagopyrum esculentum*. A diverse biological response comprising, antioxidant, neuroprotective, anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, and nephroprotective activities has been disclosed for this flavonoid [51]. World ethnobotanical data about medicinal plants reports that about 800 plants are used in the restraint of diabetes mellitus, out of them only 400 have been experimentally verified, but the complete knowledge of their mechanisms of action is available only for about 100 plants. The vital effective bioactive components of these plants include glycosides, glycopeptides polysaccharides, alkaloids, and peptidoglycans these molecules exert its effects on several metabolic pathways and their cascade, which directly or indirectly influence the level of glucose in the human body.

On the basis of their mode of action, herbal medicines for diabetes can be classified into four categories:

- Drugs acting like insulin e.g., *M. charantia* (bitter melon)
- Drugs acting on insulin-secreting β-cells e.g., *Allium cepa* (onion)
- Drugs acting by modifying glucose utilization e.g., Zingiber officinale (ginger)
- Drugs acting by miscellaneous mechanisms, for example, Panax ginseng (ginseng).

The observations from Table 1 indicate that several natural products have been utilized for preventing diabetes by different mechanisms. Among them, polyphenols are an abundant heterogeneous group of phytochemicals present in plant-based foods, such as tea, coffee, cocoa, wine, legumes, cereal grains, fruit, and berries. The studies carried out in animal models, and a limited number of humans provide strong evidence that polyphenols rich foods and beverages have attenuated postprandial glycemic responses and fasting hyperglycemia, and enhanced instance insulin secretion and insulin sensitivity. The probable mechanisms of action consist of restraint of carbohydrate digestion and absorption of glucose in the intestine, incitement of insulin secretion from the pancreatic beta cells, stimulation of insulin receptors and uptake of glucose in the insulin-sensitive tissues, and intonation of intracellular signaling cascade and ultimately influence gene expression [102]. Polyphenols are of many types, i.e., flavonoids, stilbenes lignans, and phenolic acids. Flavonoids can be further separated into flavonols, flavonols, flavones, isoflavones, flavanones, and anthocyanins [103]. Flavonoids are secondary metabolites of fungi and plants carrying a 15-carbon skeleton contains two phenyl rings and a heterocyclic ring, which are previously known as the pigments providing the colors of leaves, fruit, and flowers [104]. Flavonols are the most pervasive flavonoids in foods, and the major representatives are kaempferol and quercetin generally found at relatively low concentrations of 15-30 mg/kg fresh wt. The healthy sources are onions (up to 1.2 g/kg fresh wt), leeks curly, kale, broccoli, and blueberries [105]. Kaempferol, a dietary flavonol abundantly found in Ginkgo biloba L., grapefruit, broccoli, kale, tea, broccoli, and many other edible plants species. Kaempferol has anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory effects in several diseases including diabetes [106]. Kaempferol was found to have a possessive effect on pancreatic β-cell. Its protective action is an accomplice with enhanced cAMP signaling, inhibition of cellular [107]. Kaempferol restrains NFκB signaling cascade activation, thus suppresses hepatic inflammation, and assign in the amelioration of insulin signaling defect in diabetes. Orally administration of kaempferol decline fasting blood glucose level and enhanced insulin resistance [108]. The anthocyanins are flavonoids abundant in dark-colored fruit, such as berries which are of nutritional interest as they are also one of the principal sources of the widely consumed dietary polyphenols in vegetables and fruit. Various studies have been going on to explore the impact of the utilization of purified anthocyanins on the development and amelioration of type 2 diabetes mellitus [109].

## CONCLUSIONS

The inflection of signal transducing pathways by naturally occurring various phytochemicals has newly been continued to annotate the molecular basis of diabetes. Several agents which are the backbone of pharmacotherapy for diabetes have antioxidant properties along with other pharmacological actions. Therefore, approach to block the production of reactive free radicals or steal the reactive free radical may produce targeted and casual access for the cure of diabetes and its complications. This review has enclosed many medicinal plants that could be used in the cure of diabetes. However, some of the other plant's species that have not yet been fully explored may have therapeutic implications in diabetes. The elaborating of new antidiabetic moieties from bioactive compounds is necessary to find more impressive and less toxic antidiabetic drugs. Therefore, further extensive studies on the potential of different plants with isolated bioactive compounds showing antidiabetic activity should go through additional in vitro and in vivo animal testing followed by toxicity and clinical tests. This may provide a promising compound to be optimized and suitable for application in the production of new antidiabetic compounds. Although orally administration of the antioxidants containing extract of antidiabetic plants in the STZ-induced diabetic mice shows the beneficiary results in the hyperglycemic condition. Metabolites and phytochemicals from various plants are reported to exhibit strong antioxidant properties in terms of both enzymatic and non-enzymatic activities. Recent researches have also revealed that a number of plants families, such as Leguminosae, Lamiaceae, Liliaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Asteraceae, Moraceae, Rosaceae, and Araliaceae, have shown antidiabetic and hypoglycaemic activities attributed to their unique metabolites such as flavonoids, triterpenoids, limonoids, and polysaccharides. As the incidence of diabetic and their complications raises, a demand for efficacious bioactive phytochemicals with antidiabetic activity increases and growing evidence regarding the antidiabetic activity of many plants or their constituents prepare a strong area of efficient and secure remedies for prohibition and management of diabetes. This review provides a direct link between the oxido-nitrosative stress and the use of phytochemicals present in medicinal plants in the pathophysiology and management aspect of diabetic complications.

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## **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

S.P. searched literature and wrote the manuscript; P.M.I. and Z.A. analyzed contents and assisted in manuscript preparation; S.T. and S.K.M. overall supervised the research work, edited and finalized the manuscript.

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

We declare that we have no conflicts of interest.

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