Medicinal Plants and Herbal Medicinal Products– Quality and Safety

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The challenges are innumerable and enormous, making the global medicinal plant/ herbal market unsafe. The talk seeks to enlighten physicians, pharmacists, consumers and stakeholders in medicinal plant industry on the need to establish quality parameters for handling, manufacturing and production of safe herbals as well as employ such parameters in ensuring the safety of the global herbal market that is directly linked to the safety of public health.

In the present paper an attempt has been made for a sequential study of the Quality Control and atandardization of Herbal Medicinal Products (HMP) starting from Selection of Medicinal Plants ;Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Cultivation ;Good Field Collection Practices(GFCP) ; Organized and Unorganized Drugs ;Source and Period of Collection; Identification; Storage ; Chemical Standardisation ; Assay ; Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Pharmacological studies to Clinical Approach , with special reference to ensuring safety of Herbal Medicines.

Toxic elements have been identified in a large number of medicinal preparations. e.g. mercury containing skin lightening products are hazardous to health and as a result have been banned in many countries.

Different stages, i.e Quality control studies of Raw Medicinal Plants, Controled Studies of Method of Processing, Quality Control Studies of Finished Product, Standardisation Proceedures at each stage from birth of the plants up to clinical application of herbal medicine will be dealt with reference to some medicinal herbs. An emphasis have been given on the protocols which are required for Registration of Herbal Medicinal Products (HMP).