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The sizzling herbal and TCM market with focus on the hot issues

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Abstract

Recent times have seen phenomenal growth in the global herbal market. From a 1994 market estimate of $655 million, it has now grown to around $100 billion per year. And based on a WHO projection, global herbal market will reach the $5 trillion mark by 2050! So, what is behind this magical sales growth? Well, the pervading sense of skepticism about modern medicine within society, the not uncommon belief that conventional medicines are “unnatural” substances and the feeling that “natural substances help the body build on its own resistance”, combined with the motivation to try herbals through a misconception that these are inherently safe, seem to be supporting the phenomenal growth of herbals and TCMs sales. This in turn is leading to growing evidence of herb-drug interactions, and the potential to significantly alter clinical laboratory test results. Adulteration and contamination of herbals and TCMs with harmful levels of heavy metals and undeclared pharmaceuticals such as steroids, NSAIDs, benzodiazepines, paracetamol and PDE-5 inhibitors, to name a few, is time and again reported in print media. These and other safety and quality related issues warrant that while effective Regulations should be in place internationally to curb the menace, Compliance must be enforced at all levels combined with effective surveillance systems to prevent appearance of adulterated and defective products on the market.

Biography

Mohammed Khan is a Quality Management Consultant and Principal, Synergex Consulting, Canada. He has earlier served as Director QA/QC and Regulatory Compliance with DuPont Pharmaceuticals Canada, and also as a Director of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada, Plant Operations Section.

Mohammed is an active member of the Drug Information Association since 1996, and has served on the DIA Advisory Council of North America while concurrently Chairing the DIA Canadian Programming Steering Committee from 2003 through 2007. He has also served on the Core Committees of the DIA GCP & QA SIAC and the NHP SIAC, and as Program Coordinator, Program Committee Member, Session Chair and Speaker at a vast number of the DIA events in the US, Canada, Europe and South Asia. He is a recipient of the DIA Outstanding Service Award. He has also served as a Presenter for the PDA in Europe and Japan, IQPC in the US, PSG Canada, and IPC India.