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Study of immuno-modulatory effects of a Unani drug-Kalonji (*Nigella sativa* Linn seeds)

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Drugs affecting the immune system of the human body are termed as immuno-modulatory agents, which are either used as stimulatory or suppressive. In Unani Medicine, the concept of helping Quwwat-e-Mudabbara-e-Badan (Medicalrix Naturae) in overcoming the pathological disturbances to restore normal physiological functions is similar to immuno-modulation. Unani system of medicine or Greco-Arab system of medicine is also a traditional system of medicine which is in vogue in Indo-Pak subcontinent from the last so many centuries as an alternative system along with Ayurveda and other herbal medicinal systems for treatment purposes. There are number of effective and safe botanical drugs which are mentioned to possess immuno-modulatory effects in the classical Unani literature but have yet not been scientifically scrutinized for their immune response modifying activity. The present study was conducted on a Unani drug Kalonji, seeds of Black cummin - *Nigella sativa* Linn to evaluate the test drug experimentally for immuno-modulatory activity against sheep RBC as antigen in the two different forms and doses. The drug was administered orally in the doses corresponding to human clinical dose for ten days. All the tests were conducted in healthy as well as in immuno-suppressed control group mice to evaluate the humoral immunity by haemagglutination antibody titer assay and cell-mediated immunity (delayed type hypersensitivity). For evaluating haematopoietic activity, it was also tested for vital organ weight and haematological profile. Data were statistically analyzed using ANOVA test. The study provided scientific substantiation to the use of this drug. The result of the test drug will be discussed as revealed in the presently study.

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