Herbals in the management of Parkinson's disease: An overview

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Parkinson's disease is the most common central nervous disorder. This is the chronic degenerative disease of the nervous system. This disease causes the "Substantial Nigra" part of the brain to atrophy. As this happens, the brain produces less dopamine. It is characterized by hand tremors, shaking, uncontrolled movements, loss of balance, memory loss, stiffness and rigid limbs, slow blinking, constipation, sleep problems, dementia, speech, breathing, swallowing problems, stooped posture. There is no known cure for this neurodegenerative disease but still there are a large number of natural treatments for the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Levodopa (L-Dopa) and Carbidopa are the major synthetic drugs used to treat Parkinson. The most common natural treatment for this disorder is the use of antioxidants. Herbs that are used for the procurement of the disease are characterised as Ginkgo biloba, Mucuna pruriens, Fava beans, Panax ginseng, Banisteriopsis caapi, Zanthoxylum schinifolium, and Claviceps purpurea. These herbs show promising roles in acting as antiparkinson agents. The use of these drugs in formulating a multi component herbal formulation along with some multivitamin combinations would surely help in the treatment of this neurological disorder.

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