The effects of common herbal extracts on seizure and epilepsy: a review article

Hanieh Sahebkar-Khorghi1, Faranak Jafari2,3, Azam Ramezani4, Hassan Azhdari Zarmehri2,3, Masoumeh Gholami*2,3

1. Payame Noor University, Torbat Heydariyeh, Iran.
2. Neuroscience Research Center, Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences, Torbat Heydariyeh, Iran.
3. Department of Physiology, School of Paramedical Sciences, Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences, Torbat Heydariyeh, Iran.
4. Research Center of Advanced Technologies in Medicine, Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences, Torbat Heydariyeh, Iran.

Corresponding author: Gholamim3@thums.ac.ir

Abstract

Background & Aim: Epilepsy is one of the most common brain disorders following stroke, which affects about one percent of the world's population. Regarding the complications of chemical drugs and the resistance of some patients with epilepsy to these drugs, one of the most important approaches in treatment and prevention of epilepsy is the use of herbal extracts.

Methods: In this review study, Elsevier, Scopus, Science Direct and PubMed databases were searched for epilepsy, seizures, plant extracts and brain keywords from 1980 to 2018. Finally, 50 related articles were included.

Results: Animal studies have shown that many of these plants inhibit seizure activity in epilepsy through affecting GABA, glutamate or calcium channel receptors, sodium channels, chlorine channels and also by reducing the level of oxidative stress.

Conclusion: Regarding the economic issues and the adverse effects of chemical drugs, the use of herbal extracts with fewer complications, can be a good alternative for the treatment and prevention of epilepsy.

Keywords: Epilepsy, Seizure, Plant extract, Brain