

## The use of Plant Based Medicines in Cancer Treatment

Elena Ferrante\*

Department of Plant Pathology, University of Milan, Milan, Italy

### Perspective

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**\*For Correspondence:**

Elena Ferrante, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Milan, Milan, Italy

**E-mail:** Ferrante878@gmail.com

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### ABOUT THE STUDY

The use of plant-based medicines in cancer treatment has been a topic of interest for many years. Pharmacognosy is the study of natural products and their use in medicine and it has played a significant role in the development of plant-based cancer treatments. In this article, we will explore the pharmacognosy perspective of plant-based medicines in cancer treatment. Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, and the treatment options for cancer patients are limited. Chemotherapy and radiation therapy are the two primary treatments for cancer but they have significant side effects and are not always effective. Plant-based medicines have been used for centuries to treat various diseases, including cancer. The active compounds in plants have been shown to have anti-cancer properties and many of these compounds are currently being studied for their potential use in cancer treatment. Pharmacognosy plays a crucial role in the study of plant-based medicines in cancer treatment. It involves the identification and isolation of the active compounds present in plants and their use in drug development. The active compounds in plants are often complex molecules, and their isolation and purification can be challenging. However, advances in analytical techniques have made the process more manageable, and many plant-based drugs are currently in clinical trials.

### **Plant based medicines in cancer treatment**

There are several plant-based medicines that have been studied for their potential use in cancer treatment. Some of these include:

**Taxanes:** Taxanes are a class of drugs that are derived from the Pacific yew tree. Taxanes have been shown to be effective in the treatment of breast, ovarian and lung cancer.

**Vinca alkaloids:** Vinca alkaloids are derived from the Madagascar periwinkle plant. These drugs have been shown to be effective in the treatment of leukemia, lymphoma and breast cancer.

**Camptothecins:** Camptothecins are derived from the *Camptotheca acuminata* tree. These drugs have been shown to be effective in the treatment of ovarian and lung cancer.

**Podophyllotoxins:** Podophyllotoxins are derived from the May apple plant. These drugs have been shown to be effective in the treatment of lung and testicular cancer.

**Curcumin:** Curcumin is derived from the turmeric plant. Curcumin has been shown to have anti-cancer properties and is currently being studied for its potential use in cancer treatment.

There are several challenges associated with the use of plant-based medicines in cancer treatment. One of the main challenges is the difficulty in isolating and purifying the active compounds present in plants. Another challenge is the variability in the concentration of active compounds in different batches of plants. This variability can lead to inconsistent results in clinical trials. The use of plant-based medicines in cancer treatment is a promising area of research. Pharmacognosy plays a crucial role in the identification and isolation of the active compounds present in plants and their use in drug development. Taxanes, vinca alkaloids, camptothecins, podophyllotoxins and curcumin are some of the plant-based medicines that have been studied for their potential use in cancer treatment. However, there are several challenges associated with the use of plant-based medicines in cancer treatment, including the difficulty in isolating and purifying the active compounds and the variability in the concentration of active compounds in different batches of plants. Further research is needed to overcome these challenges and to develop safe and effective plant-based cancer treatments.