A two-stage clinical trial of Phyllanthus amarus in hepatitis B carriers: failure to eradicate the surface antigen.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND:
There have been conflicting data in literature about the value of Phyllanthus amarus in treating hepatitis B virus-related disorders.

AIM:
To evaluate the role of Phyllanthus amarus in eradication of the virus in hepatitis B carriers.

METHODS:
Phyllanthus amarus was administered to 30 asymptomatic carriers of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) in a dosage of 250 to 500 mg thrice daily for 4 to 8 weeks.

RESULTS:
None of the 30 subjects cleared HBsAg. Phyllanthus amarus was well tolerated, with no clinical side effects or changes in the organ profiles for safety evaluation.

CONCLUSION:
Phyllanthus amarus is not effective in clearing HBsAg in asymptomatic carriers of the antigen.