

Effect of kohiladi decoction on clotting of blood

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Abstract

The study examined the effect of kohiladi decoction (consisting of tubers of *Lasia spinosa*, Linn, entire plant of *Centella asiatica* Linn, seeds of *Vigna radiate* Linn, bulbs of *Allium cepa* Linn and dried fish of *Katsuwonus pelamis*), a decoction frequently recommended for bleeding piles by Sri Lankan traditional and Ayurvedic physicians, on clotting of blood. This was tested both *in vitro* (using goat blood and human blood) and *in vivo* (using rats). The results show that 1 mg/ml concentration of decoction prolonged the calcium induced clotting time significantly (goat blood by 55% and human blood by 76%) in *in vitro*. In contrast, a 380 mg/kg/day dose of decoction had no effect on clotting when given as a single dose but shorten the clotting time when given for 2 or 3 days. The decoction also had moderate antioxidant activity when determined by thiobarbituric acid reaction substances assay. It is concluded that kohiladi decoction has anticlotting action *in vitro* and proclotting activity *in vivo*.

Key words: kohiladi decoction, clotting, anticlotting, haemorrhoids

1. Introduction

Haemorrhoids is a major affliction that affect the human society. Haemorrhoids occur in about half the population over 50 years and men are more frequently affected than women (Cuschieri *et al.*, 1982). The main symptoms of the haemorrhoids are bleeding, prolapse, discharge and pain (Mann *et al.*, 1997). In Western medicine haemorrhoids are treated by several methods. These include chemotherapy, reduction of sphincteric pressure, fixation treatment and surgical treatment (Cuschieri *et al.*, 1982). In Sri Lanka, in traditional and Ayurvedic medicine application of herbal oils and pastes, chemical cauterization (kshara sutra) and several decoctions are used in the treatment of haemorrhoids (Kumarasingha,