



A Comparative Study on Pharmaceutical (Western) and Phtopharmaceutical (Herbal) Medicines

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- Western medicines have a short history expanded to ~ 200 years. Probably the first synthetic drug “morphine was isolated from opium poppy by Fredrich Setumen in early 1800.
- Herbal medicines are being used since antiquity and have a long history.
- Western medicines are originated in the laboratory based on scientific research.
- Herbal medicines are originated from nature through practice and have a background of different Asian.
- Philosophies, derived from different systems of medicine.
- It is less popular in the sense that a majority of people don't know about individual orthodox medicine. Even the medical doctor's familiarity with each individual pharmaceutical is comparatively less.
- Herbal Medicines are more popular. Humans are probably better adapted to plants as food and medici Additionally, the herbal practitioners have a greater familiarity with each medicinal plant / herbal formula. e.g., Three different patients each with a chief complaint of headache would each receive a different herbal prescription.
- The approach of a conventional physician to prescribe a pharmaceutical is different.
- The approach an herbalist uses to arrive at which herbs to prescribe is distinct.
- In orthodox medicines more side effects are generally reported. There are many reasons for the high amount of side effects. One reason is the concentrated form and high potency of the drugs. Take Aspirin for example. Aspirin has a side effect. It is concentrated and extracted – it is pure chemical. It's effect are more dramatic and pronounced. Aspirin will upset the stomach. The reason that aspirin has a side effect is the one. The concentrate of Aspirin dissolves immediately, and passes through the stomach walls, causing irritation.
- The attractiveness of herbal medicine is that the side effects are generally ,minimal, however there are some exceptions. Willow bark is equivalent to Aspirin in the herbal community. It does the exact same actions, however, it takes more willow bark, per volume, to achieve the same results. Willow bark will only upset the taste buds (Yucki). Since the active chemical sin the willow bark are not extracted by the stomach, but instead by the digestive system, it passes through the stomach without harm.
- Most synthetic drugs cause severe long term problems.
- Herbal medicines tend not to cause damage with prolonged use.
- Mostly used for acute diseases.
- Used in chronic diseases.
- Chemical drugs have high efficacy and quick action.
- Herbal therapies have never been utilized nor do they show high efficacy when they are used as pharmaceutical substitutes. Crude or processed plant medicines tend to work best preventatively or therapeutically as slow- activating gradual, healing agents. They must be taken consistently, in the correct form and dose. (There are some medicinal plants that work rapidly).
- Many modern medicines are very good and have no known herbal counterpart (yet).
- Many times, there will be an herb that does the same actin as a modern synthetic chemical – but
- Many pharmaceuticals have restricted site of action and typically have a single or few specific therapeutic actions.
- Medicinal plants have multiple actions, due to at least in part to their multiple constituents.
- These medicines are comparatively very costly.
- Herbal medicines are normally cheaper in prices, however it depends on location.

- If speed is of the essence, the synthetic chemical must be used e.g. in a trauma case, adrenaline may be injected into a patient to keep them alive. There are many side effects to the chemicals used, but it is instant and will save the life of patient.
- Ma-Huang (Ephedra plant) contains a large percentage of ephedrine, and it causes the body's adrenaline to rise, but it is slow. It requires the body to break down the chemicals before it stimulate the nervous system.
- Pharmaceutical side effects demonstrate now uncommon a true single action is physiologically-whether because of minor but non-therapeutic pharmacologic action or because a single actin provokes the desired therapeutic physiologic response along with un intended, non-therapeutic responses.