Sabigh a Cosmetic Camouflage in Traditional Iranian Medicine

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Abstract:
Traditional Iranian medicine (TIM) is mainly based on naturally derived medications. There are many TIM medical text books available today. In these manuscripts there are formulations which were formulated to cover depigmented areas of the skin especially in patients suffering from vitiligo. Our aim was to make some of these formulations, known as “Sabgh” (singular) or “Sabigh” (plural), and report their shades. We also compare these formulations to a standard Sabgh formulation.

In this study 11 of the most famous traditional Iranian medical text books were reviewed including the Qarabadin e Kabir. Formulations were selected according to the availability and safety of the ingredients. These formulations were prepared in line with the traditional books. They were later standardized according to their shades. In a standard condition, photographs were taken from these formulations spread on the skin to report the shades of them. The shades were compared with our formerly standardized Sabgh formulation.

33 different Sabigh formulations were found for vitiligo. Four formulations were selected as follow: 1- potassium nitrate, Commiphora myrrha, Alum, Rubia tinctorum and wine debris. 2- Commiphora myrrha, Alum, Rubia tinctorum and wine debris. 3- Rubia tinctorum, alum, Armenian bole, potassium nitrate and wine debris. 4- Commiphora myrrha, khbos al-Hadid and the juice of Punica granatum peel. The colour of the formulations were reported in L*a*b* scale. The L*a*b* of our standard formulation was L*: 59.02, a*: 19.63, b*: 29.82.

Today the demand for natural products is increasing, so the requirements for proof of good pharmaceutical quality of these products are becoming more precise. The TIM text books contain natural cosmetic formulations for covering white skin patches. Study of these formulations raises the possibility of revival of traditional cosmetic preparations on the basis of evidence-based methods.

Keyword: Traditional Iranian pharmacy; Vitiligo; Sabigh; Camouflage cosmetics;