

YUCCA and HYALURONIC ACID RESEARCH

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Anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritis effects of Yucca schidigera:

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Abstract

Yucca schidigera is a medicinal plant native to Mexico. According to folk medicine, yucca extracts have anti-arthritis and anti-inflammatory effects. The plant contains several physiologically active phytochemicals. It is a rich source of steroidal saponins, and is used commercially as a saponin source. Saponins have diverse biological effects, including anti-protozoal activity. It has been postulated that saponins may have anti-arthritis properties by suppressing intestinal protozoa which may have a role in joint inflammation. Yucca is also a rich source of polyphenolics, including resveratrol and a number of other stilbenes (yuccaols A, B, C, D and E). These phenolics have anti-inflammatory activity. They are inhibitors of the nuclear transcription factor NFkappaB. NFkB stimulates synthesis of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), which causes formation of the inflammatory agent nitric oxide. Yucca phenolics are also anti-oxidants and free-radical scavengers, which may aid in suppressing reactive oxygen species that stimulate inflammatory responses. Based on these findings, further studies on the anti-arthritis effects of *Yucca schidigera* are warranted.

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Effects of Hyaluronate sodium on pain and physical functioning in osteoarthritis of the knee: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial.

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Abstract

Intra-articular Hyaluronate sodium is a relatively new therapy for the treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee. This randomized, double-blind clinical trial was conducted at a large primary care medical center to determine the impact of hyaluronate sodium vs conventional therapy on measures of pain, stiffness, and disability at rest and following functionally relevant walking and stepping activities.

For resting pain relief, hyaluronate sodium seems to be as effective as NSAIDs. Further, for pain with physical activity and functional performance, hyaluronate sodium may be superior to placebo alone or NSAIDs alone.



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