

BERBERIS VULGARIS (Barberry)

Introduction

Berberis vulgaris Linn. commonly known as Barberry was proved by Dr. Hesse, and published in the Journal for Materia Medica in 1834. This drug affects particularly the lumbar region, kidneys and uterus. Rheumatic affections are also prominent. It is a great anti-lithiatic medicine.

Description

A deciduous shrub having roots of pale yellow colour. The plant is 1-2.5 meter high and even higher under cultivation, with thorny alternate, angular branches. Leaves in tufts, somewhat obovate, more or less pointed, serrated and fringed, and with three cleft spreading, sharp thorns at the base of each leaf bud. Flowers in drooping, many-flowered racemes, golden yellow with red glands. Fruit a berry, oblong in loose bunches.

Distribution

India, Europe and North of Asia.

Clinically Verified Symptoms

Potency : Q, 6, 30, 200

Location	Symptom	Source	No. of patients prescribed	No. of patients relieved
1	2	3	4	5
Head	Vertigo	1,2,4	20	17
	Frontal headache > pressure	1,3,4	03	03
Mouth	Aphthae with burning in mouth	1,4	02	02
Stomach	Heart burn (with constant urging to stool)	2,4	20	12
			03	03

	Nausea before breakfast	4	60	49
Abdomen	Pain in lower abdomen with nausea and vomiting	4	38	28
	Pain in gall bladder region < pressure	2	47 01	29 1
	Pain in left renal region < after urination	1,2,3,4	520	419
	extending to entire lower abdomen.	1,2,3,4	278	236
Rectum	Stool hard - constipated	1	121	83
	Fistula in ano	4	02	02
Urinary System	Renal calculus left sided	1,4	33	26
	-right sided	1	33	19
	Frequent urination	1,2,3,4	147	128
	Burning before urination	1,2,3,4	157	137
	- during urination	1,2,3,4	494	418
	- after urination	1,2,3,4	140	122
	Urine scanty, comes in drops	1,2,3,4	622	492
Genitalia Female	Menses too late and profuse	9	13	11
	Menses blackish, too early	2, 4	23	18
	Leucorrhoea - thick white	4	27	17
	with severe backache	1,4	13	08
	profuse, thick, greenish < before menses	1,2,3,4	57	40
Back	Backache (> lying down)	1,4	196	171
Extremities	Pain in joints	1,2,3,4	52	34
	Pain in heels < on movement	2,4	24	13
	Swelling in ankle joints < movement	4	10	02

	Rheumatic pains alternating with piles	2,4	27	11
Skin	Flat warts (blackish - brownish in color on hands, face and neck)	1,4	114	45

Additional Symptoms

	No. of patients Relieved
Flatulence with distension of abdomen	18
Cough with thick whitish expectoration < morning	04
Small reddish eruptions on whole body with itching < at night	04
Mucoid stool after fatty fried food	05

Discussion

During CCRH's clinical verification, the efficacy of *Berberis vulgaris* for renal and gall stone complaints have been reconfirmed. In biliary colic 29 patients improved symptomatically out of 47 and in renal colic 755 patients were relieved symptomatically out of 798. Its chief modality aggravation from movement has been clinically verified too.

Although it is predominantly indicated for left sided renal complaints yet in our study it has relieved right sided renal complaints too. The same observation has been quoted by Dr. Clarke in his book "A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica Vol.I" This drug has also relieved several cases of flat warts.