



## Drug Interaction of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* L. with Chemical Drugs: A mini Review study

Mahmoud Bahmani<sup>1</sup>, Pegah Shakib<sup>2\*</sup>, Pouya Parsaei<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Biotechnology and Medicinal Plants Research Center, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Razi Herbal Medicines Research Center, Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Khorramabad, Iran

<sup>3</sup>Department of Food Hygiene, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Shahrekord Branch, Islamic Azad University, Shahrekord, Iran

<sup>4</sup>Research Center of Nutrition and Organic Products, Shahrekord Branch, Islamic Azad University, Shahrekord, Iran

### \*Correspondence to:

shakib.pegah@yahoo.com

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### Abstract

*Glycyrrhiza glabra* L. is a valuable medicinal and nutritional plant of the Fabaceae family. In traditional medicine, it is used to treat duodenal ulcers, coughs, sore throats, inflammation, bloating, strong laxatives and antidotes, hot flashes, relieves thirst, relieves skin discomfort, and anti-allergies. The most important active ingredient in this plant is glycyrrhizic acid. *G. glabra* L. is a widely used plant in Iran and medicinal products have been produced from it in Iran. Interactions between herbal and chemical drugs are also common. In this review study, drug interactions between *G. glabra* L. and chemical corticosteroid drugs were investigated and reported. *G. glabra* L. can interact with a variety of chemical drugs, so concomitant use of *G. glabra* L. with other drugs requires caution.

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### Introduction

*Glycyrrhiza glabra* L. is a perennial plant of the Fabaceae family that is a valuable food and medicinal plant [1]. *G. glabra* L. as a weed in wheat, summer and weed fields, cotton, potatoes, sugar beet and fodder including alfalfa, sainfoin and clover and due to high root and rhizome development reduces yields in fields and orchards [2, 3]. The height of *G. glabra* L. varies and its height is between 100 to 200 cm. *G. glabra* L. has dense foliage.

The leaves are compound and have four to seven pairs of leaflets and one terminal leaflet. The flowers are irregular and appear yellow, purple or purple. The fruit is two to three centimeters long and brown in color. The sides of the fruit are narrow and more or less pointed. The seed coat is thick and strong and weighs about ten grams [4-6]. Distribution *G. glabra* L. is cultivated in Italy, Greece, England, Belgium, France, Turkey, Iran and Germany [7, 8].

In traditional medicine, it is used to treat duodenal ulcers, coughs, sore throats, relieve inflammation, bloating, strong laxatives and antidotes, hot flashes, relieve thirst, relieve skin discomfort and anti-allergies [9-11]. The most important active ingredient in this plant is glycyrrhizic acid [12]. Other chemical constituents of *G. glabra* L. include liquiritin, isoliquiritin, liquiritigenin, isoliquiritigenin, 22, 23-dihy-

droastigmastrol, asparaginase, glabridin, galbrene and licochalcone A, B, C, D [13-17].

Glycyrrhizic acid with the chemical formula  $C_{42}H_{62}O_{16}$  is composed of one molecule of glycerotonic acid and two molecules of glucuronic acid [18, 19]. *G. glabra* L. is a widely used plant in Iran and medicinal products have been produced from it in Iran. Medicinal products produced from *G. glabra* L. plant available in the Iranian market include lycopene tablets that are anti-inflammatory, expectorant and used as an anti-cough. Metazine tablets are used for purposes such as improving gastrointestinal pain, treating stomach ulcers, and anti-flatulence and laxatives. Reglis tablets that are prescribed to treat bloating and duodenum, excessive acid secretion and bloating. D-Reglis tablets are also used to prevent peptic ulcer in concomitant use with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

drug interactions [20]. Licorice syrup for the treatment of gastric, duodenal ulcers, gastritis and gastrology; Reglycidine tablets are used to treat bloating, duodenum, gastritis and gastrology, and altladin tablets are used to treat inflammation and irritation of the laryngeal mucosa, sputum in irritating coughs. Gastrin tablets are also produced and prescribed as anti-inflammatory and analgesic for stomach-pain, accelerating the healing of gastritis and duodenal ulcers. Prescribing several drugs to

treat diseases is common and unavoidable and sometimes causes drug interactions [20].

Interactions between herbal and chemical drugs are also common. In this review study, drug interactions between *G. glabra* L. and chemical drugs were investigated and reported. *G. glabra* L. inhibits the metabolism and pharmacokinetics of prednisolone [21-24]. Studies show that *G. glabra* L. intensifies the effect of glucocorticoids [25-27]. The results of a study showed that glycerinic acid of the plant intensifies the cutaneous vasoconstrictive response of hydrocortisone. In another study, glycyrrhizin (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) decreased the plasma clearance of prednisolone and increased the plasma concentration of prednisolone [28]. This herbal medicine can increase blood pressure by retaining sodium and fluids [29]. *G. glabra* L. exacerbates hypokalemia [30] and reduces the effect of spironolactone [27]. *G. glabra* L. interferes with antihypertensives and raises blood pressure through sodium and fluid retention and hypokalemia [29]. The drug interaction of this plant with laxatives is due to increased potassium excretion, which has side effects such as weakness, arrhythmia and confusion [31]. Drug Interaction *G. glabra* L. with antibiotics, plant activity is reduced by drug inhibition of intestinal microbial flora [21].

Among the drug interactions of *G. glabra* L. with Hypoglycemics, it can be mentioned that the plant can reduce glucose tolerance [29]. Drug interaction of this plant with Aspirin is a reduction in drug-induced gastric bleeding [21]. *G. glabra* L. also interacts with Warfarin, so the plant may reduce platelet activity [29]. Hypokalemia, hypertension, and edema are drug interactions of *G. glabra* L. with OCPs [24]. Drug interactions of *G. glabra* L. with Digitalis glycosides and digoxin include an increased risk of digitalis toxicity, hypokalemia, and pharmacodynamic interactions and drug levels [32].

## Conclusion

The results of this short review study showed that the drug *G. glabra* L. can interact with various chemical drugs, so the concomitant use of *G. glabra* L. with other drugs requires caution.

## Authors' contribution

All authors contributed equally to the manuscript.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no competing interests.

## Ethical considerations

Ethical issues (including plagiarism, data fabrication, double publication and etc.) have been completely observed by author.

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