

1 **Effectiveness and safety of Ayurvedic medicines in type-2 diabetes management: a**
2 **systematic review protocol**

3
4 **Abstract**

5
6 Objective: To evaluate and synthesize evidence on the effectiveness and safety of Ayurvedic
7 medicines for managing type-2 diabetes (T2DM).

8
9 Introduction: Several randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have been conducted to assess the
10 effectiveness and safety of Ayurvedic medicines for managing T2DM. Systematic reviews
11 have been conducted on this topic but need to be updated. The findings from the review will
12 be used to develop a clinical guideline for managing T2DM by Ayurvedic practitioners in India.

13
14 Inclusion criteria: RCTs assessing the effectiveness and safety of Ayurvedic medicines for
15 managing T2DM in adults will be included in this systematic review.

16
17 Methods: We will search for a wide range of sources to find both published and unpublished
18 studies, including, but not limited to, MEDLINE, Embase, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Web of
19 Science, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) and Allied and
20 Complementary Medicine Database (AMED). No language restrictions will be applied. The
21 Joanna Briggs Institute systematic review methodology will be followed to conduct the review.
22 Data synthesis will be conducted using narrative synthesis and meta-analyses, where
23 appropriate.

24
25 **Systematic review registration number:** CRD42018118285

26
27 **Keywords:** Ayurveda; effectiveness; safety; type-2 diabetes

28
29 **Abstract word count:** 172

30
31 **Total manuscript word count:** 2846
32
33
34
35
36
37

38 Introduction

39 ***Type-2 diabetes (T2DM) in India***

40 T2DM is a complex disorder, which has major health, social and economic consequences.
41 Chronic hyperglycaemia is associated with macro- and micro-vascular complications and even
42 death.^{1,2} Currently, India has the world's second-largest T2DM epidemic, with around 73
43 million adults living with T2DM.¹ It has been estimated that by 2045, India will have
44 approximately 134 million adults with T2DM.¹ In terms of deaths attributable to T2DM, India is
45 the largest contributor to the regional mortality, with around one million deaths, of which
46 approximately 50% being premature in people under 60 years.¹

47

48 ***Ayurveda for T2DM management***

49 Like many other South Asian countries, Ayurveda is the dominant traditional medical system
50 in India, especially for meeting the primary healthcare needs of people.³ It has been in use for
51 thousands of years.³ In Ayurveda, the corresponding term for diabetes mellitus is madhumeha
52 (madhu means sweetness and meha means excessive urination).^{4,5} Classical Ayurvedic texts,
53 written in Sanskrit, have described this condition and its management in details.^{4,5} T2DM is
54 one of the main diseases for which patients consult Ayurvedic practitioners and use Ayurvedic
55 treatments, often from diagnosis to throughout their lives.⁶⁻¹¹ Ayurveda is commonly used due
56 to how it fits with their health beliefs and culture; thus, its acceptability, satisfaction and
57 perceived relief are usually high, especially among rural, poor, older and tribal populations.^{9,12}
58 Many T2DM patients in India prefer not to use western medicines due to avoiding associated
59 side-effects, costs and the mode of administration (for example, injections). Additionally, there
60 is a lack of availability of western medical system doctors within rural areas.^{8-11,13} In recognition
61 of these facts, the Indian government actively promotes Ayurveda and deploys Ayurvedic
62 practitioners in the health system, often as the main clinical provider.^{8,13} Around 430,000
63 Ayurvedic practitioners are registered with the government's medical council in India.¹⁴

64

65 ***Clinical effectiveness and safety of Ayurvedic medicines in T2DM management***

66 Previous systematic reviews of clinical trials suggest beneficial effects of several Ayurvedic
67 medicines on T2DM-related outcomes, including improvement in blood glucose levels; with
68 no major safety issues. Their mechanisms of actions have been reported, with some
69 intriguingly suggesting the potential to regenerate beta cells.¹⁵⁻²¹

70

71 ***Existing problems in T2DM management by Ayurvedic practitioners***

72 Strong concerns have been raised about the lack of consistency in how Ayurvedic
73 practitioners manage T2DM, where any of the steps within the care pathway are largely left to

74 the judgement of the individual Ayurvedic practitioner (including screening for complications
75 and referral to specialists), thus, resulting in these unacceptable variations.^{7,13,22} Despite the
76 clinical effectiveness and safety of several Ayurvedic medicines for managing T2DM found in
77 trial settings, many non-evidence based medicines are being prescribed in clinical practice,
78 which can have serious adverse effects on patients, including heavy metal poisoning.²³ It is
79 exceedingly difficult for them to be versed with the latest data on the most effective and safe
80 Ayurvedic medicines. Many poor-quality studies continue to be published particularly in
81 “predatory journals”, and Ayurvedic practitioners tend to lack knowledge and skills of how to
82 critically appraise articles.^{24,25} Furthermore, Ayurvedic practitioners can struggle to make
83 sense of the results from studies, which are at times conflicting in their findings, to optimise
84 disease management of patients, and therefore, can blindly follow the claims made by others
85 or use a ‘trial and error’ approach.^{22,24,25} One of the major challenges identified by Ayurvedic
86 practitioners is the absence of a good quality clinical guideline to aid their clinical decision-
87 making process and delivery of high-quality care to T2DM patients.²²

88
89 Clinical guidelines for the management of T2DM by Ayurvedic practitioners have been
90 developed in India.^{4,5,26-28} However, the quality of the guidelines is questionable due to unclear
91 development processes being used, including whether the best available evidence was
92 considered. Additionally, the majority of such guidelines are extremely brief and limited in their
93 scope, with heterogeneous content and no clear recommendations for actions at the stages
94 of the T2DM care pathway. Poor-quality clinical guidelines can lead to the use of ineffective
95 interventions, inefficient use of scarce resources and most importantly, harm to patients.²⁹

96 97 ***Good quality clinical guideline: a potential solution***

98 Clinical guidelines have been effectively used in improving the clinical care of T2DM in western
99 medicine.^{30,31} However, their existence in Ayurvedic clinical practice remains extremely
100 limited. Many stakeholders, including Ayurvedic practitioners, patient groups, the Indian
101 government and the World Health Organization (WHO), advocate for good-quality clinical
102 guidelines for Ayurvedic practitioners.^{10,11} Thus, a good-quality clinical guideline, based on the
103 best available evidence, to manage T2DM by Ayurvedic practitioners may address the
104 problems mentioned above. Whilst the clinical guideline will be created for Indian Ayurvedic
105 practitioners, it will also be highly relevant to other South Asian countries, such as Nepal and
106 Sri Lanka and countries with South Asian ethnic minorities who often rely heavily on Ayurvedic
107 treatments.

108

109 ***The rationale for systematic review***

110 A preliminary search was carried out in PubMed and Google Scholar to identify prior
111 systematic reviews on this topic. Although a number of systematic reviews have been
112 published on this topic, these are outdated now, with the two most recent systematic reviews
113 being published around a decade ago in 2011.¹⁵⁻²¹ One of the most recent was a Cochrane
114 systematic review, which was limited in scope through solely focusing on multi-herbal
115 formulations and Ayurveda as a whole system, thereby excluding single herbs and their
116 extracts.²⁰ Similarly, the other systematic review included only two Ayurvedic single herbs and
117 excluded other forms of Ayurvedic medicines.²¹ Additionally, the evidence base since the
118 publication of these systematic reviews has substantially grown over the past decade; thereby
119 highlighting the need to re-focus and update the reviews to provide contemporary estimates
120 of effect and safety for all Ayurvedic medicines for the management of T2DM. The findings
121 from the review will be used to develop a clinical guideline for managing T2DM by Ayurvedic
122 practitioners in India.

123

124 ***The objective of the proposed systematic review and main review questions***

125 The objective of the proposed systematic review is to evaluate and synthesize evidence on
126 the effectiveness and safety of Ayurvedic medicines for managing T2DM as compared to no
127 intervention, placebo, any non-pharmaceutical intervention or pharmaceutical intervention.

128 The main review questions are:

- 129 1. Whether Ayurvedic medicines are effective in controlling blood glucose levels of T2DM
130 patients?
- 131 2. Whether Ayurvedic medicines are effective in improving health-related quality-of-life of
132 T2DM patients?
- 133 3. Whether Ayurvedic medicines are safe to be used by T2DM patients?

134

135 **Inclusion criteria**

136

137 ***Population***

138 The systematic review will include studies conducted among adults (≥ 18 years) with T2DM,
139 irrespective of associated comorbidities (such as overweight/obesity, hypertension and
140 hyperlipidaemia) or T2DM complications (such as macro- and micro-vascular). Both newly
141 diagnosed T2DM (i.e., not yet treated with antidiabetic drugs), as well as existing cases (i.e.,
142 treated earlier with antidiabetic drugs), will be eligible. Where populations include children, the
143 study will be included in the review if the mean age of the participants is ≥ 18 years or where
144 the study findings are stratified into adults and children. Studies which include participants
145 with type-1 diabetes will be excluded unless it is possible to extract the data on T2DM

146 participants. Studies in which the major goal of the intervention is to manage the associated
147 comorbidities and T2DM complications are beyond the scope of this review and will be
148 excluded. To be consistent with the changes in classification and diagnostic criteria of T2DM
149 over the years, the diagnosis should be based on the standard criteria valid at the time of the
150 study. Authors' definition of T2DM will be used in case the diagnostic criteria are not described.

151

152 ***Intervention***

153 Studies will be included if they assess any classical and/or proprietary Ayurvedic medicine
154 (containing plant-, animal- and/or mineral-origin ingredients – single or in combination) in any
155 form (e.g., tablets, capsules, decoction). Cross-checking of eligibility of the Ayurvedic
156 medicine (to distinguish it from traditional Chinese and Western medicines) will be performed
157 by Ayurveda experts via searching the Indian Medicinal Plants Database
158 (<http://medicinalplants.in>), Encyclopedia on Indian Medicinal Plants
159 (<http://envis.frlht.org/implad>), Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (<http://www.tkdli.res.in>),
160 Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India and Ayurvedic Formulary of India. Studies on multimodal
161 interventions that include Ayurvedic medicine will be included if it is possible to extract data
162 relating to Ayurvedic medicine.

163

164 ***Comparator***

165 Studies comparing Ayurvedic medicines with no intervention, placebo, any non-
166 pharmaceutical intervention (such as diet, exercise or yoga) or pharmaceutical intervention
167 (such as antidiabetic drugs or insulin or another Ayurvedic medicine) will be included in this
168 systematic review. Co-intervention(s) will be allowed as long as all the study arms received
169 the same co-intervention(s). If a study includes multiple arms, we will include the arms that
170 meet the review inclusion criteria.

171

172 ***Outcome***

173 Studies which assess any of the following outcomes will be included:

174

175 *Primary outcomes*

- 176 • Blood glucose levels (i.e., glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c), fasting blood glucose)
- 177 • Health-related quality-of-life
- 178 • Adverse effects (e.g., incidence of hypoglycaemia, macro- and micro-vascular
179 complications of T2DM, hospitalization, death)

180 *Secondary outcomes*

- 181 • Postprandial blood glucose level

- 182 • Fasting and stimulated insulin levels
- 183 • Fasting and stimulated C-peptide levels
- 184 • Insulin sensitivity (homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR))
- 185 • Bodyweight, body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference
- 186 • Blood pressure and heart rate
- 187 • Serum lipid levels (i.e., total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), low-
- 188 density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), triglycerides)

189 *Timing of outcome measurement*

190 At least two months from randomisation will be considered as the primary timing of outcome
191 measurement.

192

193 **Study design**

194 **Considering the feasibility and practicality of the proposed work and hierarchy of study**
195 **designs, only randomized controlled trials (RCTs) will be included in this systematic review.**
196 **Our preliminary work has identified more than 125 potentially eligible RCTs.**

197

198 **Methods**

199 The systematic review process will follow the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic
200 Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) and Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) systematic review
201 methodology guidelines.^{32,33}

202

203 **Search**

204 We will search for a wide range of sources to find both published and unpublished studies via
205 the following electronic databases and grey literature sources:

- 206 • MEDLINE (1946-present)
- 207 • Embase (1974-present)
- 208 • CINAHL (1937-present)
- 209 • PsycINFO (1806-present)
- 210 • Web of Science (1900-present)
- 211 • Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (1996-present)
- 212 • Allied and Complementary Medicine Database (AMED) (1985-present)
- 213 • International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (1970-present)
- 214 • Turning Research Into Practice (TRIP) (1997-present)
- 215 • AYUSH Research Portal (a database of Ayurveda (and other) research articles)
- 216 (<http://ayushportal.nic.in>)
- 217 • Digital Helpline for Ayurveda Research Articles (DHARA) (<http://dharaonline.org>)

- 218 • A Bibliography of Indian Medicine (ABIM) (<http://indianmedicine.eldoc.ub.rug.nl>)
- 219 • CAM-QUEST (a database of complementary and alternative medicine research articles)
- 220 (<https://www.cam-quest.org/en>)
- 221 • Directory of Open Access Journals (<https://doaj.org>)
- 222 • EthOS (a database of theses) (<https://ethos.bl.uk>)
- 223 • OpenGrey (a grey literature database) (<http://opengrey.eu>)
- 224 • ProQuest Dissertations and Theses (a database of dissertations and theses)
- 225 (<https://www.proquest.com/products-services/dissertations>)
- 226 • Researches in Ayurveda and Ayurvedic Research Database (ARD) (databases of
- 227 Ayurveda-related dissertations and theses) (<https://ayurvedahealthcare.info>)

228 We will also contact (twice through email) relevant experts to find out any relevant studies,
229 including the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (Ministry of AYUSH, India).
230 Authors of the included studies and/or manufacturers of the included Ayurvedic medicines will
231 be contacted (twice through email) to identify further eligible studies. The reference list of
232 previous reviews and included studies will be screened for additional studies.

233

234 The search strategy, to be used in MEDLINE, is detailed in Appendix I. The search strategy
235 has been developed based on the following: (i) T2DM component of the search strategy is
236 based on the search strategies reported in the UK's National Institute for Health and Care
237 Excellence (NICE) guideline for managing T2DM and previous Cochrane systematic review
238 on this topic, (ii) Ayurvedic medicine component is based on Ayurvedic medicines mentioned
239 in previous systematic reviews (on this topic) and guidelines for managing T2DM, and (iii)
240 study design component is based on the search strategy reported in the NICE guideline for
241 managing T2DM.^{4,5,15-21,26-28,34} This search strategy will be adopted for other databases, in
242 consultation with an information specialist/librarian. No language restrictions will be applied,
243 and translations will be sought where necessary.

244

245 **Study selection**

246 Following the searches, all identified citations will be collated and uploaded into Endnote 8.2
247 (Clarivate Analytics, PA, USA), and duplicate citations will be removed. Titles and abstracts
248 will be screened for eligibility by two independent reviewers. Studies identified as potentially
249 eligible or those without an abstract will have their full text retrieved, and their details will be
250 imported into the JBI System for Unified Management, Assessment and Review of Information
251 (JBI SUMARI) (JBI, Adelaide, Australia). Full texts of the studies will be assessed for eligibility
252 by two independent reviewers. Any disagreements that arise between the two reviewers will
253 be resolved through discussion. If consensus is not reached, then a third reviewer will be

254 involved. Full text of the studies that do not meet the inclusion criteria will be excluded, and
255 reasons for exclusion will be reported.

256

257 ***Assessment of methodological quality***

258 Included studies will be critically assessed using the standardized critical appraisal tool for
259 RCTs incorporated within JBI SUMARI and assigned a score as met (yes), not met (no),
260 unclear or not applicable (n/a).³³ Two reviewers will independently answer each question and
261 comment on it. Any disagreements that arise between the two reviewers will be resolved
262 through discussion. If consensus is not reached, then a third reviewer will be involved. The
263 critical appraisal results will be presented in a table and narrative form. All studies, regardless
264 of their methodological quality, will be included in the review.

265

266 ***Data extraction***

267 Two reviewers will independently extract data from the included studies, using the
268 standardized data extraction tool incorporated within JBI SUMARI.³³ Any disagreements that
269 arise between the two reviewers will be resolved through discussion. If consensus is not
270 reached, then a third reviewer will be involved. Data extraction will include study
271 characteristics (e.g., country, setting/context, participant characteristics, sample size),
272 intervention and comparator details (e.g., ingredient(s) (including taxonomic details, part(s)
273 used, manufacturing process, voucher specimen provided or not), form of administration,
274 dose, duration), outcomes and timings (including quantitative results).

275

276 ***Data synthesis***

277 Initially, narrative syntheses will be conducted to describe the studies. Where possible, meta-
278 analyses based on random-effects models will be conducted to provide a weighted measure
279 of treatment effect for each Ayurvedic medicine.

280

281 ***Measures of treatment effect***

282 For binary outcomes, risk ratios (RR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) will be reported. For
283 continuous outcomes, mean differences (MD) with 95% CI will be reported where the same
284 scale is used across studies. Where different scales are used across studies, standardised
285 mean differences (SMD) with 95% CI will be reported. Where there is a marked difference in
286 the continuous outcomes at baseline between the intervention groups, we will also use change
287 from baseline to account for this. Where appropriate, we will calculate the number needed to
288 treat (NNT) and number needed to harm (NNH) for binary primary outcomes.

289

290 ***Unit of analysis issues***

291 We will take into account the level at which randomization occurred within our analyses for
292 studies with the unit of analysis issue, for example, crossover or cluster designed trials. Where
293 this is not possible, for example, where the intracluster correlation coefficient from a cluster
294 designed trial is not available, the results for these studies will not be pooled with those from
295 parallel study designs. For studies with more than one active treatment group, the
296 comparisons will be included in separate meta-analysis models to avoid the issue of double-
297 counting of the comparator group.

298

299 *Dealing with missing data*

300 The corresponding author of the included study will be contacted by email (two times per
301 author) to obtain relevant missing data. Where possible, analyses will be based on intention-
302 to-treat (ITT). Sensitivity analyses will be conducted to assess the robustness of the results
303 using per-protocol (PP) data.

304

305 *Assessment of heterogeneity*

306 Clinical and methodological heterogeneity (diversity) will be assessed by descriptively
307 comparing trial and participant characteristics between the studies. We will quantify
308 heterogeneity using the I^2 statistic and categorize heterogeneity as substantial where values
309 are greater than 50%.

310

311 *Assessment of reporting biases*

312 Where there is a sufficient number of studies included in the meta-analysis (at least 10), we
313 will use funnel plots to assess for small study bias.

314

315 *Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity*

316 Subgroup analyses will be conducted to investigate reasons for heterogeneity for primary
317 outcomes based on the following study level factors:

- 318 • Intervention (form of administration, dose and duration)
- 319 • Definition of the comparator (no intervention versus placebo versus active comparator)
- 320 • Methodological quality (allocation concealment, blinding of outcome measure and attrition)
- 321 • Country.

322

323 *Sensitivity analysis*

324 Sensitivity analyses will be performed to explore the influence of the following factors on
325 primary outcomes through:

- 326 • Excluding unpublished studies

- 327 • Excluding studies not written in English
328 • Excluding studies with industry funding.

329

330 **Assessing certainty in the findings**

331 We will generate evidence statements (which contains a descriptor, strength and direction
332 (positive or negative)) for each outcome. A modified version of the Grading of
333 Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) method will be used
334 to determine the strength of evidence for each outcome.³⁵ Since only RCTs will be included in
335 this systematic review, the findings will be initially ranked as high and will be downgraded to
336 moderate, low or very low, if there is evidence of the following: risk of bias, imprecision, the
337 inconsistency of evidence, indirectness and/or publication bias. Reasons will be provided for
338 the ratings. Two independent reviewers will be involved in this process. Any disagreements
339 that arise between the two reviewers will be resolved through discussion. If consensus is not
340 reached, then a third reviewer will be involved. The results will be reported in a summary of
341 findings table.

342

343 **Conflicts of interest**

344 The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare. **Jo Leonardi-Bee is a Senior Associate**
345 **Editor for the journal and has been blinded to the editorial processes and decisions associated**
346 **with this manuscript.**

347

348 **Funding**

349 The systematic review is part of a project 'Introduction of a clinical guideline to manage type-
350 2 diabetes by Ayurvedic practitioners in India: intervention development and feasibility study',
351 funded by a grant from the UK's DFID, MRC, NIHR and Wellcome Trust Joint Global Health
352 Trials (MR/T003537/1).

353

354 **References**

- 355 1. International Diabetes Federation (IDF). IDF diabetes atlas. 8th ed. Brussels: IDF. 2017.
356 2. European Medicines Agency (EMA). Guideline on clinical investigation of medicinal
357 products in the treatment or prevention of diabetes mellitus. London: EMA. 2018.
358 3. Sharma H, Chandola HM, Singh G, Basisht G. Utilization of Ayurveda in health care: an
359 approach for prevention, health promotion and treatment of disease. Part 2: Ayurveda in
360 primary health care. J Altern Complement Med. 2007;13(10):1135-50.
361 4. Ministry of AYUSH. Protocol for prevention and control of diabetes through Ayurveda. New
362 Delhi: Ministry of AYUSH. 2016.

- 363 5. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS). Guidelines for prevention
364 and management of diabetes. New Delhi: CCRAS. 2017.
- 365 6. Mehrotra R, Bajaj S, Kumar D. Use of complementary and alternative medicine by patients
366 with diabetes mellitus. *Natl Med J India*. 2004;17(5):243-5.
- 367 7. Kumar D, Bajaj S, Mehrotra R. Knowledge, attitude and practice of complementary and
368 alternative medicines for diabetes. *Public Health*. 2006;120(8):705-11.
- 369 8. Priya R, Shweta AS. Status and role of AYUSH and local health traditions: under the
370 National Rural Health Mission. New Delhi: National Health Systems Resource Centre.
371 2010.
- 372 9. Bhalerao MS, Bolshete PM, Swar BD, Bangera TA, Kolhe VR, Tambe MJ, et al. Use of
373 and satisfaction with complementary and alternative medicine in four chronic diseases: a
374 cross-sectional study from India. *Natl Med J India*. 2013;26(2):75-8.
- 375 10. Chandra S. Status of Indian medicine and folk healing: with a focus on benefits that the
376 systems have given to the public. Part I. New Delhi: Department of AYUSH. 2011.
- 377 11. Chandra S. Status of Indian medicine and folk healing: with a focus on integration of
378 AYUSH medical systems in health care delivery. Part II. New Delhi: Department of
379 AYUSH. 2013.
- 380 12. Chacko E. Culture and therapy: complementary strategies for the treatment of type-2
381 diabetes in an urban setting in Kerala, India. *Soc Sci Med*. 2003;56(5):1087-98.
- 382 13. Rao KD, Khanna S, Kumra N, Kokho P, Bhatnagar A, Gupta G. Which doctor for primary
383 health care? An assessment of primary health care providers in Chhattisgarh, India. New
384 Delhi: Public Health Foundation of India. 2010.
- 385 14. Ministry of AYUSH. AYUSH registered practitioners. New Delhi: Ministry of AYUSH. 2017.
- 386 15. Hardy ML, Coulter I, Venuturupalli S, Roth EA, Favreau J, Morton SC, et al.
387 Ayurvedic interventions for diabetes mellitus: a systematic review. *Evid Rep Technol*
388 *Assess (Summ)*. 2001;(41):2p.
- 389 16. Yeh GY, Eisenberg DM, Kaptchuk TJ, Phillips RS. Systematic review of herbs and dietary
390 supplements for glycemic control in diabetes. *Diabetes Care*. 2003;26(4):1277-94.
- 391 17. Shekelle PG, Hardy M, Morton SC, Coulter I, Venuturupalli S, Favreau J, et al.
392 Are Ayurvedic herbs for diabetes effective? *J Fam Pract*. 2005;54(10):876-86.
- 393 18. Nahas R, Moher M. Complementary and alternative medicine for the treatment of type 2
394 diabetes. *Can Fam Physician*. 2009;55(6):591-6.
- 395 19. Kundu PK, Chatterjee PS. Meta-analysis of Diabecon tablets: efficacy and safety
396 outcomes from 15 clinical trials in diabetes mellitus. *IJCP*. 2010;20(9).
- 397 20. Sridharan K, Mohan R, Ramaratnam S, Panneerselvam D. Ayurvedic treatments
398 for diabetes mellitus. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2011;(12):CD008288.

- 399 21. Suksomboon N, Poolsup N, Boonkaew S, Suthisisang CC. Meta-analysis of the effect of
400 herbal supplement on glyceemic control in type 2 diabetes. *J*
401 *Ethnopharmacol.* 2011;137(3):1328-33.
- 402 22. Bhojani U, Devedasan N, Mishra A, De Henauw S, Kolsteren P, Criel B. Health system
403 challenges in organizing quality diabetes care for urban poor in South India. *PLoS One.*
404 2014;9(9):e106522.
- 405 23. Kesavadev J, Saboo B, Sadikot S, Das AK, Joshi S, Chawla R, et al. Unproven therapies
406 for diabetes and their implications. *Adv Ther.* 2017;34(1):60-77.
- 407 24. Singh N, Telles S. Awareness about bibliographic databases among students of Ayurveda
408 and qualified Ayurveda practitioners. *J Ayurveda Integr Med.* 2012;3(2):59-62.
- 409 25. Samal J, Dehury RK. The need and importance of incorporating academic research results
410 into the curricula of Ayurveda in India. *J Clin Diagn Res.* 2017;11(6):KA01-3.
- 411 26. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS). Ayurvedic management of
412 select geriatric disease conditions. New Delhi: CCRAS. 2011.
- 413 27. Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and Directorate General of
414 Health Services (DGHS). Integration of AYUSH (Ayurveda) with National Program for
415 Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke
416 (NPCDCS): guidelines and training manual. New Delhi: CCRAS and DGHS. 2018.
- 417 28. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). Madhumeha (diabetes mellitus). New
418 Delhi: MoHFW. 2016. [https://www.nhp.gov.in/Madhumeha-\(Diabetes-mellitus\)_mtl](https://www.nhp.gov.in/Madhumeha-(Diabetes-mellitus)_mtl)
419 Accessed on 5 July 2019.
- 420 29. Institute of Medicine (IOM). Clinical practice guidelines we can trust. Washington DC: The
421 National Academies Press. 2011.
- 422 30. Feder G, Griffiths C, Highton C, Eldridge S, Spence M, Southgate L. Do clinical guidelines
423 introduced with practice based education improve care of asthmatic and diabetic patients?
424 A randomised controlled trial in general practices in east London. *BMJ.*
425 1995;311(7018):1473-8.
- 426 31. Pérez-Cuevas R, Reyes-Morales H, Flores-Hernández S, Wachter-Rodarte N. Effect of a
427 clinical practice guideline for the management of diabetes type 2. *Rev Med Inst Mex*
428 *Seguro Soc.* 2007;45(4):353-60.
- 429 32. Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, PRISMA Group. Preferred reporting items for
430 systematic reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA statement. *BMJ.* 2009;339:b2535.
- 431 33. Aromataris E, Munn Z (Editors). Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) reviewer's manual. Adelaide:
432 JBI. 2017.
- 433 34. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Type 2 diabetes in adults:
434 management. UK: NICE. 2015.
- 435 35. Schünemann H, Brożek J, Guyatt G, Oxman A (Editors). GRADE handbook. GRADE. 2013.

436 **Appendix I: Search strategy**

437

438 **Ovid MEDLINE**

- 439 1 exp Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2/
440 2 (Type* adj3 ("2" or "II" or two*) adj3 (diabete* or diabetic*)).tw.
441 3 ((Late or maturit* or adult* or slow*) adj3 onset* adj3 (diabete* or diabetic*)).tw.
442 4 ((Ketosis-resistant* or stable*) adj3 (diabete* or diabetic*)).tw.
443 5 ((Non-insulin* or Non insulin* or Noninsulin*) adj3 depend* adj3 (diabete* or
444 diabetic*)).tw.
445 6 (NIDDM or T2DM or T2D).tw.
446 7 Prameha.mp.
447 8 Madhumeha.mp.
448 9 or/1-8
449 10 exp Medicine, Ayurvedic/
450 11 Ayurved*.tw,ot.
451 12 *Medicine, Traditional/
452 13 exp Complementary medicine/tu [Therapeutic use]
453 14 ((plant* or herb* or medicin* or drug* or therap* or intervention* or extract* or
454 formulation* or preparation* or supplement*) adj6 (Ayurved* or Hindu or Indian)).tw,ot.
455 15 exp Plants, Medicinal/tu [Therapeutic use]
456 16 exp Plant Extracts/tu [Therapeutic use]
457 17 exp Plants/tu [Therapeutic use]
458 18 ((plant* or herb*) adj6 (medicin* or drug* or therap* or intervention* or extract* or
459 formulation* or preparation* or supplement*)).tw,ot.
460 19 exp Ethnobotany/
461 20 exp Ethnopharmacology/
462 21 (ethnobotan* or ethno botan* or ethnopharmacolog* or ethno pharmacolog*).tw,ot.
463 22 *Phytotherapy/
464 23 (phytotherap* or phyto therap*).tw,ot.
465 24 exp Acanthaceae/
466 25 exp Aegle/
467 26 exp Aloe/
468 27 exp Artocarpus/
469 28 exp Azadirachta/
470 29 exp Butea/
471 30 exp Cassia/

472 31 exp Catharanthus/
473 32 exp Cinnamomum/
474 33 exp Cinnamomum aromaticum/
475 34 exp Cinnamomum zeylanicum/
476 35 exp Clerodendrum/
477 36 exp Cucurbitaceae/
478 37 exp Curcuma/
479 38 exp Cyamopsis/
480 39 exp Ficus/
481 40 exp Garlic/
482 41 exp Ginger/
483 42 exp Gymnema/
484 43 exp Gymnema sylvestre/
485 44 exp Ipomoea batatas/
486 45 exp Momordica charantia/
487 46 exp Murraya/
488 47 exp Nigella sativa/
489 48 exp Ocimum sanctum/
490 49 exp Onions/
491 50 exp Phyllanthus/
492 51 exp Phyllanthus emblica/
493 52 exp Piper/
494 53 exp Plantago/
495 54 exp Psyllium/
496 55 exp Pterocarpus/
497 56 exp Punicaceae
498 57 exp Salacia/
499 58 exp Solanum/
500 59 exp Syzygium/
501 60 exp Tamarindus/
502 61 exp Tinospora/
503 62 exp Trigonella/
504 63 exp Lead/
505 64 exp Tin/
506 65 (Aegle marmelos or Crateva marmelos or Allium cepa or Allium sativum or Aloe vera
507 or Artocarpus heterophyllus or Azadirachta indica or Melia azadirachta or Butea
508 monosperma or Cassia auriculata or Catharanthus roseus or Vinca rosea or

509 Cinnamomum aromaticum or Cinnamomum cassia or Cinnamomum tamala or
510 Cinnamomum verum or Cinnamomum zeylanicum or Clerodendrum phlomides or
511 Coccinia grandis or Coccinia cordifolia or Coccinia indica or Curcuma longa or
512 Cyamopsis tetragonoloba or Emblica officinalis or Phyllanthus emblica or
513 Enicostemma axillare or Enicostemma littorale or Ficus carica or Gymnema lactiferum
514 or Gymnema sylvestre or Hygrophila schulli or Asteracantha longifolia or Ipomoea
515 batatas or Momordica charantia or Murraya koenigii or Nigella sativa or Ocimum
516 tenuiflorum or Ocimum sanctum or Phyllanthus amarus or Phyllanthus nirurii or Piper
517 longum or Plantago arenaria or Plantago psyllium or Pterocarpus marsupium or
518 Pterocarpus santalinus or Punica granatum or Salacia chinensis or Salacia reticulate
519 or Solanum torvum or Syzygium cumini or Eugenia jambolana or Syzygium
520 jambolanum or Syzygium jambos or Eugenia jambos or Tamarindus indica or
521 Tinospora cordifolia or Trigonella foenum-greacum or Zingiber officinale).tw,ot.

522 66 (Lead or Tin or Black bitumen or Black asphalt*).tw,ot.

523 67 (Arogyavardhini* or Arogyvardhini* or Ayaskriti or Chandrakant* or Chandraprabh* or
524 Devdarvarisht* or Devdarvarist* or Dhanvantar* or Gokshuradi* or Goksuradi* or
525 Jambudyarisht* or Jambudyarist* or Katakakhadiradi* or Kathakakhadiradi* or
526 Kshirabal* or Ksirabal* or Lodhrasav* or Mamajjak* or Nag* or Naag* or Nimbadi* or
527 Nimadi* or Nishamalak* or Nisamalak* or Nishamlak* or Nisamlak* or Nishakathakadi*
528 or Nisakathakadi* or Phalatrikadi* or Falatrikadi* or Rajanyamalakadi* or
529 Rajanyamlakadi* or Saptamrit* or Shaptamrit* or Saptargangyadi* or Shilajit* or Silajit*
530 or Shilajat* or Silajat* or Shilajeet* or Silajeet* or Siva* or Shiva* or Somnath* or
531 Shomnath* or Triphal* or Trifal* or Trivang* or Tribang* or Vang* or Bang* or Vasant
532 Kusumakar* or Vashant Kushumakar* or Vasanta Kusumakar* or Vashanta
533 Kushumakar* or Vasantkusumakar* or Vashantkushumakar* or Vasantakusumakar*
534 or Vashantakushumakar* or Basant Kusumakar* or Bashant Kushumakar* or Basanta
535 Kusumakar* or Bashanta Kushumakar* or Basantkusumakar* or Bashantkushumakar*
536 or Basantakusumakar* or Bashantakushumakar* or Vijayasaradi* or Vijayasharadi* or
537 Vijaysaradi* or Vijaysharadi* or Bijayasaradi* or Bijayasharadi* or Bijaysaradi* or
538 Bijaysharadi* or Vyoshadi* or Vynosadi* or Byoshadi* or Byosadi*).tw,ot.

539 68 (Ayush 82 or Ayush-82 or Cogent DB or Diabecon or D 400 or D-400 or GS4 or Gurmar
540 or Hyponidd or Inolter or M 93 or M-93 or MA 471 or MA-471 or Nosulin or Pancreas
541 Tonic).tw,ot.

542 69 or/10-68

543 70 Randomized Controlled Trial.pt.

544 71 Controlled Clinical Trial.pt.

545 72 Clinical Trial.pt.

546 73 exp Clinical Trials as Topic/
547 74 Placebos/
548 75 Random Allocation/
549 76 Double-Blind Method/
550 77 Single-Blind Method/
551 78 Cross-Over Studies/
552 79 ((random\$ or control\$ or clinical\$) adj3 (trial\$ or stud\$)).tw.
553 80 (random\$ adj3 allocat\$).tw.
554 81 placebo\$.tw.
555 82 ((singl\$ or doubl\$ or trebl\$ or tripl\$) adj (blind\$ or mask\$)).tw.
556 83 (crossover\$ or (cross adj over\$)).tw.
557 84 or/70-83
558 85 9 and 69 and 84