# 14. A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Experimental Studies

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**Submission date:** 23-Jan-2023 05:02PM (UTC+0800)

**Submission ID:** 1997613293

File name: Systematic\_Review\_and\_Meta-Analysis\_of\_Experimental\_Studies.pdf (344.79K)

Word count: 3548

Character count: 19093



#### **Tropical Journal of Natural Product Research**







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#### A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Experimental Studies: Can Red Ginger be Used in the Treatment for Women Urinary Tract Infections?

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#### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 27 August 2022 Revised 01 September 2022 Accepted 15 September 2022 Published online 01 October 2022

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#### ABSTRACT

Women are susceptible to experience Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) throughout their lives because of the location of their reproductive organs. Treatment in UTIs is done through a pharmacological approach. Ginger is a solution in reducing complaints in health problem. The effect of giving red ginger as a treatment for urinary tract infections in women is the purpose of this study. The systematic review and meta-analysis reporting followed the PRISMA guidelines. PICOS was used in developing the research criteria. Articles published in the last 10 years, written in English, open access, and quasi-experimental research were selected from several databases. The four databases accessed were PubMed, Science Direct, Scopus, and ProQuest. Escherichia coli is a common cause of urinary tract infections in women. Red ginger has antimicrobial activity. The use of red ginger can be combined with other plants. The results of the meta-analysis showed that there was an effect of using red ginger on Escherichia Coli in the management of urinary tract infections but it is necessary to explain further about how to process ginger properly.

Keywords: Urinary tract Infections, Ginger, Therapy, Women.

#### Introduction

Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) are cases that often occur in women of various ages, from adolescent to elderly, as well as certain races and ethnicities. The handling of UTIs tends to be expensive and burdensome, even though these cases occurs in women of all backgrounds regardless of socioeconomic status or education level.  $^{\rm L}$  UTIs are serious public health problem.  $^{\rm 2}$  40% of women experience UTIs in their lifetime. Adult women are 30 times more likely to develop UTIs than men. One in three women can experience first UTIs by the age of 24.3 UTIs are mostly caused by Escherichia coli (E-coli), accounting for about 80-90% of the cases.4 UTIs are experienced by the Indonesian population around 100 cases per 100,000 population per year and more than 100 new cases every year.<sup>5</sup> The incidence of UTI was found to be higher in women than in men because of the location of their reproductive organs. Women have a shorter urethra than men. Women also have urinary organs that are closer to the anus and vagina. These characteristics make it easier for microorganisms to enter the urinary tract.6 Women can experience UTIs many times in their lives. Approximately 60% of women will experience symptoms of acute bacterial cystitis, 20-40% of women will have additional episodes and 25-50% of women will experience several episodes. The economic burden and risk of treating infection is due to the high recurrence rate and increased antimicrobial resistance among uropathogens.2 UTIs are the reason for hospital visits globally even though the disease is often overlooked.7 Treatment of UTIs consists of pharmacological therapy and non-pharmacological therapy. Both of these therapies aim to reduce the impact of UTIs.

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Citation: Sagita R, Kurniawati EM, Faizah Z. A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Experimental Studies: Can Red Ginger be Used in the Treatment for Women Urinary Tract Infections? Trop J Nat Prod Res. 2022; 6(9):1367-1371. http://www.doi.org/10.26538/tjnpr/v6i9.3

Official Journal of Natural Product Research Group, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

Pharmacological therapy is the administration of drugs including antibiotics. Several errors can occur in this type of treatment such as inappropriate antibiotics, delays in treatment, and low survival rates in septic conditions. In addition, the administration of antibiotics is associated with long-term health problem. Therapy for UTIs can be done by using herbal plants such as ginger (Zingiber officinale). Ginger contains active antioxidants, namely Shagaols, Gingerols, and Zingerone. Ginger also contains flavonoids and phenolics which are used in herbal medicine and anti-inflammatory properties that can be used for women's reproductive health. Red ginger is suspected to have the ability to inhibit microbial growth. This ability is related to red ginger processing techniques. Analgesic activity decreased over time found in aqueous extracts of fresh red ginger and dried ginger. This study aims to systematically review and analyze the effect of giving red ginger as a treatment for urinary tract infections in women.

#### Materials and Methods

Study design and search strategy

Systematic literature review was carried out by identifying, analyzing, and evaluating data in accordance with research questions. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines was followed.<sup>13</sup> The research question was explored using the PICO framework, namely "Does red ginger have an effect as a treatment for urinary tract infections in women?". Articles were searched on several databases, namely PubMed, Science Direct, Scopus, and ProQuest. The keywords used were "ginger", "antimicrobial activity", "urinary tract infection", and "women".

Study selection and outcome measure

The inclusion criteria in this study were articles written in English, open access, published in the last 10 years, and quasi-experimental research. The exclusion criteria were review studies, comments, and cross-sectional studies.

Data extraction, abstraction, and synthesis

Microsoft Excel forms used to screen the title and/or abstract. Quality of the articles was accessed using critical appraisal tools from the

12

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Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP). Assessment results are reported in three categories, namely strong, moderate, and weak. There are six assessment components, including bias selection, research design, confounders, blinding, data collection methods, withdrawal, and dropout. Meta-Analysis was carried out using Open Meta-Analysis Software with the steps of calculating statistical measures, calculating research variations, calculating research weights, testing heterogeneity, and modeling random effects.

#### Results and Discussion

181 articles were found from various databases, namely 4 articles on Scopus, 8 articles on PubMed, 7 articles on Science Direct, and 165 articles on ProQuest. 8 articles that met the inclusion and exclusion criteria were systematically reviewed. The process of selecting articles is written down in the PRISMA flowchart in Figure 1. Critical appraisal using EPHPP obtained 7 literatures with moderate values and 1 article with weak values presented in Table 1. Escherichia coli (E. Coli) is a common cause of UTIs in women. E. Coli is the main cause of urinary tract infections in women. Although pseudomonas aeruginosa is sometimes found in greater numbers than E. Coli, these data may come from patients with wound infections thereby causing bias in the sample.

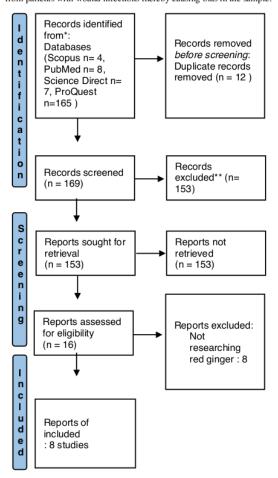


Figure 1: Prisma Flowchart

The results of the meta-analysis showed that there was an effect of using red ginger on Escherichia Coli bacteria as evidenced by the pvalue < 0.001. It can be concluded that the results of the meta-analysis with forest plots showed that red ginger was effective in the treatment of UTIs in women. Meta-analysis was used by calculating the results of the mean ± standard deviation on the bacterial inhibition zone data. The summary results were 13.126 mm which means, strong in the bacterial inhibition zone with a confidence interval (IC 95%) i.e. (11,632-14,620). The results of the I2 in statistical test showed a high inconsistency of 98.3%. The large I2 value causes the use of the random effect model method. Table 3 shows the results of the heterogeneity test. Given the effect of ginger on the activity of Escherichia Coli which causes urinary tract infections, the treatment using ginger can be recommended for use in women. Nevertheless, the use of ginger and pharmacological therapy can be combined. This combination therapy is better than no treatment to improve the outcome of UTIs management. Ginger can serve not only as an alternative medicine but also as a companion to pharmacological therapy in treating stress and urgency of urinary incontinence.<sup>22</sup> This treatment aims to improve the patient's quality of life.<sup>23</sup> UTIs is related to the meaning of health status which refers to the analysis of the Welfare Index and is even used to estimate the quality of life experienced by adolescent girls with UTIs.24 The effect of cases of UTIs varies depending on the socio-demographic characteristics and chronic disease of each person.<sup>25</sup> Gender affects the prevalence of UTIs. Women are the sex that dominates UTIs case compared to men, including adults and children.<sup>15</sup> 73.3% of women experiences UTIs in the vulnerable age of adolescence to adulthood. The anatomy of the urethra in women, which is about 2-3cm shorter than men, makes it easy for bacteria to contaminate the urinary tract.21 The use of red ginger can be combined with other plants. The metaanalysis in this study could only be carried out on 3 articles, but the effect of ginger that could inhibit E. Coli was found in all articles that met the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The higher the concentration of red ginger, the higher the antibacterial activity obtained in ginger. When used in the form of oil, 70% of E coli can be inhibited by diluting ginger as much as 0.06%. These results were obtained by observing the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration test. In addition, the essential oil content in ginger of 3.9% can actually contribute to its ability to fight bacteria. The permeability of the bacterial wall can be suppressed by the presence of essential oils, nonvolite oils, and flavonoids in ginger. Microbial cell membranes are damaged by saponins and the constituent components of peptidoglycan are damaged by alkaloids.26 A study found that antibacterial activity was not found in 2 plants, namely red ginger and juniper, but other plants such as marjoram, thymus zygis, and rosmari actually showed antibacterial activity. 18 Although, there is a study that has different results, red ginger can still be applied in improving women's health. The antimicrobial activity of red ginger has been proven to be reliable against E-coli bacteria.

Ginger can prevent various health problems. Ginger affects the prevention and treatment of diabetes mellitus when viewed from the chemical compounds found.<sup>27</sup> Red ginger contains compounds such as tannins, saponins, phenolics, essential oils, and flavonoids. These results are in line with other studies conducted by Tabassum *et al* (2013). They found that in addition to these substances, ginger also contains alkaloids.<sup>20</sup> Apart from their function, the content of red ginger with white ginger tends to be different. Red ginger has higher levels of linalool, borneol, zingiberene, and zingerone content with a significant difference compared to white ginger.<sup>28</sup> This study has limitations, namely the number of articles reviewed is limited and there is no regional distribution. In addition, the ability of researchers to process critical judgments affects understanding and interpretation in analyzing data.

#### Conclusion

Red ginger can be useful in the management of urinary tract infections in women because it has antimicrobial activity.

#### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

122; 6(9):1367-1371 ISSN 2616-0684 (Print) ISSN 2616-0692 (Electronic)

Author Bias selection Mohamad, 2019 14 2	and another						
Mohamad, 2019 14 2	seiecnon	Study design	Confounders	Blinding	Data collection method	Data collection method Withdrawal and dropout	Rating
		_	_	3			Moderate
Lagha, 2019 15 2		-	1	3	1	1	Moderate
Mohammed, 2019 16 2		-	1	3	1	3	Weak
Kumar, 2018 17 2		-	1	3		1	Moderate
Al-Zamily, 2017 18 2		1	1	3	1	1	Moderate
Mourad et al, 2016 19 1		1	2	3	1	2	Moderate
Tabassum, 2013 20 2		1	1	3	1	2	Moderate
O. Al-Jiffri, 2011 <sup>21</sup> 2		-	1	3	-	1	Moderate

Table 2: Characteristics of studies exploring the use of ginger in UTIs in women

			I able 2: Characteristics (	I able ∠: Characteristics of studies exploring the use of ginger in ∪ 11s in women	U IIs in women	
Author, year	Country	Research type	Sample setting	Type of ginger	Bacteria type	Finding
Mohamad, 2019 14	Irad	Quasi-experimental	50 samples of urine from	Alcoholic extraction of Zingiber officinale	Escherichia Coli	Ginger alcohol extract had an antimicrobial
		study	patients (male and female)			effect in UTIs case and no side effects were
			suffering from UTIs.	4		found.
, 2019 <sup>15</sup> Lagha	Saudi	Quasi-experimental	50 patients 35 women and	5 medicinal plant essential oils are	Escherichia Coli	Zingiber officinale did not show any
	Arabia	study	15 men	Origanum majorana, Thymus zygis,		antimicrobial effect against Escherichia coli
				Rosmarinus officinalis, Juniperus		isolates.
				communis and Zingiber officinale.		
Mohammed, 2019 16	Iraq	Quasi-experimental	35 samples were collected	Ginger extracts	Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas	The antibacterial activity of Ginger against
		study	from patients with UTIs and		aeruginosa, Klebsiella	Escherichia coli was indicated by an
			wound infections.		pneumonae and	inhibition zone of 15-19mm.
					Staphylococcus aureus	
Kumar, 2018 17	Thailand	Quasi-experimental	20 urine of UTI patient	Ginger oil	Escherichia Coli	Ginger oil was found to have antibacterial
		study				activity against clinical isolates of E. coli.
Al-Zamily, 2017 18	Dubai	Quasi-experimental	63 clinical urine samples	Aqueous extract of ginger	Escherichia Coli, P. mirabilis	The use of aqueous extracts of ginger (50%
		study			and K. pneumoniae	and 100%) showed an antimicrobial effect
				8		on the growth of isolated bacteria.
Mourad et al, 2016 19	Cairo	Quasi-experimental	1600 urine of UTI patient	15 plants were extracted by boiled water,	Staphylococcus aureus,	Red ginger has antibacterial activity against
		study		ethanol or tested as essential oils, highest	Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas	Escherichia Coli
				antibacterial activity was exhibited by	aeruginosa, Enterococcus	

Trop J Nat Prod Res, September 2022; 6(9):1367-1371

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;				essential oils plant extracts	faecalis, Klebsiella pneumoniae	
Tabassum, 2013 20	India	Quasi-experimental	200 urine samples	6 plants (Coriander sativum, Syzygium	Escherichia coli (44%);	The five isolates showed broad-spectrum
		study		aromaticum, Cinnamomum cassia,	Klebsiella pneumoniae (25.33%);	antibacterial activity and were higher than
				Zingiber of icinale, Terminalia chebula,	Pseudomonas aeruginosa (20%);	the ten standard antibiotics.
				and Azadirachta indica) and their parts	Enterobacter faecalis (6.66%)	
				(leaves, bark, flower, rhizome, and fruit)	and Proteus mirabilis (4%)	
				with ethanolic extracts		
O. Al-Jiffri, 2011 <sup>21</sup>	Saudi	Quasi-experimental	130 urine samples	Ginger (dry, fresh)	Escherichia coli	The effect of antibacterial activity by red
	Arabia	study				ginger against Escherichia coli showed that
						the MIC of ginger was 50%.

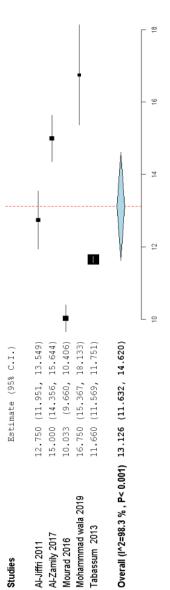


Figure 2: Forest plot

Table 3: Test for heterogeneity

T <sup>2</sup>	Q(df = 4)	Het. P-value	$I^2$	_
2.754	235.356	< 0.001	98.3	_

#### Authors' Declaration

The authors hereby declare that the work presented in this article is original and that any liability for claims relating to the content of this article will be borne by them.

#### Acknowledgements

The success of this work would not have been possible without the assistance of colleagues in some way.

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