

The Health Benefits of Ginger's Antioxidative and Anti-Inflammatory Action

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Abstract:- Ginger is a genus belonging to the family Zingiberaceae. It has around 50 genera, and there are about 1600 known species of aromatic perennial herbs that have creeping horizontal or tuberous rhizomes. It is mainly spread across the parts of tropical Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The main phenolic compounds found in the fresh ginger are gingerols, which besides 6-gingerol, include 4-, 5-, 8-, 10-, and 12-gingerols. The gingerols show a diversified bioactivity with many of them possessing antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities, among others. Given the broad spectrum of biological activities and published data concerning the mechanisms of action, it would seem that a complex interaction between two critical events, including inflammation, and oxidative stress, may contribute to the broad spectrum of pharmacological activities of this compound. Indeed, such compound is of great attention considering its role in the immune system; hence, among them, immunomodulatory activity has been a challenge for most of the reports under study. Actually, these compounds might inhibit Akt and NF- κ B pathways upon their activation hence leading to lowering the cytokines that promote inflammation whilst elevating those anti-inflammatory cytokines. Because the bioavailability of gingerols is extremely low, development and even improvement of treatment methods with such compounds are obligatory. The solution of the problem for finding new means of delivery systems with incorporated gingerols represents a good approach to the delivery of new drug systems in recent years. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the immunomodulating activity of gingerol, including its mechanism of action and roles of nanodrug delivery systems that have been designed for such an activity.

Keywords:- Ginger, Antioxidative Effect, Anti-Inflammatory Effect, Other Benefits.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ginger is a plant belonging to the zingiberaceae family. Some studies have pointed out that ginger is one of the most used herbal drugs in several countries. Scientific facts suggest one specific property of ginger with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. A more specific, less studied bioactivity of ginger should be its neuroprotective effect. Ginger is one of the medicinal plants with health benefits widely applied in pharmaceutical formulation and foodstuffs.

Ginger is an almost magical and powerful herb with incredible potential for the treatment of a wide range of ailments. It has therapeutic value in treating degenerative disorders, including arthritis and rheumatism. Ginger is equally effective in digestive health issues, such as indigestion, constipation, and ulcers, and holds promise in the treatment of cardiovascular disorders like atherosclerosis and hypertension, as well as vomiting, diabetes mellitus, and cancer. In addition to these advantages, ginger has anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative properties that may be useful to control the process of aging. Bioactive molecules in ginger, such as gingerols, contribute to antioxidant activity, which can combat oxidative stress. Oxidative stress is thought to be involved in various diseases; for example, it is implicated in the pathogenesis of heart diseases, neurodegenerative disorders, cancer, as well as the aging process. In addition, ginger has also shown potential as an antimicrobial agent, thus providing a vital tool in combating infectious diseases. Overall, the health benefits and therapeutic qualities of ginger make it a particularly remarkable natural remedy.

One of the essential uses of ginger is to treat urinary inflammatory problems. Additionally, its anti-inflammatory activity, attributed to modulation of the immune response during the cellular phase, has been described. Other highlighted capabilities of this herbal extract include antinociceptive effects caused by acetic acid. Its bioactive compounds exert an analgesic and anti-inflammatory effect by inhibiting the pathways of COX2 and LOX, thereby preventing arachidonic acid metabolism. The effect of ginger was proved to be close to the family of NSAIDs, but it does not cause an insult of stomach mucosa. We know that ginger does not impact mucosa because a raise of mucosal prostaglandin synthesis was measured after ginger intake, as ginger does not act as the inhibitor of COX1. More importantly, a study of a less-than-two-week intervention with oral ginger supplements in osteoarthritis patients demonstrated the effectiveness of ginger as an anti-inflammatory compound and pain reliever. Muscle pain and plasma PGE2 levels were assessed, proving its specificity to the COX2 enzyme. It also has biological activities, including antimicrobial, antioxidant, and anti-allergic activities, as well as helping prevent cancer, improving markers for colorectal cancer risk. In this sense, a great deal of studies manifested that ginger may prevent cardiovascular diseases, which are associated pathologies that act as the entity of cardiovascular diseases. The wide range of therapeutic effects and the potential utility of ginger in combining with other types of treatments were demonstrated by these findings.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

➤ *Fitriyono Ayustaningwarno, et al.:(June 2024)*

Ginger is a root used as a source of several biologically active compounds, including gingerol, shogaol, zingerone, and paradol. These exhibit antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, making ginger a very useful ingredient in health applications. It is also endowed with antioxidant properties that enhance tolerance to oxidative stress. Oxidative stress appears when the production of ROS exceeds the body's antioxidant defenses. Ginger bioactive compounds assist in the elimination of ROS and decrease the parameters of oxidative stress, hence boosting the activity of antioxidant enzymes and increasing the total antioxidant capacity. Given its abilities in preventing oxidative stress and inflammation-related diseases, there is a great potential for the development of functional food products from ginger. Such products would contribute to educating consumers about the various health benefits of ginger and to incorporating it in their diet.

➤ *Nur Fatin Nabilah Mohd Sahardi and Suzana Makpol, et al.:(July 2019)*

Much of what has been identified regarding the effect of ginger on aging and degenerative diseases is generally narrow and definitely lacks important evidence. Although several studies have revealed that both ginger and its respective active compounds may possess anti-aging effects due to their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, further research is required to clearly understand the relationship. In summary, although preliminary evidence is promising, further research will be necessary to fully elucidate the potential role of ginger in promoting healthy ageing and preventing degenerative diseases.

➤ *Neeru Bhatt, et al.(January 2013)*

The ginger is a rhizomatic plant, which simply means it grows on and in an underground network of roots. This part of the plant can be found in many parts of the world, particularly in Southeast Asia and China, as well as in parts of Japan, Austria, Latin America, Jamaica, and Africa. From ancient times, ginger played a very large part in food and traditional medicine, mainly in the Indian subcontinent, being sought after for its medicinal merits. The medicinal properties of ginger have been acknowledged for hundreds of years, thereby ranking it among the most used spices in different cuisines across the globe. It is not only a popular condiment and flavouring agent but also serves as a garnish to many dishes. Health-wise, ginger is said to stimulate digestion and relieve bloating and gas, thus being good to individuals suffering from digestive disorders such as dyspepsia and colic. In addition to the digestive benefits, ginger has properties that can thin the blood and lower cholesterol levels, contributing to its role in the treatment and prevention of heart diseases. The main active components contained in ginger, specifically certain phenolic compounds, are responsible for these beneficial effects. Therefore, ginger is not only extolled for its unique flavour but also for its wide range of health benefits. Essential oils are crucial in maintaining health and wellness because they have strong antioxidant properties, and they

can neutralize bad free radicals within the body. These oils also have good antimicrobial properties.

A. Procedure

➤ *Ginger*

Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) is the scraped or unscraped rhizome of *Zingiber officinale* (*Zingiberaceae*). The BP drug is known as commerce as 'unbleached ginger'. *Z. officinale*, a reed like plant, is grown in many parts of the world, including Jamaica, China, India and Africa. Jamaic ginger, once the traditional pharmaceutical ginger, has been largely replaced by other sources.

➤ *History*

Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) has a history dating back more than 5,000 years in Southeast Asia, where this plant was considered a spice, medicine, and symbol of culture. Its first use was made by Austronesian people cultivating it across the Pacific and Indian Oceans during their voyages; the plant later became significant in the culinary and medicinal traditions of ancient India and China. Ayurvedic texts indicate that it could be used to improve digestion and to treat nausea and other such diseases, whereas traditional Chinese medicine considered it a warming herb suited for circulation or breathing disorders.

As the fame of ginger spread, it became a valuable commodity in the ancient world. Egyptians were using ginger both for cooking and for embalming purposes, and Greek and Roman physicians were hailing its medicinal properties. The Greek physician Dioscorides, living in the Roman Empire, authored a pharmacological text called *De Materia Medica* detailing its uses. In this era, ginger had also emerged as an expensive commodity traded through land routes like the famous Silk Road as the Middle Ages began in Europe, ginger became more and more popular, everyone using it when they could afford to have it abundantly available in every noble kitchen, used in spiced dishes or desserts. Because of its substantial cost, it was highly valued, second only to black pepper as the most expensive spice of the medieval era. During the Age of Exploration in the 15th and 16th centuries, European colonizers brought ginger to the New World. The tropical weather of the Caribbean proved an ideal climate for this spice. Nowadays, ginger comes from Jamaica among other main producers around the world. The production of ginger in the Americas satisfied much of the increased demand for the spice. By the 18th and 19th centuries, ginger had become staple spice in kitchens throughout Europe and North America. It was also added to drinks, where in the mid-19th century, ginger ale became a successful beverage.

In modern times, the cultivation of ginger spans tropical and subtropical regions around the world, where India is the largest producer. Modern agriculture in ginger encourages availability and diversity, allowing for innovations such as powdered ginger, essential oils, and extracts. It is one of the most integral staples in Asian, African, Middle Eastern, and Western cuisines, cherished for its warm, spicy flavour and versatility. Apart from being the

spice that adds flavour to some food, ginger also has medicines for digestion, nausea, inflammation, and colds, furthered by modern scientific research. From ancient healing traditions to modern wellness practices, the development of ginger epitomizes its timeless importance in human culture and health.

B. Cultivation and Collection

➤ Cultivation of Ginger

Ginger is a perennial herb grown mostly for its rhizomes. It grows well in tropical and subtropical regions. Optimal growth requires well-drained, fertile soils with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5.

➤ Propagation

Propagation is achieved vegetatively using healthy rhizome sections containing viable buds. Rhizome pieces are pre-treated with antifungal agents before planting to prevent soil-borne diseases.

• Planting:

This is done during the onset of monsoon season, that is, April to June. Mulching with organic matter such as green leaves is vital for conservation of moisture, suppression of weeds, and improvement in soil quality.

• Crop Management:

The crops need frequent weeding, irrigation, and earthing up for proper development of rhizomes. Organic and inorganic fertilizers are provided for its support, as well as pest and disease control measures to prevent infestation.

➤ Ginger Harvesting

• Harvesting

8–10 months after planting, as the leaves begin to yellow and wilt, which is an indicator that it is mature. In the case of fresh ginger, it may be picked up at a time of 6 months.

• Processing

Rooted rhizomes are dug out with a lot of care and cleaned to remove soil, sorted in terms of size and quality. The rhizomes have to be peeled, washed and sun-dried for dried ginger.

• Storage and Preservation

All these require proper storage conditions, where the drug should be kept under cool, dry, and well-ventilated conditions; otherwise, it may get fungal contamination or spoil.

The active constituents of ginger valued in pharmacognosy are gingerol and shogaol, which have quite important therapeutic properties like anti-inflammatory effect and anti-emetic. Cultivation practices followed in ginger are characterised by a high yield and good quality of rhizomes for use in medicine as well as cooking and food preparations. For specific methodologies and pharmacognostic details, refer to the appropriate chapters of Trease and Evans' Pharmacognosy.

➤ Chemical Constituents

Ginger contains acrid resinous substances (5-8%), volatile oil (1-3%), starch (5%), protein (2-3%) and sugars such as sucrose, raffinose and glucose. The chemical constituents from the Ginger rhizome can be divided into two classes, the pungent and the flavouring principles. The pungent substances, gingerols are 1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-5-hydroxyalken-3-ones with an S(+)-configurations, having side chain of different lengths. On the basis of the length of side chain, gingerols are designated as 3,4,5,6,8 and 10 gingerols. The other gingerol analogues are zingerone or [4(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-phenyl-butanone)], 6-shogaol, 4, 6,8 and 10-gingediols, methylgingediols, and their acetates, hexahydro curcumin, dimethyl hexahydro curcumin, gingerdiones, dehydrogingerdiones, capsaicin, and 6,4-dicloroflavan. Gingerols and shogaols are non-volatile phenolic compounds with different side-chains. Gingerol is formed in the plant from phenylalanine, malonate and hexanoate. The pungency of gingerol is destroyed by boiling with 2% potassium hydroxide. Gingerol is the main phenolic compound and once degraded gives shogaols, zingerone, and paradol. Zingerone and shogaols exist in small levels in fresh ginger and large amounts in dried or extracted products. Zingerone is also formed from the breakdown of gingerols at this time; this molecule is much less pungent with a spicy-sweet scent. Other sesquiterpenoids bisabolene, geranyl acetate, terpineol, terpenes, geraniol, alpha pinene, limonene, zigerbene, batabeasabolene, alpha paradol, farnesene, and monoterpenoid fraction (β -phelladrene, cineol, and citral) have smaller quantities in the product. Ginger contains a special group of compounds called diasyleptanoids, which includes gingerenone.

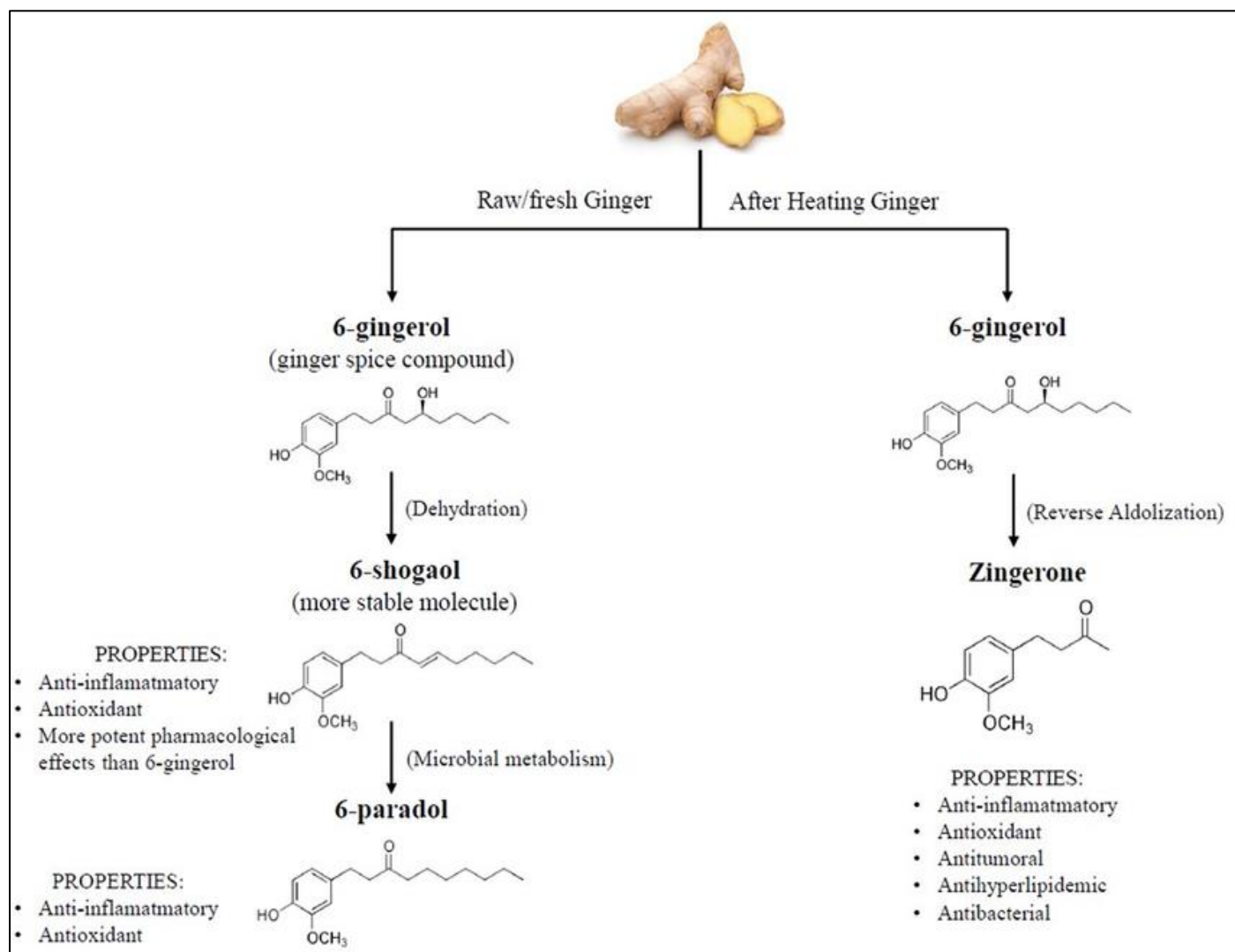


Fig 1 Bioactive Compound of Ginger

III. DISCUSSION

➤ Antioxidative Effect

Free radical scavengers, which can absorb free radicals generated in biological systems, are part of ginger's rich phytochemistry. Some of the free radicals produced during oxidation are crucial for the creation of energy. Increased free radical generation causes oxidative stress, which damages DNA. Extra antioxidant supplementation through dietary modules is necessary for organism life in such imbalanced conditions. Numerous *in vitro* and *in vivo* investigations have been conducted to investigate the antioxidative qualities of ginger and its constituents. Improving antioxidant status will undoubtedly strengthen the body's defenses against a variety of chronic illnesses. 6 Because ginger has an alpha, beta-unsaturated ketone moiety, it has demonstrated the most anti-inflammatory and antioxidant qualities. Ginger dramatically reduced induced lipid peroxidation and increased the levels of antioxidant enzymes and serum glutathione, according to animal models. Furthermore, animals given 1% w/w of ginger for four weeks while receiving 20 ppm of malathion saw a substantial reduction in malathion-induced lipid peroxidation. Glutathione (GSH), lindane-induced lipid

peroxidation, and the GSH-dependent enzymes glutathione peroxidase, glutathione reductase, and glutathione-S-transferase were all markedly decreased by concurrent dietary administration of ginger (1% w/w).

Zingerone may be useful in treating Parkinson's disease since it scavenged O₂- and OH and inhibited lipid peroxidation *in vitro*. The levels of glutathione peroxidase, glutathione reductase, superoxide dismutase, catalase, and glutathione in the hepatic tissue were all markedly reduced by ethanol. A one-month treatment of rats with 1% dietary ginger improved this impact, suggesting that ginger may have a preventive function against ethanol-induced hepatotoxicity. In cases of renal failure, ginger and Arabic gum had reno protective benefits. Their anti-inflammatory qualities, which reduce serum c-reactive protein levels, and antioxidant action, which lower lipid peroxidation markers, malondialdehyde levels, and raise renal superoxide dismutase activity, may be the cause of these protective benefits. In patients with acute and chronic renal failure, they may be useful adjuvant therapy to slow the course of the illness and postpone the need for renal replacement therapy.

➤ *Anti-Inflammatory Effect*

In ancient societies, medical doctors concentrated on herbs to improve the immune systems of human body. In many countries ginger and its products enhance the immune

system. Gingerol, Shogaol, and other structurally-related compounds in ginger block prostaglandin and leukotriene biosynthesis through the inhibition of 5-lipoxygenase or prostaglandin synthetase.

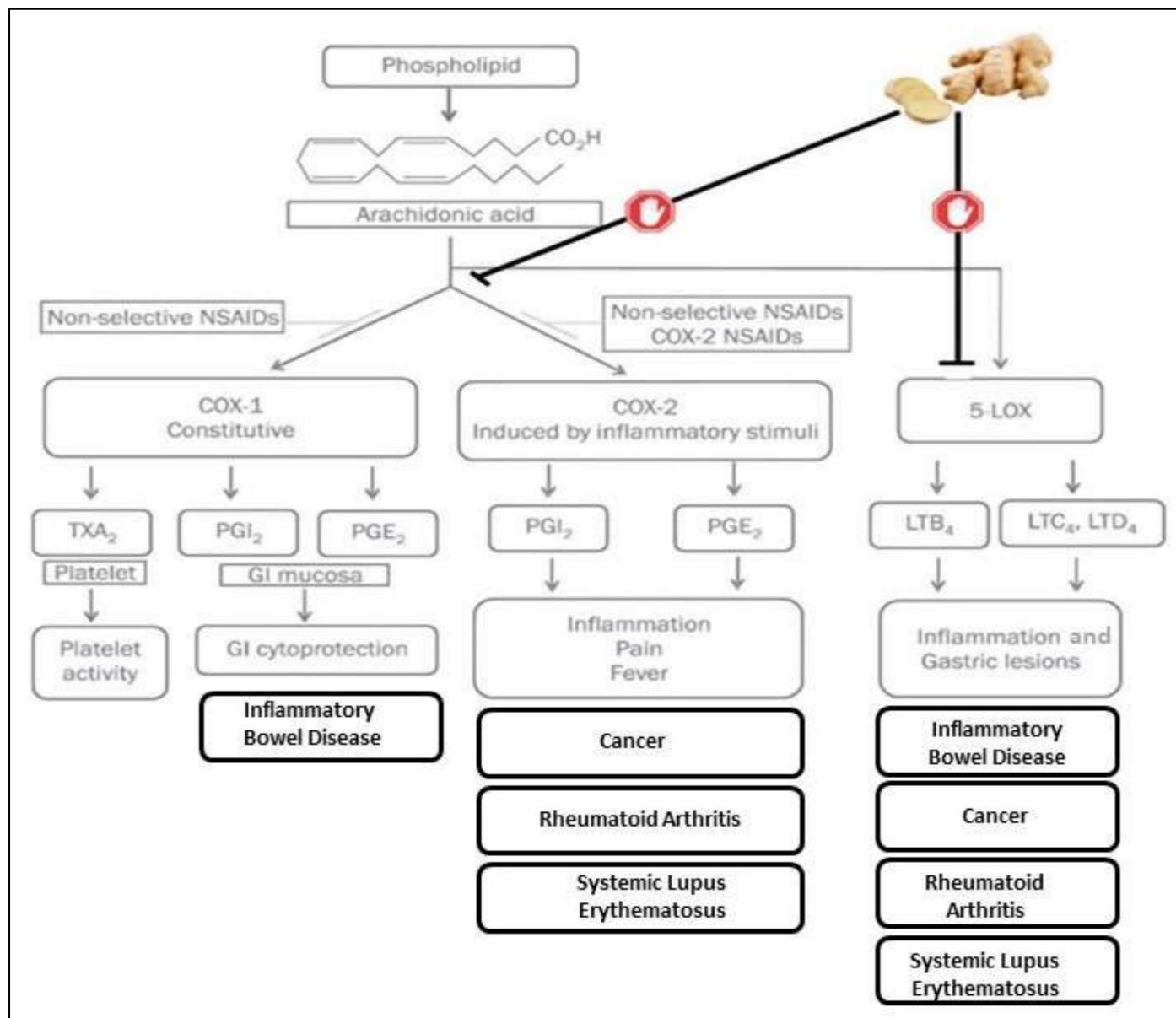


Fig 2 Ginger Action on Inflammation.

Besides, they can also suppress synthesis of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-1, TNF- α , and IL-8. In another study, revealed that in macrophages, shogaol can down-regulate inflammatory iNOS and COX-2 gene expression. It reported that rhizome hexane fraction extract of *Z. officinale* suppressed the overproduction of NO, PGE₂, TNF- α , and IL-1 β . Due to strong active compounds in ginger rhizome for suppressing allergic reactions, it may be applied for the treatment and prevention of allergic diseases. Demonstrated that ginger extract can decrease the overexpression of NF- κ B and TNF- α in liver-cancerous rats. The NF- κ B activation is involved with various inflammatory diseases, from which cancer, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, diabetes, allergy, asthma, arthritis, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's Disease,

osteoporosis, psoriasis, septic shock, and AIDS are included. It showed that gingerols can suppress the LPS-induced expression of COX-2 but shogaol-containing extracts does not affect the COX-2 expression. These findings suggest that significant compounds in ginger can inhibit PGE₂ production. Clinical trials of the activity of ginger in osteoarthritis patients have been contradictory in results. In one study, ginger extract was shown to have a statistically significant effect on the symptomatology of osteoarthritis of the knee. In another study, the effect of ginger on osteoarthritis was significant only in the first period of treatment. In gout as a rheumatic disease of joints, 6-shogaol has strong anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects and can be taken as a curative agent.

➤ *Other Health Benefits*

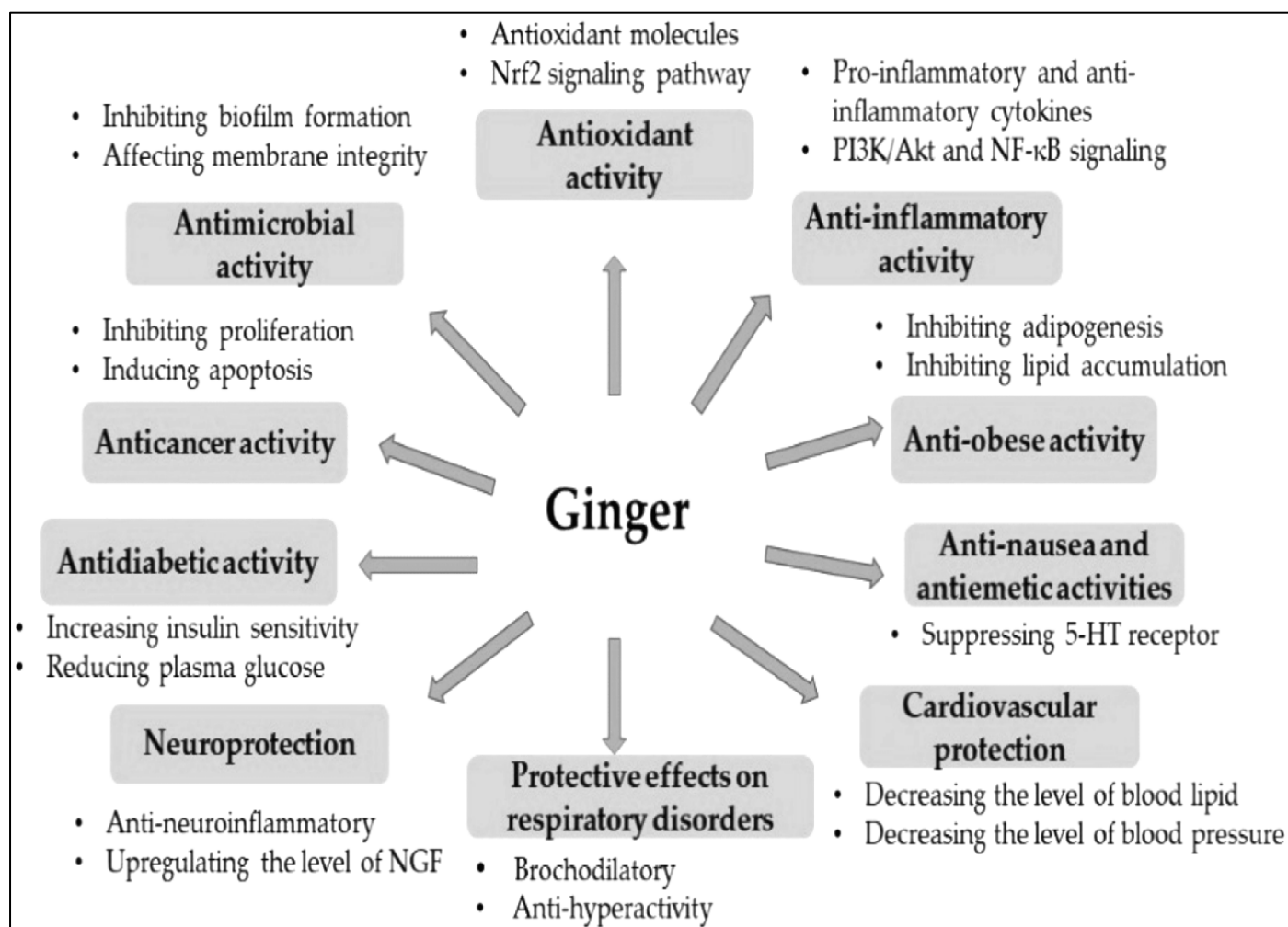


Fig 3 Health benefits of Ginger

➤ *In Diabetes and Hyperglycaemia*

Diabetes mellitus can be defined as a group of metabolic disorder, in which increase blood glucose level due to defect in insulin secretion or insulin action with impaired carbohydrate, lipid, and protein metabolism and significantly increase the morbidity and mortality rate. Diabetes is caused by increasing in level of production of reactive oxygen species as well as oxidative stress. Hyperglycaemic conditions prolonged in nature create predominance of oxidative stress over antioxidant defence systems leading to oxidative DNA damage, which possibly contributes to pancreatic beta-cell dysfunction.

Ginger has already been proved as an antidiabetic agent and helps in reducing hyperglycaemia and hypo-insulinemia conditions. Ginger may help in preventing the progression of type -2 diabetes through its hypoglycaemic effect and increased sensitivity to insulin. The hypoglycaemic potential of ginger were evaluated on streptozotocin induced diabetic rats by administrating 500mg/kg, intra-peritoneal route daily for 2month. Ginger was significantly effective in reversing the diabetic proteinuria and decreasing blood glucose level in the ginger treated diabetic rats compared with the control diabetic rates. This experiment suggested that 6-gingerol have antidiabetic effect by its ability to

enhance insulin sensitivity and hypolipidemic effect in type-2 diabetic animals. It is also helpful against oxidative stress hence useful in delaying or preventing complications of diabetes and aging.

➤ *Antithrombotic Effects*

Ginger has been documented to possess antithrombotic action because of its ability to inhibit aggregation of platelets and inhibit production of thromboxane-B2 in vitro studies. In addition, gingerdione inhibits the formation of 5-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid and prostaglandins-F2 from arachidonic acid. Shogaol looked to be a selective inhibitor of 5-HETE formation, whereas gingerol and favoured inhibiting cyclo-oxygenase.

➤ *Antimicrobial Effects*

Ginger is effective against gram positive and gram-negative bacteria as well as also inhibits the growth of pathogens like streptococcus pyrogens and streptococcus aureus, which causes various infections like skin infection, throat infection and other medical conditions.

➤ *Anticancer Effects*

Chemicals of Ginger are chemo-preventive dietary medium with inhibitory action against cyclo-oxygenase and

lypo-oxygenase activities, initiation of cell death, and antitumorogenic effects. Ginger prevents 5-lipo-oxygenase enzyme, which are the only food for prostate cancer cells die. Ginger induces cell death in leukemic, skin, lungs, kidney, and pancreatic cancer cells. The antineoplastic activity of ginger is attributed to the presence of certain chemical constituents such as 6-gingerol & 6-paradol, along with some other constituents. Hence, it can be safely used for cancer therapy. It is beneficial to inhibit constipation related cancer.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion the present review shows, the antioxidative and anti-inflammatory activity of ginger have shown great potential in enhancing human health. Many studies show that the presence of bioactive compound found in ginger such as gingerol, shogaol, paradol etc is used to neutralize free radicals and decrease oxidative stress, these effects have been connected to reducing inflammation. One of the conditions that cause the chronic disease mention above namely metabolic disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer, arthritis, etc. Ginger may be useful in preventing or managing condition related to chronic inflammation through the modulation of inflammatory pathway and reduction of oxidative damage. Ginger holds out a lot of promise for being a natural remedy toward improving human health.

It has well known health promoting outlook due to immunonutrition and anti-inflammatory effect it can treat a vast disease and cure. Because of an anti-inflammatory effect of this one, it reduces muscular ache after intense exercise, therefore, the anticancer aspect is also well known that have functional ingredients like Gingerols, Shogaol and paradol which can fight numerous cancers, angiogenesis and metastasis, cause initiation of cell death and delay progression in the cycle of cells.

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