



Drug and its types in Traditional Iranian Pharmacy

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Drug and food are owners of "matter", "form" and "quality". "Quality" is transient and of two types: "actor quality" which includes heat and coolness, and "passive quality" which includes humidity and dryness. "Absolute Drug" is that which when enters the human body acts through its quality as being the prevalent, while its matter and form are weak. "Absolute Food" is that which acts through its matter as being the prevalent, while its quality and form are weak. "Drug Food" is that which acts to a more extent through its quality and to a less extent through its matter. "Food Drug" is that which acts to a more extent through its matter but to a less extent through its quality.

"Zoolkhassieh" or "that which has specificity", acts through its prevailing specific inherent property. Zoolkhassieh is either in agreement with the temperament of the human body and removes the harmful effect of the poisons, or is not in agreement with the temperament and corrupts it. If Zoolkhassieh is in agreement with the temperament, it may be either an antidote and bezoars, food antidote, or a food drug antidote; and if it is not in agreement with the temperament, it may be either an absolute poison (fatal poison), a poisonous food, or a poisonous food drug. Also it may act through its quality and specific inherent property, which in this case may be either very strong and called poisonous drug, or may not be very strong and has purgative action. The purgative action is subdivided to three types: strong, medium and weak. Weak purgative is also called laxative.