Potential of Turmeric (Curcuma Longa) in Increasing Hemoglobin Levels: Systematic Literature Review

Siti Nadirah¹*, Donny Kristanto Mulyantoro², Sri Wahyuni³

¹Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang, Indonesia
²Balai Litbang Kesehatan Magelang, Indonesia
³Poltekkes Kemenkes Surakarta, Indonesia

* sitinadirah536@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

According to WHO, it is estimated that 30% of the world’s population has anemia, 27% of anemia occurs in developing countries and 6% occurs in developed countries. Anemia is a condition in which red blood cells do not meet the body's physiological needs. Untreated anemia can cause various risks to health. The handling of anemia by the government has not been maximized so that companion therapy is needed. Several studies have shown that turmeric has the potential to increase hemoglobin levels. The aim of this study was to determine the potential of turmeric (curcuma longa) to increase hemoglobin. The search method in this literature uses electronic data from Scopus, Pubmed, Elsevier, Willy and Google Scholar published from 2010-2020. The keywords used in the search were (1) "Curcuma Longa", (2) "hemoglobin", (3) "anemia". Articles that are irrelevant and do not meet the criteria are not used. The research was conducted on humans with this type of experimental research. Compiled with prism techniques for the review of title, abstract, full text, and methodology assessed for study eligibility. From all search results, there were 25 articles related to research on subjects with various blood loss diseases. 2 articles studied hemodialysis patients, 7 articles examined thalassemia patients, 3 NAFLD patients, 4 ulcerative colitis patients, 1 prehypertensive patient, 3 diabetes patients, 1 metabolic syndrome patient, 1 patient with elevated alanine transaminase (ALT), 2 patients with arthritis and 1 in patients with breast cancer. Based on the analysis of 25 articles related to turmeric research (curcuma longa) in subjects with various diseases related to blood loss, there are only 3 articles that show an increase in Hb levels after giving Curcuma Longa both in terms of effect size and from the p-value, These 3 articles were conducted by Jirawan Panachan, Hamid Reza and Orn Uma. So it can be concluded that Curcuma Longa Is Not Effective In Increasing Hemoglobin Levels.

Keywords: Anemia, Curcuma longa, Hemoglobin
BACKGROUND

The health status of a country can be seen from the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR). Based on data from the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2017, the MMR globally was 216 per 100,000 live births.1 The study states that from 2003 to 2009 in 115 countries, the most common causes of maternal death were bleeding, hypertension, and sepsis.2 Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in Indonesia is based on the results of the Inter-Census Survey (SUPAS) in 2015, namely 305 per 100,000 live births (KH).3

Anemia is a non-obstetric factor in AKI that is related to the health status of the mother. Different prevalence of anemia is found in various countries.4 According to WHO, it is estimated that 30% of the world's population has anemia, 27% of anemia occurs in developing countries and 6% occurs in developed countries.5 The results of Riskesdas in 2013, the incidence of anemia in Indonesia reached 21.7%.6 The incidence of anemia based on the stages of age 5-14 years is 24.4%, aged 15-24 years is 18.4%, aged 25-35 years is 16.9% and 33-44 years reaches 18.3%.7

Some government efforts in dealing with anemia are given based on pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies. One of the pharmacological therapies is the provision of blood-supplemented tablets.8 Blood-added tablets are given with one tablet containing 60 mg of ferrous sulfate and 0.25 mg of folic acid. For adolescents, the Fe tablet was given once per week, while 10 tablets were taken during menstruation. The recommendation for iron supplementation is an effort to prevent and overcome iron nutrition anemia.9

However, the government's efforts in overcoming the problem of nutritional anemia have not always gone well and effectively. Research by Briawan shows that giving Fe tablets to junior high and vocational high school students do not increase hemoglobin levels.9 Therefore, many people switch to using non-pharmacological therapies for treating anemia, including tomatoes, amla leaves, and turmeric.10,11

Meanwhile, another study conducted by Nella nor with the intervention of turmeric (Curcuma Longa) showed that the Hb value in experimental animals had increased.12 Studies conducted by Khoirina on experimental animals with the intervention of giving turmeric water (Curcuma Longa) showed no significant difference in Hb levels between groups.13

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Search strategy

This literature review uses articles from various databases such as Google Scholar, Pubmed, Scopus, and Willy, Elsivier Published 2010-2020. The keywords used were anemia, curcuma longa, hemoglobin.

Inclusion and exclusion

The inclusion criteria used in this study were, using Indonesian and English, the journals used were 2010-2020, RCT research, contained turmeric and hemoglobin, full text of the article. As for the exclusion criteria, the results of the study were incomplete data, meta-analysis.

Data Extraction

The authors extract the research articles obtained to be adjusted based on inclusion and exclusion criteria, and detect duplication of research articles. The results of the extraction of research articles are presented in a table containing the title of the article, the author's name, year, samples, and the intervention.
RESULTS
Search results for articles using the keywords curcuma longa, hematology from the Scopus database, PubMed, Google Scholar, Willy, Elsevier (n = 2.155). Articles were identified by duplication (n = 770). The population in the article did not focus on hemoglobin problems (n = 1385). Interventions are not appropriate / specific and do not address the impact of hemoglobin deficiency as well. Screening of articles according to title and abstract (n = 235). Articles excluded did not meet the inclusion criteria (n = 535). Article screening based on full text and eligibility criteria (n = 25). Full text articles issued on the grounds that they did not meet the inclusion criteria such as study design, population, outcome and type of intervention (n = 210).

Table 1. Summary of Selected Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Research methods</th>
<th>Research result</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Maryam pakfetrat, Iran (2014)&lt;sup&gt;14&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>The study design with RCT and study population was carried out on 48 hemodial patients aged 18-60 years. administration of 500 mg of turmeric powder</td>
<td>The Hb value in the study intervention 0.46 group was carried out for 8 weeks before 11.3 ± 2.1 after 11.5 ± 1.9 Hb on placebo administration before 10.9 ± 1.6 after 12.3 ± 1.5 (p = 0.425)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Ruchaneekorn W, Bangkok (2010)&lt;sup&gt;15&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Research design using RCT, the study was conducted on 21 patients with thalassemia, given turmeric intervention 250 mg 2x / day a total of 500 mg and 29 samples were given a placebo.</td>
<td>Hb value (g / L) in the intervention 27.0 group. The study was conducted for 12 week before 69 ± 3 after 69 ± 3 Hb values in healthy samples were 138 ± 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yunes Panahi, Iran (2019)&lt;sup&gt;16&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Design: RCT, N: 70 (control: 35, intervention 35) with non alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) patients. Giving 500 mg of turmeric</td>
<td>Hb value in the turmeric intervention 1.86 group before 15.26 ± 0.26 after 14.57 ± 0.28 Hb values in the placebo group before 14.88 ± 0.28 after 14.13 ± 0.18</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Alon Alang, Islael (2015)&lt;sup&gt;17&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Design: RCT, N: 50 patients with ulcerative colitis (control: 24, intervention 26) Giving 500 mg of turmeric</td>
<td>Value of Hb g / dL (%) in intervention: -12% control: 4%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>N (control: intervention)</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Narges Sadeghi Iran (2019)</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>70:35:35</td>
<td>Giving 1,500 mg of turmeric</td>
<td>Hb value on turmeric for 8 weeks before 13.2 ± 1.29 after 13.2 ± 1.18 on a placebo before 13.3 ± 2.03 after 13.2 ± 1.9 p = 0.941</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ryusei Uchio Jepang (2019)</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>90:45:45</td>
<td>Giving 1,500 mg of curcumin for 8 weeks before 13.2 ± 1.29 after 13.2 ± 1.18 on a placebo before 13.3 ± 2.03 after 13.2 ± 1.9 p = 0.941</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Li Xin China (2012)</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>100:50:50</td>
<td>Giving 300 mg of turmeric</td>
<td>Hb value (g / l) given placebo. Study for 0.02 3 months before 142.64 ± 12.04 after 147.78 ± 9.84 Before curcumin administration 141.54 ± 11.09 after 147.58 ± 9.82 P value = 0.992</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Somlak Thailand (2012)</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>240:170:170</td>
<td>Giving turmeric in capsule form</td>
<td>The results of the study for 9 months - showed the mean value of HbA1c control 16.02 with a minimum value of 5.2 and a maximum of 7.5 Intervention 5.60 with a minimum value of 4.9 and a maximum of 6.8 p value &lt;0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Yi-Sun Yang Taiwan (2014)</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>65:33:33</td>
<td>Giving 630 mg of curcumin</td>
<td>Value of HbA1c levels (%) in the male 0.45 group with the intervention. The results of the study for 12 weeks showed no significant change in the value of HbA1c levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sang-Wook Kim Korea (2013)</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>The study design used RCT, the study was conducted on 60 patients with elevated alanine transaminase (ALT). Turmeric powder that has been fermented with 1.0 g. the control group was given a placebo</td>
<td>The value of Hb (g / dL) levels in the 0.16 study for 12 weeks in the intervention group before 15.9 ± 1.1 after 15.9 ± 1.2 value in the control group before 15.6 ± 1.4 after 15.7 ± 1.3 p 0.21</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nyoman Kertia Indonesia (2011)</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Research design using RCT, the study was conducted on 73 osteoarthritis patients. 34 samples were given 3x25 mg of curcuminoid turmeric rhizome extract and 39 controls were given 3x25 mg of diclofenac sodium</td>
<td>The value of Hb levels in the study for 4 0.25 weeks in the group intervention before: 12.56 ± 1.25 after: 12.85 ± 1.37 control before: 13.06 ± 1.48 after: 12.94 ± 1.38 p 0.02</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Tatul. S German (2020)</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>The study design used RCT, the study was conducted on 150 women with advanced breast cancer. Samples received paclitaxel (80 mg /m2) plus curcumin (CUC-1 solution 300 mg.</td>
<td>The Hb (g / l) value of the study was 12 0.01 weeks in the control group 131.9 ± 13.76 in the intervention group</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Jeffrey Pradeep</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>The study design used RCT, the study was conducted on 90 patients with arthritis. Giving turmeric P1 = 1 g P2 = 0.5 g</td>
<td>The Hb g (%) value of the study was 84 days P0 = 14.00 ± 2.07 P1 = 14.593 ± 2.16 P2 = 14.33 ± 1.59 p = 0.693 P0&amp;P1 0.28 P1&amp;P2 0.13 P2&amp;P0 0.17</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Livia Alvarenga</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Design: RCT, N: 31 hemodialysis patients (control: 15, intervention 16) Giving 630 mg of turmeric 3 times a day P1: receive 100 mL of orange juice with 12 g of carrots and 2.5 g P2: receive the same juice without curcumin (carrots and oranges)</td>
<td>The results of research conducted for 3 months Hb value in the curcumin group before 11.0 ± 2.0 after 10.4 ± 1.6. the Hb value of the control group before 10.8 ± 1.3 after 10.0 ± 1.9 p = 0.30 0.07</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Churat Weeraphana</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Research design using RCT, the study was conducted on 20 patients samples 10 Thalassemic patients were given 250 mg of turmeric 2x / day in capsule form and 10 healthy samples were given a placebo. Niai Hb on control 141 ± 5 Hb value in the intervention group before 69 ± 3 After 69 ± 3 the results of the study for 12 months showed a value of p &gt; 0.01 17.4</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Esmat</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Design: RCT, N: 61 thalassemia patients (control: 31, intervention 30) Giving turmeric 500 mg</td>
<td>Results of the study for 12 weeks Hb value on placebo before 8.44 ± 2.03 after 8.56 ± 1.9 p value &gt; 0.05 0.007</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Elahe muhammad</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Design: RCT, N: 68 thalassemia thalassemia patients (control: 34, intervention 34) Giving turmeric 500 mg</td>
<td>Hb value in the intervention group before 8.39 ± 0.6 after 8.60 ± 0.51 Hb values in the placebo group before 8.44 ± 0.64 after 8.56 ± 0.62 value (p &gt; 0.05) 0.07</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Ahmad</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Research design with RCT conducted in thalassemia patients. 34 samples were given a placebo and 34 samples were given 500 mg of turmeric twice a day in capsule form The results of the study for 12 weeks of Hb value on turmeric administration before 8.39 ± 0.61 after 8.60 ± 0.51 Hb value on placebo before 8.44 ± 0.64 after 8.56 ± 0.62 p value &lt; 0.05 0.09</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Jirawan Panachan</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
<td>Design: RCT, N: 20 (10 healthy patients, 10 thalassemia patients) Giving turmeric 500 mg The control group was given curcuminoids- (M / F = 5/5, age 35 ± 3 Y / O) or vitamin E antioxidant cocktail (M / F = 4/6, age 34 ± 3 Y / O) and the control group was given vitamin E Hb value after administration for 12 months giving turmeric before 65.1 ± 3.1 after 70.3 ± 3.0 giving vitamin E before 71.0 ± 5.5 after 77.0 ± 5.8 p value = 0.01 1.45</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Orn Uma</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>The study design used an RCT conducted on 60 thalassemia patients. 30 samples were given curcumin 50 Results of the study for 15 weeks intervention group before 61.9 ± 2.3 after 63.9 ± 3.8 1.22</td>
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mg / kg / BW.
and the control group was given vitamin E 400 Iu / day in the control group
and the control group was given vitamin E 400 Iu / day before 65.9 ± 3.4 after 68.1 ± 3.0 p value <0.05
The study design using RCT research was conducted on 61 patients with UC (large intestine). In the intervention group given 1 turmeric capsule containing 150 mg, each sample was given capsules 3 times / day. Placebo 3x a day
Value of Hb levels for the first 8 weeks curcumin: 12.0 ± 2.3 placebo: 13.3 ± 2.2 p value 0.235
The results of the study for 4 weeks in the intervention group before: 7.8 ± 0.5 after: 7.5 ± 0.7 p value <0.05
The results of the study for 3 months in the intervention group before 7.59 ± 1.74 after 7.31 ± 1.75 control before 7.49 ± 1.75 after 9.00 ± 2.33 p = 0.013
The study design used 60 samples of diabetic patients, 30 samples were given turmeric powder therapy (2 g per day, 4 capsules, 500 mg each) while the control group was given metformin Study for 3 months in the intervention group before: 7.8 ± 0.5 after: 7.5 ± 0.7 value in the control group before: 7.9 ± 1.3 after: 7.4 ± 0.9 p value <0.05
Design: RCT, N: 80 patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). (control: 40, intervention 40) 500 mg of curcumin The results of the study for 8 weeks before 6.31 ± 1.62 after 5.53 ± 1.27 HbA1c values in the placebo group before 7.37 ± 1.33 after 7.53 ± 1.43 (p <0.001).
The study design used RCT, the study was conducted on 102 NAFLD patients. 50 samples were given 500 mg of turmeric orally twice a day and 52 control groups were given a placebo The results of the study were conducted for 8 weeks before 6.17 ± 1.37 after 5.95 ± 1.13 in the control group before 5.95 ± 1.13 after 5.77 ± 0.53 p value = 0.914
DISCUSSION
Turmeric (Curcuma Longa) is a family of Zingiberaceae and plants from Southeast Asia. This plant is often found in tropical areas such as Bangladesh, China, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Turmeric contains antioxidants that function to eradicate free radicals. Secondary antioxidants in turmeric are vitamin E and vitamin C. Secondary antioxidants are compounds that function to capture free radicals and prevent chain reactions so that greater damage does not occur. Turmeric contains 0.7 mg of vitamin C and 4.43 mg of vitamin E. Vitamin C or ascorbic acid needed in the body for men is 90 mg/day, women 75 mg/day, and a maximum of 2,000 mg/day. The importance of consuming vitamin C for adolescent girls, especially those experiencing menstruation. someone who is deficient in vitamin C has a 1.58 times greater risk of suffering from anemia than individuals with sufficient vitamin C intake. Meanwhile, for those who have anemia, vitamin E is responsible for an imbalance of antioxidants in the body. Vitamin E can end the process of free radicals and inhibits the production of new free radicals and limits the
destruction to the boundary of the cell membrane area, by transferring phenolic hydrogen to the perxyl free radicals of peroxidated polyunsaturated fatty acids. A study conducted by Li-Xin Na (2012) said that Curcuma Longa contains antioxidants that can protect cell mitochondria from oxidative stress, which causes an increase in hemoglobin levels. Oxidative stress results from excessive free radicals in the body, causing oxidative damage starting from the level of cells, tissues, organs, and the emergence of other diseases. Apart from antioxidants, hemoglobin levels can be caused by iron deficiency. For this reason, it is necessary to increase iron in increasing hemoglobin. Turmeric contains iron as much as 55.00 mg / 100 gram which functions to form hemoglobin where hemoglobin functions to carry oxygen throughout the body. The iron in turmeric is easily absorbed because turmeric is a non-heme type of iron in the form of the inorganic complex Fe3- to Fe2.

There are 3 very important roles of vitamins that are indirectly related to iron metabolism and erythropoiesis. These contents are Thiamine (0.058 mg/100g turmeric), Niacin (1.350mg/100g turmeric) and Pantothenic Acid / B5 (0.542 mg/ 100g turmeric). De ciency of these 3 vitamins results in anemia and usually occurs not in humans, but rather in animals. The need for thiamine for the body is proportional to the daily calorie intake as a coenzyme for enzymes that act on the oxidative process of phosphorylation of keto acids. Extensive in most animal and plant-based foods. The essential amino acid tryptophan can be converted into niacin (NAD+) where every 60 mg of tryptophan can produce 1 mg of niacin. One of the turmeric content that still affects anemia is zinc (Zn) which contains 4.50mg / 100g of turmeric. The occurrence of zinc deficiency affects iron metabolism because here zinc functions as a cofactor in the retinol oxidation reaction. Low plasma retinol concentrations are associated with decreased plasma iron and hemoglobin. Vitamin B6 is needed in protein metabolism which is also required for heme synthesis in the formation of hemoglobin. Copper is also related to the oxidation process of iron for the formation of hemoglobin.

In addition to the vitamins above, the protein content of 6.8 grams / 100 in turmeric also affects the increase in Hb levels. The protein in turmeric functions in transporting iron in the body. Lack of protein in the body causes iron transport to be inhibited and leads to anemia. Cellular protein metal- binding proteins that bind/chelate prooxidant minerals such as iron and copper and other metals. Metal-binding protein prevents the presence of Fe2- ions for the formation of hydroxyl radicals (OHo). Molecules that are included as metal-binding proteins are transferrin which functions as a protein transport of iron, ferritin functions as a protein storage protein, metallothionein functions as a binding agent for minerals and other heavy metals (Zn / Cu / Cd / Hg), and ceruloplasmin which functions as a transport protein and copper storage. Several studies have shown there is no increase in hemoglobin levels with turmeric intervention, this is in unced by several things such as diseases associated with blood loss such as hemodialysis, NAFLD, UC, thalassemia, prehypertension, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, patients with elevated ALT, arthritis, cancer. When the blood is lost, the iron balance in the body is disturbed, which causes anemia. 1 ml of blood loss will result in the body losing as much as 0.5 mg of iron which can cause a negative iron balance.

Research conducted by Maryam on hemodialysis patients for 8 weeks with a dose of 500 mg showed a value of p = 0.425 and (effect size 0.46). The administration of turmeric is not effective in increasing hemoglobin levels. The stoichiometric quality of turmeric can bind almost all of the iron that can be absorbed. and cause iron deficiency. Curcumin is the active ingredient in turmeric that can bind ferrous iron. Curcumin suppresses the synthesis of hepcidin, a peptide involved in iron balance. HD patients have abnormal oxidant production and damaged antioxidant production.
evidenced by Livia's research that giving turmeric to hemodialysis patients does not increase the value of Hb levels.²⁷

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is the most common chronic liver disease that is closely associated with dyslipidemia, metabolic syndrome, and cardiovascular disease.³⁷ NAFLD causes impaired duodenal iron absorption associated with lower duodenal ferroportin expression and elevated hepcidin levels.⁵¹ NAFLD is common in patients with diabetes and obesity.⁵²

Ulcerative colitis patients for 8 weeks had no effect on Hb levels. Several other studies have shown a decrease in Hb levels after being given turmeric intervention. UC patients are characterized by inflammation and mucosal ulceration.³⁴,¹⁸ This inflammation causes an increase in hepcidin which in turn inhibits iron absorption from the intestinal lumen.⁵²

In thalassemia, iron absorption becomes poor due to the frequent transfusion process. The hepatic peptide hepcidin inhibits the entry of iron into plasma through several mechanisms and regulates iron homeostasis in the body. In β- thalassemia, ineffective erythropoiesis causes a compensatory decrease in hepcidin expression and consequently results in increased intestinal iron absorption.²⁹,³⁰,⁵³

In Sepideh's study, it was shown that giving turmeric in capsule form (500mg) can reduce HbA1c levels. Hemoglobin A1c is a small component of hemoglobin HbA1c used to monitor blood glucose in diabetic patients. Hemoglobin is found in red blood cells that carry oxygen throughout the body. When diabetes is not controlled, sugar will accumulate in the blood and combine with hemoglobin so that it becomes glycated.³⁷

The existence of differences in subjects can affect the value of Hb levels. In theory, it is revealed that certain body conditions or diseases can affect the Hb level in each sample. In addition to disease factors, several studies were also influenced by differences in the characteristics of research subjects of each article, the duration of intervention or administration, the number of times the frequency of turmeric was given, the amount of turmeric given, the form of turmeric dosage given in each article.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of 25 articles related to turmeric research (Curcuma Longa) in subjects with various diseases related to blood loss, there are only 3 articles that show an increase in Hb levels after giving Curcuma Longa both in terms of effect size and from the p-value. These 3 articles were conducted by Jirawan Pananchan, Hamid Reza and Orn Uma. So it can be concluded that Curcuma Longa is not effective in increasing hemoglobin levels.

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