

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**HERBAL USAGE IN CANCER MANAGEMENT  
IN TRADITIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY  
UNIT OF PUTRAJAYA HOSPITAL**

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**Dissertation submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirement  
for the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons.)**

**Faculty of Pharmacy**

**2012**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to thank my supervisor, Professor Aishah Adam for her guidance in completing this research paper. Thank you for your time, thoughts and information which helped me to complete this research study. I would also like to thank En Muhd Nor Hazli Nordin, Pharmacist Officer of Putrajaya Hospitals who also helped me in collecting data and for his guidance for the research purpose. Without their help. I would not have any chance in completing this research study.

Special thanks to my parents, Abdullah bin Mohd and Tinah bt Arifin, to my siblings, families, lecturers of Faculty Pharmacy UiTM, staffs of Traditional and Complementary Unit of Putrajaya Hospital, and all of my friends for their support and help throughout this challenging project.

Finally thanks to all who have taken part either directly or indirectly in completing this research paper, thank you so much and may God bless all of you.

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## ABSTRACT

The use of traditional and complementary medicine has been rapidly increasing in developed and developing country including Malaysia. One of the widely used treatment in traditional and complementary medicine is herbal oncology. Putrajaya Hospital was one of the hospital Malaysia implement herbal oncology in traditional and complementary medicine unit. The aim of this study is to determine the percentage of cancer patients in TCM unit of Putrajaya Hospitals who took herbs in their cancer management, what types of herbs that are used, factors that influence the usage of herbs, the demography of patients with what kind of cancer who also use herbs in cancer management, as well as the role of pharmacist in providing information and advice to cancer patients on the usage of herbs in cancer management. This is a retrospective study and data on cancer patients who were referred to the TCM unit of Putrajaya Hospital was collected using data collection forms.. Data was collected from hospital records from January-October 2011. Female cancer patients made up 68% of the total number of cases studied. 87% of cancer patient in Putrajaya Hospitals were treated with herbs in TCM unit. The main reasons for using herbs in cancer management is to enhance patients' quality of life, to elicit anticancer effects of the herbs, to minimize symptoms of cancer, to relieve pain and also to reduce patients' side effects following conventional treatment which included chemotherapy. The main role of the pharmacist at TCM unit is to dispense the formulated herbs, ensured proper labeling of herbal preparations, instructions for usage, monitoring and counseling cancer patients and also were responsible for assessing patients' compliance.

Keywords: herbal usage in cancer, TCM unit of Putrajaya Hospital