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Diabetes therapy in a cashew nutshell

DC | T. Sudheesh | 12th Aug 2013

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Alappuzha: The Amrita University, along with Oxford University and San Diego State University, has launched a special research to develop a drug from the extract of cashewnut shells which could be a boon to diabetes patients. The research was launched under the special instruction of Mata Amritanandamayi, as diabetes cases are higher in the southern states.

According to Dr Bipin Nair, Dean, Amrita School of Biotechnology, the research is going on actively under the department and the drug is expected to hit the markets soon. He said the drug would be cost-effective. Dr Nair, who is heading the research team, said the initiative came out of the logic of traditional wound healing methods which "our forefathers used to practise".

"We've been looking at the potential of anacardic acid, found in the shell of cashewnuts for quite some time. Kollam district is the land of cashewnuts and that makes our work easier.

We believe that anacardic acid in the shells have a fast healing power and it could be of immense potential in healing wounds and blisters in diabetes patients", he said, stressing that diabetes was a multi-system disorder that affected the wound-healing process. "Physiological changes in tissues and cells may delay healing. Given these factors, such researches are important ", Dr Nair said.

Dr Nair said the team had put its entire efforts into the research so that the medicine could be made available in the market in a most cost-effective manner, as early as possible.

Diabetes cases are higher in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, than in other states, according to the result of a countrywide blood test campaign conducted under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Strokes, by the Health Ministry.

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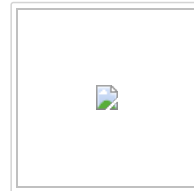
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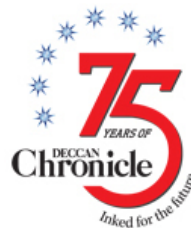
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