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# **ABSTRACTS**

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### **ILAJ BIT TA'LEEQ IN CHRONIC PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE**

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The Unani System of Medicine is based on the concept of equilibrium and balance of natural body humours (blood, bile, black bile and phlegm). The imbalance in the quality and quantity of these humours leads to diseases whereas restoration of this balance maintains health of a person. Irsale Alaq (Leech or Hirudo therapy) is a kind of Ilaj bit Tadbir which was practiced traditionally by the Unani scholars for local evacuation of morbid humours and systemic correction of humoral imbalance. It has been successfully practised by Greeko-Arab physicians in the management of musculoskeletal diseases, gynaecological disorders, chronic skin diseases, etc. The aim of this study is to explore the effectiveness of clinical relationship between leech therapy and gynecological disorders specially Chronic Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). This review was based on the collection of authentic information from the Unani classical text books, scientific journals and databases such as MEDLINE, PubMed, and Google Scholar. The saliva of leech contains more than 100 pharmacologically active biological substances like hirudin, hyaluronidase, eglins, vasodilators, anesthetics, antibacterial, collagenase etc. When leech injects these biological substances in to body tissues, it exerts several effects in the body like bloodletting, thrombolytic, anti-inflammatory and immune-modulating effects. Therefore leech therapy is useful in inflammatory diseases, endometrial hyperplasia, ovarian cysts, uterine fibroids, viral and bacterial infections. According to the Unani doctrine, leech therapy works on the principles of Tanqiyae Mawad (evacuation of morbid humours) and Imalae Mawad (diversion of humours). Based on this holistic approach, Unani physicians have widely used this therapeutic regimen successfully in the uterine and ovarian diseases. The effectiveness of this therapy may also be attributed to the Mussakin (sedative) and Muhallil (anti-inflammatory) actions of saliva of leeches. Therefore, leech therapy can effectively be used in the management of chronic PIDs.

**Keywords:** Hirudo therapy, gynecological disorders, biological substances, anti-inflammatory