

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CLINICAL AND THERAPEUTIC APPLICATIONS OF *Nigella* IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL INFECTIOUS DISORDERS BESIDES SCHISTOSOMIASIS

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Sir

The recent article by EL SHENAWY *et al.* was highly interesting⁴. The authors have clearly demonstrated the efficacy of *Nigella* as an effective agent against Schistosomiasis. The findings of EL SHENAWY *et al.* are highly important as they further add to the rapidly expanding role of *Nigella* in the management of tropical infections.

For instance, *Nigella* has recently been shown to be effective against other helminths such as *Hymenolepis nana*³. It performs this function by augmenting host immunity. Similar protective effects are seen against other worms such as *Trichinella spiralis* and *Aspiculuris*². The protective effects of *Nigella* are not just limited to helminths. For instance, *Nigella* demonstrates anti-parasitic effects against infectious agents such as *Plasmodium* (malaria) as well as viruses such as Cytomegalovirus^{1,5}.

The above examples clearly illustrate the massive therapeutic potential of *Nigella* in the management of tropical parasitic infections. Researchers should focus on further studies to evaluate the efficacy of *Nigella* against other tropical parasitic as well as viral infections.

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