

JALAPA

Scientific name: *Operculina macrocarpa* (L.) Urb. ⁽¹⁾ /
Ipomoea purga Hayne

Family: Convolvulaceae ^(1,2).

Popular names: Jalapa, jalapa-do brazil, batata-de-purga ⁽¹⁾.

Used parts: Roots.

Habitat: It grows in South and Central America, Mexico and Jamaica ⁽²⁾.

Chemical composition:

- Glycoretines: convulvin (55%, non-ether-soluble), jalapin (7%, ether soluble), convulvin and jalapin are mixtures made up of resinous glycosides of hydroxyl-fatty acids (C12 to C16) with oligosaccharides, their hydroxyl groups esterified to the fatty acid esters, with, among others, acetic acid, propionic acid, iso-butyric acid, alpha-methylbutyric acid, tiglic acid and iso-valeric acid or n-valeric acid. ^(2,3)
- Polysaccharides: starch ^(2,3).

Indications:

- **Jalapin resin is used for constipation, colic and pain in the intestinal region, dysentery, colitis and rheumatism** ⁽²⁾.
- **Jalapin Tuber is considered to be obsolete. In the past, it was used as laxative and purgative** ⁽²⁾

Contra indications:

- **Administration is not advisable during pregnancy, particularly because of possible teratogenic effect.** ⁽²⁾

Dose:

- **Jalapin resin, daily dosage 1,5 g drug; maximum single dosage: 0,1 to 0,3 g drug** ⁽²⁾
- **Jalapin tuber, daily dosage maximum 4,5 g drug; single dosage; maximum 1,5 g drug** ⁽²⁾

References:

1. LORENZI, H. MATOS, A. F. J. **Plantas medicinais no Brasil**. R. R. São Paulo : Donnelley América Latina, 2002, 45-46 p.
2. MEDICAL ECONOMICS COMPANY. **PDR for herbal medicines**. 2. ed. Montvale: Copyright, 2000.
3. TESKE, M.; TRENTINI, A. M. M. **Herbarium Compêndio de Fitoterapia**. 3. ed. Curitiba: Herbarium, 1997.