



**BARBERRY AS THERAPEUTIC AGENT IN MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY: A  
REVIEW**

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**ABSTRACT**

Advances in the field of alternative medicine have promoted the use of various natural products. Barberry is such product which has innumerable benefits in the field of medicine which has procured appreciable importance in clinical research. Barberry plant alkaloid, possesses various therapeutic properties. Barberry has been reported to be effective against a medly of disease. Berberine has demonstrated significant anti-bacterial activity Berberine's most common clinical uses include: diarrhea, intestinal parasites, and ocular trachoma infections. Herbal extracts have been successfully used in dentistry as tooth cleaning and antimicrobial plaque agents.

**Keywords: Alternative therapy, Dentistry, Barberry, Berberis Vulgaris**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Berberis Vulgaris* prefers light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils and can grow in heavy clay and nutritionally poor soils. The plant prefers acid, while can also grow in neutral and basic (alkaline) soils. It can grow in semi- shade (light woodland) or no shade. It requires dry or moist soil. It is a thorned, deciduous shrub growing up to 3 meters (10 feet) in height, common to most areas of Central and Southern Europe and the Northeastern regions of the United States. It is generally

distributed over the greater part of Europe, Northern Africa and temperate Asia.

**Name of the Medicinal Plant: *Berberis Vulgaris***

**Family: *Berberidaceae***

**Common Name: Barberry**

Berberis is the Arabic name of the fruit that signify a shell and many authors believe that the name is derived from this word because the leaves are glossy like the inside of an oyster shell. The name berbery seems to have been first applied to this fruit by Averroes (an Arabic writer on medicines) is