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#### Commentary

# Natural Remedies for Heavy Metal Detoxification: Exploring Herbal Supplements and Traditional Chelators

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# DESCRIPTION

Heavy metal toxicity is a growing concern in today's world, with exposure coming from various sources, including industrial pollution, contaminated food, and environmental factors. While conventional medical treatments, such as chelation therapy, are effective in managing heavy metal poisoning, many individuals are increasingly seeking natural remedies to support detoxification. This article explores herbal supplements and traditional remedies with potential chelating properties, focusing on the benefits, mechanisms, and considerations of using these natural options. Chelation is a process by which certain substances bind to heavy metals in the body, facilitating their excretion through urine or faeces. This process is critical in managing heavy metal toxicity, as it helps reduce the burden of these harmful substances on the body. As a result, there is growing interest in natural chelators that may offer safer alternatives or complementary support. Cilantro, also known as coriander, is a popular culinary herb that has gained attention for its potential chelating properties. Research suggests that cilantro can help mobilize heavy metals, particularly lead and mercury, from tissues into the bloodstream, where they can be excreted. Cilantro contains compounds such as flavonoids and phenolic acids, which may assist in binding heavy metals. Chlorella is a type of green algae renowned for its high nutrient content and detoxifying properties. It has been studied for its ability to bind with heavy metals and aid in their elimination from the body. Chlorella contains chlorophyll, which has been shown to support the detoxification of heavy metals by binding to them and promoting their excretion. Garlic is not only a culinary staple but also a powerful medicinal herb with potential chelating effects. It has been associated with the detoxification of heavy metals and the enhancement of overall health. Garlic contains sulfur compounds, such as allicin, which may help bind to heavy metals like lead and cadmium, facilitating their removal from the body. Additionally, garlic supports liver health, which

is vital for detoxification. Fresh garlic can be consumed raw or cooked in meals. Garlic supplements are also widely available for those who prefer concentrated forms. Spirulina is a bluegreen algae packed with nutrients and antioxidants, making it a popular supplement for overall health. Some studies suggest it may also have chelating properties. Spirulina has been shown to bind to certain heavy metals and reduce their toxicity. Its high antioxidant content can help combat oxidative stress associated with heavy metal exposure. Spirulina is available in powder, tablet, and capsule forms. It can be mixed into smoothies, juices, or consumed as a supplement. Milk thistle is renowned for its liver-protective effects and has been traditionally used to support detoxification processes in the body. The active compound, silymarin, has antioxidant properties that help protect liver cells from damage and support their regeneration. A healthy liver is essential for effective detoxification of heavy metals. Milk thistle is available in capsules, extracts, and teas. It can be used as a supplement to support liver health during detoxification. Natural remedies such as cilantro, chlorella, garlic, spirulina, and milk thistle offer promising potential for supporting heavy metal detoxification. By understanding their mechanisms and incorporating them into a holistic approach to health, individuals can empower themselves in the battle against heavy metal exposure. However, it is essential to consult healthcare professionals and prioritize safety when exploring these natural options. As awareness of heavy metal toxicity continues to grow, natural remedies may play a valuable role in promoting health and well-being in affected communities.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

None.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The author states there is no conflict of interest.

Received:	01-October-2024	Manuscript No:	ipjhmct-24-21860
Editor assigned:	03-October-2024	PreQC No:	ipjhmct-24-21860 (PQ)
Reviewed:	17-October-2024	QC No:	ipjhmct-24-21860
Revised:	22-October-2024	Manuscript No:	ipjhmct-24-21860 (R)
Published:	29-October-2024	DOI:	10.21767/2473-6457.24.5.47

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**Citation** Geska A (2024) Natural Remedies for Heavy Metal Detoxification: Exploring Herbal Supplements and Traditional Chelators. J Heavy Met Toxicity Dis. 09:47.

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