

**(REPRODUCTION FROM GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER - MAY 21, 1998)**

# **WILL THIS HERB BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR BLOOD TRANSFUSION?**

It all started with a man's yearning desire to acquire more knowledge about and come to terms with the framework of his spiritual well being. In Oyo State of Nigeria, a spiritual healer had what he termed a divine revelation at the seaside on the availability of some natural herbs to help man overcome any kind of ailment or disease he may be afflicted with.

Mr. Olajuwon Okubena's interest in metaphysics was the driving force which compelled him to seek knowledge of those who had it. The thirst was quenched in December 1993, when he was introduced to Chief Anthony Kolawole Awoyemi, the Osi-Sobalaju of Ibadan, who had his clinic, Samaritan Spiritual Healing Home, at SW8/904, Niger West, Challenge, Ibadan, Oyo State of Nigeria.

Okubena, a successful chartered accountant, who retired as an executive director with the firm of Management Consultants, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co in 1983, had to become an acolyte of Chief Awoyemi. And in the course of Chief Awoyemi's practice, he observed that no matter the nature of the ailment or disease, be it headache or leukemia, even heart and blood related problems, the same prescription and treatment was given. His interest was aroused in the herbal medication which was dispensed in a powdery water solution and taken as a drink.

Chief Awoyemi, who retired as a laboratory technician at the University College Hospital, (UCH), Ibadan, recalls how in 1978 he came about the formula.

"I was a spiritual healer even while at UCH. But, in 1973, while I was at the seaside, I had a revelation. In that revelation, passages from some portions of the Bible were revealed to me, that these herbs as they were stated therein, were to be used in helping humanity as remedies for sicknesses and diseases. The Bible passages are: Ezekiel 47:12 which states that: "Along the bank of the river on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month because their water flows from the sanctuary. The fruit will be for food and their leaves for medicine.

And Revelations 22:2 says: "In the middle of its street and on either side of the river was the tree of life which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Later, I went on a spiritual retreat on a mountaintop and again while praying, the same Bible passages were revealed to me. According to Chief Awoyemi, consequent upon these revelations, "in 1976, I incorporated the use of these herbs into my practice. However, before these revelations, I only practised spiritual healing but since then I used these herbs exclusively in treating diverse ailments, such as anaemia related diseases; Sickle cell anaemia, leukemia, multiple myeloma, even headache, heart and blood-related problems"

Curiosity and aroused interest in the potency of a single preparation for the treatment of a myriad of diseases compelled Mr. Okubena to bring the formula down to Lagos for possible laboratory analyses.

And what was to be an ordinary laboratory analysis unleashed a string of scientific analysis. First, a clinical trial was opted for. And the trial process was conducted at Golden Heart Hospital, 410 Ikorodu Road, Ojota, Lagos. Its medical director, Dr. Charles Obinwanor, by virtue of his training, was at first skeptical of the formula but he nevertheless decided to try it out.

An ecstatic Dr. Charles testified to the efficacy of the "blood normalising" formula: "Quite often in the past, fatigue was my problem but after using the herbal blood tonic, I discovered I'm now invigorated, bouncing with vitality. Also, I have found the formula to be diuretic promoting the excretion of urine as well as being a sedative.

After his experience with the formula, anaemic patients were sought for to test the efficacy of the herbal blood tonic.

However, before embarking on its use, volunteers were sponsored for a blood count (haematological test).

Later, spanning a week, the product was administered in a dosage of three tablespoonfuls three times daily. On completion of the treatment, they were requested to go back for another blood count.

## CLINICAL TRIAL RESULTS CHART

| Name of Patient | Age | Diagnosis               | Date before Therapy | HB/PCV V                 | Post Therapy Date  | HB/PCV Post Therapy               | % Increase in HB |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| A               | 4   | Severe Anaemia          | July 04, 1997       | HB - 1.5g%<br>PCV - 4.5% | July 25, 1997      | HB - 10.3 gm/100ml<br>PCV - 38.8% | 586.6%           |
| B               | 24  | Severe Anaemia          | August 20, 1997     | HB - 6.8                 | August 28, 1997    | HB - 12.3 gm %                    | 77.9%            |
| C               | 22  | Enteric Fever & Anaemia | September 29, 1997  | HB - 6.9                 | October 06, 1997   | HB - 11.8 gm %                    | 71.01%           |
| D               |     | Malaria & Anaemia       | August 08, 1997     | HB - 5.5                 | August 19, 1997    | HB - 9.3gm %                      | 69.09%           |
| E               |     | Malaria & Anaemia       | September 23, 1997  | HB - 5.9                 | September 30, 1997 | HB - 8.9gm %                      | 50.85%           |
| F               | 54  | Anaemia                 | September 07, 1997  | HB - 9.6                 | September 13, 1997 | HB - 12.6 gm%                     | 31.25%           |
| G               | 30  | Sickle Cell Anaemia     | October 20, 1997    | HB - 8.7                 | October 29, 1997   | HB - 9.3 gm%                      | 6.89%            |

"Basic laboratory research studies have confirmed that *Jubi Formula* is very effective, not only in restoring haematocrit level quickly but it also has effect on the immune system."

Going by laboratory reports, it is claimed that "*Jubi Formula* has the potential to be a substitute for blood transfusion because of the rapidity of restoring the blood levels. Research studies show that within 24 hours of administering this compound, the packed cells volume (PCV) is increased by as much as 15 per cent, even under very serious challenging disease conditions."

Not satisfied with this result, an explanation of the scientific analysis was sought.

Then the formula was taken to a teaching hospital in Lagos for proper analysis and verification of claims.

In July, 1997, a pharmaceutical product analysis report on the herbal blood tonic, using physico-chemical methods of analysis, was conducted by "UNILAG Consultancy

Group, the School of Pharmacy, College of Medicine, of the University of Lagos, (CMUL), Idi-Araba, and gave its qualitative tests of the product to include: *Carbohydrates, proteins, tannins, saponins, iron and coumarins.*

The remarks of the analyst indicate: "The sample of *Jubi Formula* contains the above listed constituents, some of which must have been responsible for the treatment of the ailment claimed by the manufacturers, especially anaemia. There is no alkaloid."

Still, on further analysis, *Jubi Formula* was subjected to scientific analysis at the biochemistry department of the college to ascertain the claims made on the product, particularly to test its effectiveness in treating such diseases as leukemia, sickle cell anaemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

The laboratory analysis, which lasted two weeks and was entitled: "Abstracts of Clinical Trial Reports: Studies on Induced Anaemia in Rats and Therapeutic Efficacy of an Herbal Blood Tonic (*Jubi Formula*)" is here presented.

"This project examined the effectiveness of *Jubi Formula* in the treatment of trypanosomiasis ( a disease caused by the presence of parasitic protozoan of the genus-Trypanosoma), also referred to as "sleeping sickness."

One of the common symptoms of trypanosomiasis is high rate of respiration with an increase in oxygen consumption. Blood count for number of parasites per region is used in this study as an indicator of any possible effect of the tonic on trypanosomal infection. The effect of this drug was determined using three sets of mice. These are uninfected mice (control II), mice infected with trypanosomiasis but not treated with the tonic (control I) and mice infected and treated with the tonic.

According to the report: "It was found that the mice that are infected but not treated showed the high activity while the set that is neither infected nor treated showed the lowest activity of trypanosoma. The mice infected but treated have the activity close to the uninfected mice (control II). The observation of the level of activity in the infected and treated mice which lies between that of infected and untreated (control I) and uninfected (control II) shows that *Jubi Formula* has some relieving effect on trypanosomiasis in mice."

The report goes on : "Although *Jubi Formula* was unable to arrest the growth of *T. brucei* (*Trypanosoma brucei*) in Group A rats, it nevertheless, was able to increase the red cell count, haemoglobin and haematocrit and thus easily combat anaemia which is induced by *T. Brucei*. It also has a positive effect on the general immune system."

The formula, the report says, "is hereby recommended instead for the treatment of general anaemia and other abnormalities in blood cell production."

A graph to explain this and the time course effect of *Jubi Formula* is shown above. In the graphs above, the normal control mice is Group A and they are uninfected. Group B is infected and left untreated, while Group C is infected and treated with *Jubi Formula*. From the graph, it can be seen that the group that is infected and treated is not too different from the control that was uninfected. In essence, Group C approximates the control Group A.

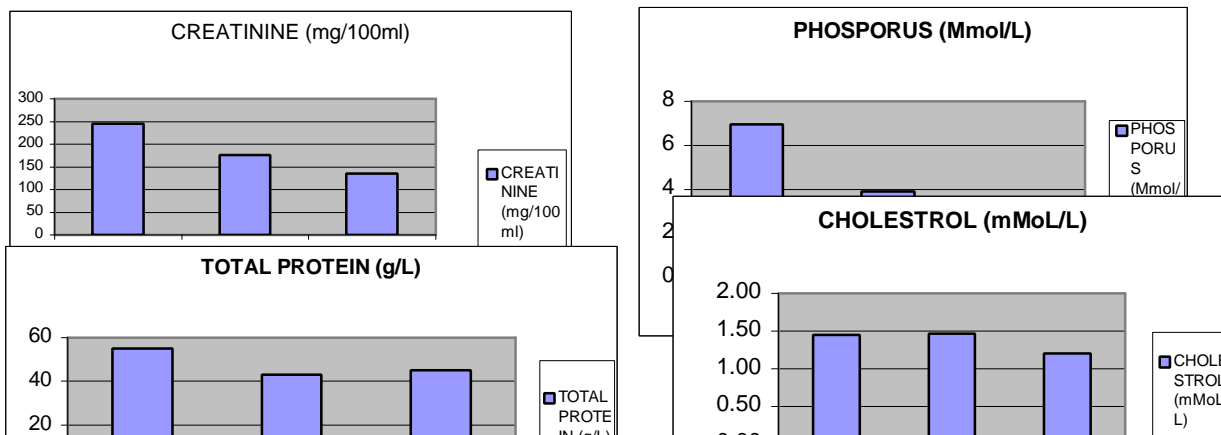
Another analysis to test the potential effect of *Jubi Formula* on the mass body weight change in humans was called for.

Again, a third analysis was conducted to ascertain if *Jubi Formula* will not lead to over-production of blood in humans.

*Jubi Formula* improves not only the red blood cells (RBC) count but also works on the white blood cells (WBC). As the rats were infected with trypanosomiasis and knowing that WBC are to combat infections present in the system, the scientists wanted to see the effect of the formula on the WBC count. After two weeks of treatment with the formula, the WBC count improved.

At this stage, *Jubi Formula* now became known as the "blood normalizer".

On the whole, chemistry tests on *Jubi Formula* showed among other factors, it helps in reducing cholesterol level, which in itself is a major contributor to the development of high blood pressure (hbp) in humans.



Now satisfied with the consistency of the laboratory analysis, *Jubi Formula* was placed on-line (that is on the Internet) and last year, a doctor from the United States responded by sending out a distress, save-a-soul call.

Dr. Elsie R. Vergara, Associate Professor of Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Services at Boston University, Massachusetts, United States, placed an order for *Jubi Formula* via the net.

As a last resort, *Jubi Formula* was to be administered on her husband, who is afflicted with acute myelogenous leukemia (a potentially terminal sickness), after his condition did not improve despite several courses of treatment.

Treatment with *Jubi Formula* is currently on and the result is currently awaited.

*Jubi Formula* has *Parquetina nigrescens* and *Sorghum bicolor* as part of its composition and active herbal ingredients.

Okubena states: "Five capsules of *Jubi Formula* is sufficient to take care of anaemia-related cases."

He is optimistic that after using *Jubi Formula* "the need for blood transfusion will not arise. It is also our hope that in the future with *Jubi Formula*, blood transfusion will not arise and where there is need for one, the product will supply the needed requirement."

*Jubi Formula* has been transformed beyond the powdery stage though. It is now available in an encapsulated form.

A recommended dosage of the formula, according to its maker, is a tablespoonful of it taken three times daily while a capsule a day is ideal.

The brownish powdery substance, though not bitter, has a tolerable taste. Its signature tone is its deep, red colour which mimics the human blood.

However, it may be that *Jubi Formula* is not restricted to treating anaemia patients alone.

Yinka Ajayi-Ajagbe, Okubena's daughter, contracted skin dermatitis 10 years ago in 1988 while in the secondary school. All through her university days, it was a source of embarrassment and in 1977 she was also introduced to *Jubi Formula*.

"My skin - the arms were scaly - and I was finally encouraged to use *Jubi Formula*. I took the water solution and to my surprise the scaly layer cleared off completely. While taking the herbal blood tonic, it was as if the dermatitis was being cleansed out of my system completely. After a while, I discovered that the skin was clear and completely free of scales."

It was also gathered that *Jubi Formula*, which has been severally administered on all types of diseases and ailments, could be an effective remedy for mentally unbalanced persons.

Basically, *Jubi Formula* is said to be helpful in boosting immune system to resist and fight infections whenever they occur.

Chief Anthony Kolawole Awoyemi, the producer of *Jubi Formula*, hopes that it would be able to compete with Amgen, a leading U.S. drug company, which has an immune booster drug, making a billion dollars every year from sales.

*Jubi Formula* is distributed and marketed by KAYJAY Organization, a division of Bena Farms Limited, with its corporate office at 2, Adegbeyeni Street, Off Allen Avenue, behind Alade Market, Ikeja. The product comes onto the market with an introductory price of ₦30.00 per capsule.

However, going by the laboratory report, "*Jubi Formula* in a dosage of 1m/100g. of body weight was unable to eradicate the parasite of *T.brucei*, but it however, exhibited a kind of prophylactic effect on the parasite."

According to the report, in anaemia cases arising from a wide variety of illnesses, the normal haematocrit level would be attained within seven days of use. "The case of sickle cell patients would require prolonged use of the formula to reach an appreciable haematocrit level and there is assurance that patients on this drug uninterrupted for about two-three months have been crisis-free."

The report and laboratory analysis is by no means conclusive and they say: " We are still in the process of carrying out further research on sickle cell patients to ascertain the long-term effect of the use of *Jubi Formula* for the treatment of such cases. "

A leading pharmaceutical company in Lagos has shown interest in *Jubi Formula*.