

The use of devil's claw extracts (*Harpagophytum Procumbens*)  
in joint pain due to osteoarthritis, nonspecific low back pain and fibromyalgia:  
the results of meta-analyses and reviews

**Summary.** In experimental studies it was found that extracts of Devil's claw (*Harpagophytum procumbens*) have anti-inflammatory, chondroprotective and analgesic effects. The results of meta-analyses and reviews suggest the effectiveness of Devil's claw extracts in the treatment of joint pain due to osteoarthritis, osteoarthrosis, nonspecific low back pain and fibro myalgia. The severity of pain decreases by 80 %. Level of evidence of clinical action of Devil's claw extracts has been rated as «strong». The efficiency of Devil's claw extracts was comparable to that of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (phenylbutazone, diacerein, rofecoxib). As a result, the use of Devil's claw extract enables to reduce the application of this group of synthetic anti-inflammatory agents. At the same time, the need to use the reserve analgesics (rescue medication) used in case of a sudden increase in pain reduces too. Devil's claw extract is characterized by high safety and good tolerability — no more than 3 % of the patients may observe mild side effects (mainly of dyspeptic nature).

**Key words:** joint pain, osteoarthritis, osteoarthrosis, low back pain, fibromyalgia, Devil's claw.