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# WELCOME!

UNDERSTANDING PINE BARK EXTRACT as  
an ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT (UPBEAT)

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ORIENTATION FOR ANTIOXIDANT STUDY



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# Agenda

- Short presentation about the study
- Break for additional questions
- Understand and sign consent forms
- Schedule your visits

## Inside your packet:

- Study staff contact information
  - Two consent forms (one copy is for our records)
  - 3-day food record + tips sheet
  - Demographics form
  - Appointment slip
  - Calendar with sample visit
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# Objectives of Presentation

- What is interesting about pine bark extract?
  - Who are we?
  - Why are you here?
  - What are you committing to?
  - What are your rights as a participant?
  
  - **SIGN YOU UP!**
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# BACKGROUND

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# History of Pine Bark

- Pine bark has been used as a food, tea, and medicine by Native American tribes for thousands of years
  - The extract was discovered by Jacques Masquelier of the University of Bordeaux, France in 1947
  - He read about a winter expedition in New York where a group of men survived by drinking tea made from pine bark
  - The extract contains natural compounds called OPCs (oligomeric proanthocyanidin complexes)
  - Also found in common foods: grape seeds, wine, cranberries, apples, pears, and pomegranates
  - Potent antioxidants that may provide cardiovascular benefits
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# Health Benefits of Pine Bark

- Shand and others (2003) – 480mg/day pine bark extract for 12 weeks
    - 7mmHg **decrease in blood pressure**
    - Significant **decrease in BMI and % body fat**
  - Liu and others (2004) – 100mg/day pine bark extract for 12 weeks
    - 35 mg/dl **decrease in blood glucose levels**
    - Reduced the need for blood pressure medications
  - Davaraj and others (2002) – 150mg/day pine bark extract for 6 weeks
    - 7% **decrease in LDL levels**
    - 14.5% **increase in HDL levels**
  - Petrassi and others (2000) – 200 to 300mg/day pine bark extract
    - **Improved circulation**, less edema of the legs
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# Other possible benefits:

- Pine bark **improves migraine headaches** – Kaiser Permanente Dept. of Neurology (2006).
  - Pine bark **reduces asthma** and improves lung function – Hosseini (2001), Lau (2004).
  - Pine bark **improves vessel function** in patients with chronic venous insufficiency – Cesarone (2006).
  - Pine bark **reduces symptoms of ADHD** in children – Trebaticka (2006).
  - Pine bark **relieves menstrual cramps** – Kohama (2004).
  - Pine bark **improves sexual function** in men with erectile dysfunction – Stanislavov (2003).
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# But...

- Previous studies are flawed because they:
    - Lacked a control group
    - Lacked randomization
    - Lacked enough participants
    - Had poorly defined outcomes
    - Lacked correct statistical analyses
  - By filling a knowledge gap, this study will provide important answers to both consumers and health professionals
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**PART A:**

**WHAT YOU MUST KNOW  
ABOUT THE STUDY**

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# Stanford Prevention Research Center

- 35-year history of research into the effects of:
    - Nutrition
    - Physical Activity
    - Smoking Cessation
    - Health Behaviors
  - On heart disease, cancer, diabetes, bone health, and other conditions
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# Your Research Team

Randall S. Stafford, MD, PhD – Principal Investigator

Rebecca Drieling, MMQ – Research Director

Christopher Gardner, PhD – Co-Investigator

Jun Ma, MD, RD, PhD – Co-Investigator

Heather Klaftenegger – Research Assistant

Alexis Fields – Undergraduate Research Intern

**Program on Prevention Outcomes and Practices**

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# Purpose of Our Project

- Evaluate the effect of pine bark extract (Flavangenol®) on cardiovascular risk factors including:
    - Blood Pressure
    - Blood Sugar Levels
    - Cholesterol Levels
    - Body Weight
    - Markers of Systemic Inflammation
  - Confirm the safety of pine bark
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# Eligibility Criteria

## □ Inclusion

- For age 18-34 years systolic blood pressure (SBP) between 125 and 140 mmHg
- For age > 35 years, SBP between 125 and 159 mmHg
- Body mass index (BMI) 25.0 to 34.9

## □ Exclusion

- Diastolic Blood Pressure (DBP)  $\geq$  100 mmHg
  - Triglycerides (TG)  $\geq$  450 mg/dL
  - Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL)  $\geq$  200 mg/dL
  - Fasting blood glucose (FBG)  $\geq$  126 mg/dL
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# Warning levels that may require checking with your physician

## ■ For age < 70 years:

- ❑ Systolic Blood Pressure  $\geq$  145 mmHg
- ❑ Diastolic Blood Pressure  $\geq$  95 mmHg
- ❑ Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL)  $\geq$  170 mg/dL
- ❑ Triglycerides (TG)  $\geq$  300 mg/dL or
- ❑ Fasting blood glucose (FBG)  $\geq$  110 mg/dL

## ■ For age > 70 years:

- ❑ Systolic Blood Pressure >140mmHg
  - ❑ Diastolic Blood Pressure >90mmHg and/or
  - ❑ Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) >150mg/dL
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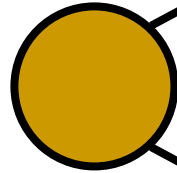
# Other Considerations

- Agree to refrain from taking medications that affect blood pressure, blood sugar or weight through the end of a 12 week follow up.
  - Agree to discontinue the use of supplements that are not vitamins or minerals for 12 weeks and go through a 4 week wash-out period before enrollment.
  - Agree to reduce the amount of vitamins and minerals to 200% or less of the daily value.
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# Study Design

Pine Bark Supplement, n = 65 (200mg/day)

Randomization



Placebo, n = 65 (0mg/day)

Total of 130 individuals in the study

Assigned by “CHANCE” NOT BY CHOICE

No bias of who gets what treatment

50 – 50 CHANCE

65 individuals – Pine Bark supplement

65 individuals – placebo (control) group



NEITHER YOU OR THE STUDY STAFF WILL KNOW WHICH GROUP YOU ARE IN



# Procedures



## 1. Tablets



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# Procedures: 1. Tablets

- Will pick up supplement and/or drop off left over tablets at the General Clinical Research Center at the following visits:
    - Baseline
    - 3 weeks
    - 6 weeks
    - 12 weeks
  - Take 4 Study Tablets Once a Day in the Morning. Total of 200 mg of Pine Bark Extract per day
  - Expect to have extra tablets when you drop them off.
  - Make sure to bring them or bring the empty baggie if all tablets are gone!
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# Procedures



1. Tablets



2. Blood Pressure



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# Procedures: 2. Blood Pressure

- Primary outcome of the study
- Will be measured before collection of blood samples:

Twice at Baseline (3 to 7 days apart)

Once at 6 weeks

Twice at 12 weeks (3 to 7 days apart)

- Resting Blood Pressure
    - If you feel rushed at your clinic visit, please ask your Nurse for a few extra minutes to relax.
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# Procedures: Other Measurements

- Weight
  - Waist circumference
  - These Measurements will be measured:
    - Twice at Baseline Visits (3 to 7 days apart)
    - Once at 6 weeks
    - Twice at 12 weeks (3 to 7 days apart)
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# Procedures



1. Tablets



2. Blood Pressure



3. Blood Sampling



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# Procedures: 3. Blood Sampling

- Blood samples will be obtained after an 8 hour fast (e.g. from 10:00pm to 6:00am)
  - 5 blood samples over 12 weeks:
    - Twice at Baseline (3 to 7 days apart)
    - Once at 6 weeks
    - Twice at 12 weeks (3 to 7 days apart)
  - Blood samples will be 20 cc's (approximately 1 ½ tablespoons)
  - Visits start at 7:30am Monday – Friday
  - General Clinical Research Center (GCRC), Stanford Hospital
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# Measurements from blood:

## **Blood Glucose**

Fasting blood glucose  
Hemoglobin A1C  
Fasting insulin

## **Cholesterol and Inflammation**

Lipid Panel  
Low density lipoprotein particle size  
Lipoprotein A  
C-Reactive protein

## **Liver Function**

Aspartate aminotransferase (AST)  
Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)

You will receive your results at the end of the study.

All laboratory measures are free!!!

A value of more than \$400 per blood draw.

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# Procedures

	0	3	6	12
	Week			
1. Tablets	↑	↑	↑	↑
2. Blood Pressure	↑↑		↑	↑↑
3. Blood Sampling	↑↑		↑	↑↑
4. Questionnaires	↑↑		↑	↑↑

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# Procedures: 4. Questionnaires

- General Information / Demographics
    - Complete during orientation meeting
  
  - 3-Day Food Records
    - **Record items consumed on a single day for 3 separate days**
    - **Can but do not have to be consecutive days**
    - **Must include two weekdays and one weekend day**
    - **Read instructions and include brand name and size of foods**
    - Bring completed form to 2<sup>nd</sup> study visit
    - We will mail you the second Food Record at 9 weeks
    - Bring second completed form to 5<sup>th</sup> study visit
  
  - Adverse Symptoms
    - Complete at 3<sup>rd</sup> visit, 4<sup>th</sup> visit, 5<sup>th</sup> visit, and 6<sup>th</sup> visit
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# Procedures

	0	3	6	12
	Week			
1. Tablets	↑	↑	↑	↑
2. Blood Pressure	↑↑		↑	↑↑
3. Blood Sampling	↑↑		↑	↑↑
4. Questionnaires	↑↑		↑	↑↑
5. Compensation	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑

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# Procedures: 5. Compensation

- Total of \$100 in compensation intended to partially compensate you for your inconvenience and efforts
  - Compensation Provided as Visa Gift Cards
    - Redeemable anywhere that you can use a credit card
    - Far more convenient than payment by check or cash
  - Compensation Schedule
    - Initial \$25 mailed to you after visit 2
    - Additional \$30 mailed to you after visit 4
    - Additional \$45 mailed to you after visit 6
    - Total \$100
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# Time Commitment

**This DOES NOT include YOUR TRAVEL TIME to the Stanford campus**

- Visit 1: 25 to 30 minutes
    - Blood sampling and other measurements
  
  - Visit 2: 40 to 60 minutes (visits before 8:00am may take longer)
    - Bring completed 3-Day Food Record
    - Blood sampling, other measurements, receive study tablets
    - Compensation: \$25 gift card
  
  - Visit 3: 15 to 20 minutes
    - Exchange study tablets and complete adverse events form
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# Time Commitment

- Visit 4: 30 to 40 minutes
    - Blood sampling, other measurements, exchange study tablets, and complete adverse events form
    - Compensation: \$30 gift card
  - Visit 5: 25 to 30 minutes
    - Bring completed 3-Day Food Record
    - Blood sampling, other measurements, and complete adverse events form
  - Visit 6: 25-30 minutes
    - Blood sampling, other measurements, return study tablets, and complete adverse events form
    - Compensation: \$45 gift card
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# Time Commitment

- Take study tablets:
    - 1 minute each day to take study tablets with a non-alcoholic beverage of your choice
  - 3-Day food records
    - Must include two weekdays and one weekend day (they can, but do not have to be consecutive days)
    - 45 to 60 minutes prior to the **2<sup>nd</sup> visit** and prior to the **5<sup>th</sup> visit**
    - Bring to visit 2 and visit 5
  - Using your Visa gift cards
    - 5-30 minutes on each of three occasions
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# Potential Benefits

- Improvement in blood pressure (?)
- Other cardiovascular health benefits (?)  
(glucose and cholesterol levels, weight, inflammatory markers)
- Free physiological and laboratory measurements
- Knowledge about cardiovascular risk factors, nutrition, and health

**WE CANNOT AND DO NOT GUARANTEE OR PROMISE  
THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE ANY BENEFITS FROM THIS STUDY**

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# Potential Risks and Discomforts

- Blood Sampling
    - Discomfort from needle, possible bruising
  
  - Potential side effects from supplement:
    - gastrointestinal discomfort
    - nausea
    - dizziness
    - headache
    - sleepiness
    - urinary retention
    - urinary frequency
    - constipation
    - increased perspiration
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# Costs and Funding Source

- No cost to you for your participation
  - All study costs are funded by Toyo Shinyaku Co., Ltd.
  - You will obtain free information about your lab test results at the end of the study
  - Compensation of \$100  
(plus parking permits totaling \$25 in value)
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**PART B:**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION**  
**ABOUT BEING A RESEARCH**  
**PARTICIPANT**

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# Participation in Other Studies

Allowed only if informed approval is obtained from the investigators of both projects

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# Women of Childbearing Age

- You can't be in this study if you are pregnant or lactating
  - You should not join this study if you are planning to become pregnant in the next year
  - Any nutritional supplement may involve unforeseen risks to you and your unborn fetus
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# Blood: Sampling and Storage Issues

- No genetic testing
  - No development of commercial products
  - No use of samples without your permission
  - Any extra blood will be discarded
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# Right to Refuse or Withdraw

- Your participation in this research study is entirely voluntary – you may choose to withdraw at ANY TIME (and this decision will not affect your medical/health care)
  - There are several reasons for which you may be withdrawn from the study:
    - Failure to follow instructions
    - Continuation determined to be harmful to you
    - You need treatment not provided by study
    - Study is cancelled
    - Other administrative reasons
    - Unanticipated circumstances
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# Personal Health Information (PHI)

- Name
  - Phone number
  - Address
  - Date of birth
  
  - All PHI and clinical information will be destroyed after 6 years.
  
  - Your data will not be published
  
  - Your identity will not be revealed
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# Confidentiality/Anonymity

- You will be assigned a second ID number
- Your data will be kept in a locked room or in the case of electronic files, in a password protected manner
- Absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed

Patient information may be provided to Federal and other regulatory agencies as required

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# Alternatives

- Nutrition – Low sodium diet, plant based diet, weight loss
    - Talk to a Registered Dietitian
  
  - Prescription Medications –
    - Talk to your physician regarding whether it is reasonable for you to participate in this study
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# Financial Interest Disclosure

- No Conflict of Interest
  - Neither the investigators nor Stanford University have stock or investment interests in Toyo Shinyaku Co., Ltd.
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# Questions

- Call the Principal Investigator:

Randall S. Stafford, MD, PhD  
(650) 724-2400

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# Complications

Administrative Panel on  
Human Subjects in Medical Research  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305-501

Call: (650) 723-5244

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# New Information

- You will be informed if new information arises



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# Human Subjects Bill of Rights

- See Page 12 of Your Consent Form



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**THANK YOU!**

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**FOR ATTENDING THE UPBEAT  
STUDY ORIENTATION**