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Xie B, Shi H, Chen Q and Ho C T, Antioxidant properties of fractions and polyphenol constituents from green, oolong and black teas. *Proc Natl Sci Counc Repub China B* 17: 77-84,1993.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating a nitric oxide-mediated inflammatory disorder comprising administering to a host in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-gallate and epicatechin-3-gallate.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the nitric oxide-mediated inflammatory disorder is diabetes.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the nitric oxide-mediated inflammatory disorder is periodontitis.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the nitric oxide-mediated inflammatory disorder is vasculitis.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the nitric oxide-mediated inflammatory disorder is inflammatory bowel disease.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is administered at 50 mg to 17.5 g/day.

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7. A method of treating a disease selected from the group consisting of diabetes, periodontitis, vasculitis and inflammatory bowel disease in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering to the mammal an effective amount to treat said disease, of a gallated catechin compound selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-gallate and epicatechin-3-gallate.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said catechin compound is epigallocatechin-3-gallate.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said catechin compound is epicatechin-3-gallate.

10. A method for the inhibition of nitric oxide synthase in a subject in need of such inhibition which comprises the administration of an effective amount of nitric oxide synthase inhibitor wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-gallate and epicatechin-3-gallate.

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