



Research Paper

A Critical Appraisal of Vishghna Mahakashay

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda is an eternal science. Its eternity is related to its preventive aspect and treatment principles described to treat illnesses. Numerous new diseases are emerging with new titles. Diseases are unlimited, so the physician should not bother to name the disease. Likewise, the drugs are also unlimited. Every substance is a medicine if used rationally. So the drugs and various formulations given in Ayurveda are for the practice of the medical person having poor intelligence. The field is open for the intelligent one to add and formulate new combinations. For this one should understand the basic drug selection criteria for the particular yoga or combination of drugs described. Charka Samhita is considered one of the oldest ancient medical books among all literary. Charka explained fifty Mahakashaya in the fourth chapter of Sutra-Sthan namely Shadvirechanshasthreeya. Each Mahakashaya is named according to their action, for example, Balya Mahakashaya increases strength. Each Mahakashaya has ten drugs. Among the fifty Mahakashaya. Drugs that act against the toxic effect of substances are called Vishaghna. Vishaghanamahakashaya shows the anti-toxic effect by treating Rakta and Pitta Dushti. The terms Vishaghana and detoxification are the same functionally. Vishaghana Mahakashaya Dravya denatures toxins, neutralizes toxins, and excretes toxins from the body.

Keywords: Vishaghana Mahakashaya, Detoxification, Mahakashaya

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I. INTRODUCTION

Agad Tantra is a branch of Ayurveda that deals with medicine with anti-poisonous effects. Visha means the Dravya which causes Vishaad. Visha has ten properties (Laghu, Ruksha, Aashu, Vishad, Vyavayi, Tikshna, Vikaashi, Sookshma, Ushna, Anirdeshyarasa¹ are the ten properties of poisonous) that can be neutralized by Vishaghana Mahakashya.

Vishaghna Mahakashaya: Haridra, Mangistha, Suvaha, Sukshma ela, Palindi, Chandan, Katak, Shirish, Sinduvar, Shleshmantak are ten drugs of vishaghna Mahakashaya² In this mahakashaya Suvaha & Palindi are doubtful in identification. In Chakrapani commentary, it is mentioned that Suvaha should be considered as Rasna or Hapharmali and Palindi as Shyamalata means Krishna sariva³. But Hapharmali is indicated as a type of Krishnasariva in many commentaries. Acharya Indu has identified Trivrit as a Palindi⁴. Acharya Chakrapani has commented Suvaha as Rasna or Hapharmali in vishaghna mahakashya, while in the same chapter in the commentary of Bhedaniya gana he has mentioned Suvaha as a Trivrit⁵ As Vishagna mahakashya is the subject of Charaka Samhita its drug confirmation seems logical from the same text. If we go through Charaka Samhita then we can find that Palindi drug is not mentioned anywhere in the text except vishghna mahakashya. In Vishachikitsa chapter, Trivrit is used in the treatment of poisonous animal bites as well as in ghee preparations for Garvisha⁶. It is also used in Lutachikitsa in Karnikapatan formulation⁷. Sariva is mentioned in Ksharagad⁸, in agad for Lutavish⁹, in Madhukadi agad, and Amrit ghrut¹⁰. Rasna is mentioned once with the same name¹¹ and in another place, it is mentioned by the name Nakuli¹². Its description as a Suvaha is nowhere found in the Vishachikitsa. So looking at the practice of these drugs in the poisonous conditions, considering Trivrit as Suvaha & Palindi as Shyamalata (Krishna sariva) seems appropriate.

Drugs Description

Drugs	Botanical Name & Family	Properties & Function	Rasa	Vipak	Potency	Doshkarma
Haridra	<i>Curcuma longa</i> (Zingiberaceae)	Ruksha, Laghu	Tikta, Katu	Katu	Ushna	Kaphavaatmashaka
Manjishtha	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i> (Rubiaceae)	Guru, Ruksha	Tikta, Kashaya, Madhur	Katu	Ushna	Kaphapittashamaka
Suvaha (Trivrit)	<i>Pluchea lanceolata</i> (Compositae)	Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna	Tikta, Katu	Katu	Ushna	Kaphavaatshamaka
Ela	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i> (Zingiberaceae)	Laghu, Ruksha	Katu, Madhur	Madhur	Sheet	Tridoshara
Palindi (Sariva)	<i>Operculina turpethum</i> (Convolvulaceae)	Guru, Snighdha, Raktshodhak, Mutrajanan, Daahprashaman	Madhur Tikta	Madhur	Sheet	Kaphapittashodhana
Chandan	<i>Santalum album</i> (Santalaceae)	Laghu, Ruksha	Tikta, Madhur	Katu	Sheet	Kaphapittashamaka
Katak	<i>Strychnos potatorum</i> (Loganiaceae)	Laghu, Vishad, Mutrajanan	Madhur, Kshaya, Tikta	Madhur	Sheet	Vaatshamana
Shirish	<i>Albizia lebeck</i> (Leguminosae)	Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna	Kshaya, Tikta, Madhur	Katu	Ishat-ushna	Tridoshnashaka
Sinduvar	<i>Vitex negundo</i> (Verbenaceae)	Laghu, Ruksha	Katu, Tikta	Katu	Ushna	Kaphavaatshamaka
Shlesmantak	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i> (Boraginaceae)	Snighdha, Guru, Pischil	Madhur, Kashaya, Tikta	Madhur, Katu	Sheet	Vatpittashamaka

Uses of Vishghana drugs in poisoning

- Haridra:** Ghee cooked with *Haridra* is best to treat artificial poison¹³. It is locally used in rat bite¹⁴. Fresh turmeric rhizome, *Ankolam* root, and *Nirgundi* paste are applied locally on dog bites¹⁵. Paste made of fresh turmeric rhizome and *Moringa oleifera* bark is applied on the injured portion of a dog bite. It is used for an external application with human milk in leech poisoning¹⁶. Application of *Haridra* with *Gomutra* cures sea snake bites¹⁷. Decoction of *Haridra* with milk cures all types of poisons¹⁸. Intake of *Haridra* with *Gomutra* cures all animate and inanimate poisons¹⁹. Turmeric mixed with *Saindhav*, honey, and *Ghee* is useful for poisoning by root poison and also in persons wounded by poisoned weapons²⁰.
- Manjishtha:** *Rubia cordifolia* shows antioxidant activity against lead nitrate and radiation-induced toxicity²¹. Purpurin constituents of *Rubia cordifolia* show antigenotoxic activity²². According to *Bhavaprakash*, *Manjishtha* can bind itself *Amavisha* and *Garavisha*.
- Rasna:** It is used in *Lepa* for poisoned hands²³. It is used in the treatment of spider bite²⁴.
- Ela:** It is used in lead poisoning²⁵. The aqueous cardamom suspension can enhance the detoxifying enzyme and decrease the peroxidation of lipids²⁶.
- Sariva:** It is used in hepatotoxicity²⁷.
- Chandan:** Useful for an external application on the cardiac region in poisoning by fumes²⁸. Consumption of *Chandan* and *Amalaki* mixed with honey in the morning cures artificial poisoning²⁹.
- Katak:** It is used in *Lepa* for massage with poisoned oil³⁰. *Katak* is used as *Lepa* in *Vataj Loota Visha*³¹. It is an antidote for hot honey³².
- Shirish:** *Shirish* is the best drug of choice for poisoning³³. It is used in *Pradeha* for poisoning by poisoned ornaments³⁴. Three times macerated seeds of *Shirish* in calotropis latex mixed with *Pippali* powder are useful in insects, spiders, snakes, scorpions, and rat bites³⁵. It is useful in anointing the swollen gums due to a poisoned toothbrush³⁶.
- Sinduvar:** it is useful in *Darvikar Visha* for internal administration³⁷. *Sinduvaradi Kwath* useful in rat poisoning³⁸.
- Shleshmantak:** It is useful in all types of spider poisoning³⁹. It is present in *Pradeha* useful in poisoning by feet and seat⁴⁰. It reduces adverse effect of *Adriamycin*⁴¹.

II. RESULT

After reviewing different views of *Vishaghana Mahakashaya*, it can be concluded that drugs of *Vishaghana Mahakashya* help to treat all types of poisons like snake bites, rat bites, dog bites, *Gara Visha*, *Dushi Visha*, and adverse drug reactions. So, we can claim that Ayurvedic drugs help in toxicological studies as per modern scenarios.

III. CONCLUSION

As soon as *visha* enters in body it vitiates *Rakta dhatu* first. This property is specially seen in *visha* which are deficit in ten properties & does not cause immediate death. *Visha* aggravates *dosha* by their ten properties, vitiates *dhatu* & targets *marma* to cause death. So one of the drugs that expels poison out of the body, minimizes the action of *visha* by antagonistic properties, which cleanses & purifies vitiating *dhatu* mainly *Rakta*, which adsorbs and removes the poison, which makes the body clean internally & externally are selected in *vishaghna mahakashaya*. So the drugs that perform similar actions should be considered in the same context.

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