

A Literature Review on Dundhubhi Svaniya Adhyaya of Sushruta Samhita

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Abstract

References of toxicology within the literatures of India are seen from Vedic period and in Samhita period onwards, *Dundhubhi-Svaniya Adhyaya* mentioned within Sushruta Samhita Kalpasthana sixth chapter mentions about different Antivenomous preparations mentioned for the treatment of poisoning and also the utilization of these drug formulations for different ailments caused other than the poisoning.

Keywords – Sushruta Samhita, Dundhubhi-Svaniya Adhyaya.

Introduction

Sushruta Samhita is one amongst the main pioneer literatures for describing the Ayurveda Toxicology in detail and contributed a different *sthana* as *Kalpasthanana* for mentioning all the toxicological matters. Sushruta Samhita mentions in detail about protection of food materials, methodology for examination of poisoned food, different routes of administration of poisons, defines poison, classification of poison into animate and inanimate poisons, signs and symptoms of chronic poisoning and acute poisoning, stages of poisoning in both animate and inanimate poisoning with treatment modalities adopted for each stages, preparation and methodology of therapeutic uses of antidotes and antivenomous drugs.

Amongst the eight chapters of Sushruta Samhita the *Dundhubhi-Svaniya Adhyaya* is sixth chapter mentioned, within which preparation of Alkaline medicine as *Ksharaagada*, *Kalyanaka Ghrita*, *Amrut Ghrita*, *Mahasugandhi Agada* which are used in mass population of poisoning by applying the medicines on drums and the effect of drugs in the form of sound waves when produced after beating the drums are seen, contraindication of *swedana*(Fomentation) as *upkrama*, wholesome to be indicated and unwholesome food to be avoided in poisoning is mentioned, symptoms of eliminated poison for the studying the prognosis of treatment has been mentioned. The present study is thus intended to review the *Dundhubhi-Svaniya Adhyaya* in detail regarding the drugs mentioned within the preparation of Agada, their therapeutic uses other than indicated in poisoning.

Materials & Methodology

- Sushruta Samhita written by different authors are summarized for literature research for *Dundhubhi Svaniya Adhyaya*.

Aims & Objectives

- To study the literature concerned to *Dundhubhi Svaniya Adhyaya* by different authors on Sushruta Samhita.
- To study the therapeutic usage of medicines described within the *Dundhubhi Svaniya Adhyaya*.

Ksharagada

Ksharagada as an alkaline preparation is prepared and stored in two methodology of preparation as follows,

Step 1

The woods of *Dhava*, *Ashvakarna*, *Shirisha*, *Tinisha*, *Palashaa*, *Pichu-marda*, *Patala*, *Paribhadra*, *Amra*, *Udumbara*, *Karahataka*, *Arjuna*, *Kakubha*, *Sarja*, *Kapitana*, *Shleshmata*, *Ankotha*, *Amalaka*, *Pragraha*, *Kutaja*, *Shami*, *Kapittha*, *Ashmantaka*, *Arka*, *Chira-bilva*, *Maha-vriksha*, *Arushkara*, *Aralu*, *Madhuka*, *Madhu-shigru*, *Saka*, *Goji*, *Murva*, *Tilvaka*, *Ikshuraka*, *Gopa-ghontha* and *Arimedha* should be taken (in equal parts) and burnt down to ashes. Then the prepared ashes should be dissolved within the urine of a cow and filtered (through a piece of linen) in the manner of preparing an alkali.

Step 2

Thus the prepared alkaline solution should then be duly boiled (till it would assume a transparent blood-red hue and slimy character), and the powders of *Pippalimula*, *Tanduliyaka*, *Vardnga*, *Chochaka*, *Manjishtha*, *Karanjika*, *Hasti-Pippali*, *Maricha*, *Vidanga*, *Grahadhuma*, *Ananta*, *Soma*, *Sarala*, *Bahalika*, *Guhd*, *Koshamra*, *Shwetha Sarshapa*, *Varuna*, *Lavana*, *Plaksha*, *Nichulka*, *Vanjula*, *Vakra*, *Ala*, *Vardhmana*, *Putra-shreni*, *Sapta-parna*, *Tunduka*, *Ela-valuka*, *Naga-danti*, *Ativisha*, *Abhaya*, *Bhadra-daru*, *Kushtha*, *Haridra* and *Vacha* together with pulverised iron (taken in equal parts) should be added to it. Then it should be boiled again and preserved in an iron pitcher after it had been duly prepared in the manner of an alkali.

Indications of Ksharagada

Dundhubhis (drums), banners and the gate ways of houses should be smeared with this alkaline preparation, hearing the sound as well as the sight and touch whereof would lead to the complete elimination of the poison from the system of the patient.

This medicine is known as the *Ksharagada* which is equally efficacious in cases of *Sarkara* (gravel), stones in the bladder, Hemorrhoids, *Vata- Gulma*, cough, *Shula* (colic), *Udara* (abdominal dropsy), indigestion, *Grahani*, extreme aversion to food, general oedema of the body and violent asthma. The remedy is applicable in all cases of poisoning of whatsoever type and acts as a sure antidote to the poison of the serpents headed by the dreadful *Takshaka*.

Kalyanaka Ghrita

An adequate quantity of clarified butter duly cooked with (the decoction and Kalka of) the drugs known as *Vidanga*, *Triphala*, *Danti*, *Bhadra-daru*, *Harenav*, *Talisha-patra*, *Manjishtha*, *Keshara*, *Utpala*, *Padmaka*, *Dadima*, Malati flower, the two kinds of *Rajani*, the two kinds of *Sariva* the two kinds of *Sthira*, *Priyangu*, *Tagara*, *Kushtka*, the two kinds of *Brihati*, *Elavaluka*, *Chandan*, and *Gavakshi*, is known as the *Kalyanaka Ghrita*. The curative efficacy of this Ghrita extends to cases of poisoning, *Graha Apasmara* (hysteria due to the influence of malignant stars and planets), Jaundice, *Gara dosha* (slow chemical poisoning), asthma, sluggishness of appetite, fever and cough. It is commended to consumptive patients, as well as to men suffering from scantiness of semen and women afflicted with sterility.

Amrita Ghrita

An adequate quantity of clarified butter duly cooked with the seeds of *Apamarga* and with two kinds of *Shveta*, *Sirisha* and *Kakamachi* are pasted with the cows urine is known as the *Amrita-Ghrita*. It embraces within the pale of its therapeutic virtues in all cases of poisoning and is capable of bringing back an apparently dead man to life.

Maha-Sugandhi Agada

The following drugs viz., *Chandana*, *Agaru*, *Kushtha*, *Tagara*, *Tila-parnika*, *Prapaundarika*, *Nalada*, *Sarala*, *Devadaru*, *Bhadrashri*, *Yavaphala*, *Bharangi*, *Nili*, *Sugandhika*, *Kaleyaka*, *Padmaka*, *Madhuka*, *Nagara*, *Jatamamsi*, *Punndga*, *Ela*, *Elavalu*, *Gairika*, *Dhyamaka*, *Bala*, *Toya*, *Sarjarasa*, *Mamsi*, *Shata-pushpa*, *Harenuka*, *Talishapatra*, *Kshudra Ela*, *Priyangu*, *Kutannata*, *Shila pushpa*, *Shaileya*, *Patra*, *Kalanu-Sariva*, *Katu-Trika*, *Shita-shiva*, *Kasmarya*, *Katurohini*, *Somaraji*, *Ativisha*, *Prithvika*, *Indravaruni*, *Ushira*, *Varuna*, *Musta*, *Nakha*, *Kustambaru*, the two kinds of *Shveta*, *Haridra*, *Sthauneya*, *Laksha*, the five kinds of officinal salts, *Kumuda*, *Utpala*, *Padma*, flower of *Arka*, flowers and fruits of *Champaka*, *Ashoka*, *Sumanas*, *Tilaka (sesamum)*, *Paataa*, *Shalmali*, *Shelu*, *Shirisha*, *Kusuma*, *Trunamula*, *Surabhi*, *Sindhudra*, flowers of *Dhava*, *Ashvakarna*, and *Tinisha*, *Guggula*, *Kumkuma*, *Bimbi*, *Sarpakshi* and *Gandha-Nakuli* should be carefully collected and pasted with honey, clarified butter and the bile of a cow and should be kept inside a horn (or a receptacle made of that material). This medicine, which is the best of all anti-venomous medicinal preparations, would rescue from the jaws of death, a patient even with drooped down shoulders and sunk and upturned eyes. It is capable of destroying in a moment the irresistible fire like poison even of the dreadful infuriated *Vasuki*, the king of serpents. This *Agada* which consists of eighty-five ingredients is called the *Mahasugandhi Agada* and is the most potent of all antivenomous remedies. It should constantly be in the possession of a king. Smearred with the present preparation he is sure to be favorites with all his subjects and to shine with his sovereign majesty even amidst his enemies.

Table 1- Therapeutic Indications of Ksharaagada, Kalyanaka Ghrita, Amrita Ghrita & Mahasugandhi Agada-

<i>Ksharaagada</i>	<i>Kalyanaka Ghrita</i>	<i>Amrita Ghrita</i>	<i>Mahasugandhi Agada</i>
<i>Sarkara</i> (Gravel Disorders), <i>Ashmari</i> (Stones in the bladder) Hemorrhoids(Piles) <i>Vata- Gulma</i> (Tumors) <i>Kasa</i> (Cough) <i>Shula</i> (Abdominal colic), <i>Udara</i> (Abdominal Enlargement) indigestion, <i>Grahani</i> (G.I Disorders), Bhaktdwasha (Aversion to food) <i>Shopha</i> (General oedema) <i>Shwasa</i> (Asthma). <i>Takshaka Sarpa</i> & other <i>Sarpa Visha</i>	<i>Graha</i> (Affliction), Epilepsy, Anaemia, <i>Garadosa</i> , Dyspepsia, Fever, Cough, General debility, Oligospermia and Sterility.	Poisoning, reviving persons impending to death.	As an Antivenomous drug in snake poisoning, also reviving persons impending to death.

Contraindication of Swedana

A physician well versed in the natures of poisons, should adopt all remedial measures excepting the heat engendering ones in all types of poisoning. But this rule would not be applicable in a case of insect bite in as much as the poison of an insect is cool in its potency and hence would be aggravated by the application of any cooling measures.

Rules of Diet and Conduct

Wholesome diets which have been enumerated in chapter on *Anupana-Vidhi*, should be prescribed in cases of poisoning after a due consideration of the nature, habit, and temperament of the patient who should be warned against the use of unwholesome diet. The use of *Phanita* (liquid treacle), *Sahajana*, *Kanji*, and taking of meals before the digestion of the previous ones, the group of *Nava-Dhanya* (unmatured corn), wine, sesame oil and *Kulattha*, sleeping in day time, sexual intercourse, physical exercise, fits of anger and exposure to the sun are forbidden in the case of a poisoned patient.

Symptoms of Elimination Of Poison

The restoration of the deranged *Doshas* and of the vital principles (*Dhatu*s of the body) to their normal state, a natural craving for food and drink, the normal colour and condition of the tongue and of the urine and the normal state and functions of the mind and of the sense-organs in a poisoned patient would indicate the full and complete elimination of the poison from his system.

Conclusion

Antipoisonous Agada/drugs which are mentioned within the *Dundhubhi-Svaniya Adhyaya* capable of treating the mass population affected by poisoning by different means by administration of drugs in different ways, specially by sounds emitted from drums pasted with the medicinal preparations. The antipoisonous drugs mentioned within this *Dundhubhi-Svaniya Adhyaya* should be further taken for pharmacological, experimental and clinical trials to study the potency and effect produced by these formulations in different poisoning conditions.

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