



KUSHTAGNA DRAVYA WSR TO LEPROSY: AN AYURVEDIC REVIEW

Snehal Anil Patil*¹ and Parashuram S. Pawar²

¹P.G. Scholar, Department of Dravyaguna, Shree Saptashrungi Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and Hospital, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

²Professor, Department of Dravyaguna, Shree Saptashrungi Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and Hospital, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

*Corresponding Author: Snehal Anil Patil

P.G. Scholar, Department of Dravyaguna, Shree Saptashrungi Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and Hospital, Nashik, Maharashtra, India.

Article Received on 10/01/2017

Article Revised on 30/01/2017

Article Accepted on 20/02/2017

ABSTRACT

Kushta (leprosy) is the bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. It affects the skin, mucous membrane and eyes. The disease spreads all over the world especially tropical climates, African continent, India and South Americas. Ayurveda suggests various treatment options for the management of skin disorders and these treatment modalities offers internal as well as external benefits. Ayurveda also mentioned natural therapy for *Kushta*. This article summarized Ayurveda perspective *Kushtagna Dravya* W.S.R. to *Kushta*.

KEYWORDS: *Ayurveda, Kushta, Kushtagna Dravya, Leprosy.*

INTRODUCTION

Kushta is skin disease, three *Doshas* (*Vata, Pitta* and *Kapha*) and four *Dushya* (*Twak, Rakta, Mansa* and *Rasa*) participated in disease significantly. The disease affect person chronically and resides for longer time or life time if not treated properly. The sign of the leprosy is initiated as feeling of numbness then appearance of ugly skin lesions, loss of sensation of temperature, light touch and pain, sensory loss in the toes and fingertips.^[1-3]

Ayurveda described various herbs and formulation for the management of *Kushta*, *Acacia catechu* (*Khadira*), *Chaulmoogra* oil and *Kalaw* tree (genus *Hydnocarpus*) has been used for leprosy and other skin disorders. The genus *Hydnocarpus* possesses anti-bacterial activity thus offer significant relief in anti-leprotic activity and this activity of plant may be attributed to the cyclopentenyl fatty acids present in plant.

The Ayurveda suggests that diseases must be treated when at early stage manifestations; use of herbs, Ayurvedic formulations and detoxification processes such as *Panchakarma* may offer beneficial effects in disease.^[4-6]

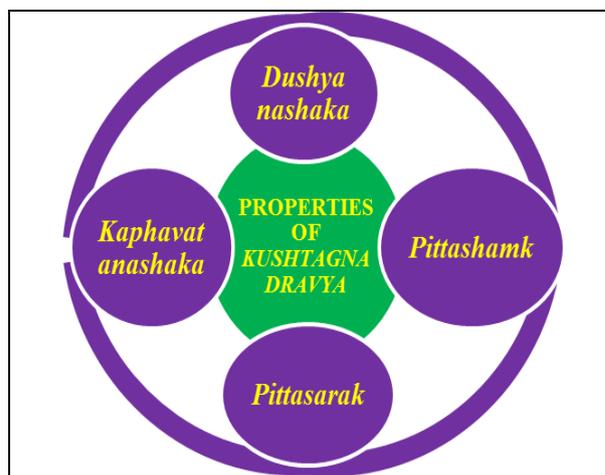


Figure 1. Properties of *Kushtagna Dravya*.

Haridra

Haridra (*Curcuma longa*) also known as turmeric acts as blood purifier, enhance complexion, possess anti microbial activity and healing qualities. *Haridra* offer properties such as; *Kaphavatanashaka, Pittasarak* and *Pittashamak* since it possess *Tikta Rasa* and *Ushna Veerya* qualities, it maintain *Tridosha* balances. *Haridra* relief *Kushta* since it stimulates formation, circulation and purification process of blood. It controls *Vata, Pitta* and *Kapha Dosh*. *Haridra* decreases itching, skin eruption and pain associated with *Kushta Roga*. It also helps to improve complexion. It's antimicrobial property help to control bacterial infections.

Panchatikta Ghrita Guggulu

Panchatikta Ghrita Guggulu consisted of five bitter herbs; *Neem*, *Giloy*, *Kantkari*, *Patola* and *Vasa* along with *Go-ghrita* and *Guggul*. It offers beneficial effects in *Kushtha Roga* since it possess following properties:

- Pacifies *Vata*, *Pitta* and *Kapha*.
- Purifies blood.
- Removes toxins from body.
- Relief in pain and burning sensation.
- Antimicrobial property control bacterial infections.

Mandukaparni

Mandukaparni (*Centella asiatica*) also called *Brahmi*, used for treating brain disorders, skin diseases and as detoxifier & blood-purifier. It possesses *Laghu Guna*, *Sita Virya* and *Madhura Vipaka*. The *Balya*, *Dipana*, *Varnya*, *Vishaghna* and *Rasayana Karma* of *Brahmi* offer benefits in *Shotha*, *Jvara* and *Kushtha*. *Mandukaparni* contains bitter principles (vellarin) and asiaticoside. Asiaticoside shows beneficial effects in leprosy and skin diseases, it reduced the number of lesions. It not only elevates blood purification and circulation process but also decrease level of toxins from body. In *Kushtha Brahmi* decreases level of swelling, pacify vitiation of blood and offer anti microbial property against bacterial infection, the calming property of herb relief disease symptoms.

Neem

Neem also known as *Nimm*, *DogonYaro*, *Vepa* and *Vembu*, it is used in leprosy, intestinal worms and skin ulcers. *Neem* offers significant relief in leprosy due to its antimicrobial properties. The traditional text mentioned that decoction of bark, leaf, root, flower and seed of *Neem* control early stages of leprosy. The patient of leprosy suggested taking bath with *neem* water. If the upper parts of body affected with disease then vomiting is induced first using *neem* along with *madana* fruit then medication commences only with *neem*. Sometimes patient of *Kushtha* also advised to drink *neem* preparations, in white leprosy leaves, flowers and fruits of *Neem* mixed together with water then used after filtering. The *Katu*, intense and antimicrobial qualities of *Neem* significantly relief symptoms of *Kushtha*.

Tankan Bhasma

Tankan Bhasma is an Ayurvedic formulation prepared from Borax, used in cough and bronchitis. It is also used in leprosy to manage skin sore, reduces manifestations of skin infection. *Tankana Bhasma* with honey when applied on the sores then it promotes healing process in leprosy and reduces pain. The *Katu Rasa*, *Laghu Guna* and *Ushna Virya* properties of *Tankan Bhasma* help in the management of *Kushtha* symptoms. *Kapha* & *Vata* vitiated in leprosy; *Tankan Bhasma* pacifies these *Vata* & *Kapha* and therefore decreases intensity of symptoms associated with leprosy.

Ashwagandha

The root and berry are used for medical purpose, it possesses *Shwitrpaha* property means help in the management of white discoloration of the skin and also used in leprosy. The *Laghu Guna* and *Ushna Veerya* properties of herb help to pacifies *Vata* and *Kapha Doshas* hence useful in management of diseases originating from aggravated *Vata* and *Kapha* such as *Kushtha*. It's rejuvenating and calming effects reduces intensity of leprosy symptoms. It also boosts mental strength and imparts positive thinking in patient's mind which is very essential for leprosy patient.

Chaulmoogra oil

The ancient Ayurveda text described use of Chaulmoogra oil for the treatment of leprosy. It also has been used for other skin conditions. It's topical applications retards continuous pathogenesis of disease and offer relief in symptomatic manifestations. Chaulmoogra oil possesses cooling, shooting and calming effects. Oil also controls process of scar formation and help in skin pigmentation.

Pindataila: External application of oil effective to cure Leprosy.

Kaisoraguggul: Useful in early leprosy, cure white and black patches.

Khadirarishta: Cures early infections of leprosy and other skin diseases, removes coloured spots, patches and itching.

Madhusnuhirasayana: Effectively cures leprosy, remove white & black spots and patches of the skin.

Saribadyasava: Cures leprosy and other skin diseases help to purify blood, remove toxins from body.

Somariji Taila: Useful in different varieties of leprosy, remove black & white spots, cure patches of the skin.

Suryapaka Kaseesadyaghruta: External application cures leprotic ulcers.

Gandhakarasayana: Cures skin diseases and leprosy, help in skin pigmentation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors are highly thankful to Dr. Preeti S. Dasari (HOD and Professor), Dr. Pawale (Assistant Professor) and Dr. Fursule (Assistant Professor); Shree Saptashrungi Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, and Hospital, Nashik, Maharashtra, India, for their great co-operation and support.

REFERENCES

1. 18. Norton, S. A., Useful plants of dermatology. I. Hydnocarpus and chaulmoogra. J. Am. Acad. Dermatol., 1994; 31: 683-686.

2. 19. Sahoo, M. R., Dhanabal, S. P., Jadhav, A. N., Reddy, V., Muguli, G. and Babu, U. V., *Hydnocarpus*: an ethnopharmacological, phytochemical and pharmacological review. *J. Ethnopharmacol.*, 2014; 154: 17–25.
3. 20. Gautam, R., Saklani, A. and Jachak, S. M., Indian medicinal plants as a source of antimycobacterial agents. *J. Ethnopharmacol.*, 2007; 110: 200–234.
4. R. G. Cochrane and T. Frank Davey, *Leprosy in Theory and Practice*, second edition (Bristol: John Wiley & Sons, 1964); p. 374.
5. Leonard Rogers and Ernest Muir, *Leprosy* (Bristol: John Wright & Sons, 1925); pp. 245-254.
6. F. J. Mouat, “Notes on Native Remedies. No. 1. The Chaulmoogra,” *Indian Ann. Med. Sci.* 1(1854): 646-652, p. 646.