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A REVIEW ON FORMULATIONS USED IN TREATMENT OF VATARAKTA IN AYURVEDIC FORMULARY OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Vatarakta is the severe problem in the present era. It is a Tridoshaja Vyadhi, in which rakta is main dushya. In Ayurveda Vatrakta is characterized by a specific type of pain called Aakhudanshvat pida (piercing pain like rat bite) in joints. Inflammation, severe pain, burning sensation and tenderness in affected joints are other symptoms. It especially affects small joints of hands and feet. According to signs and symptoms, Vatarakta can be very well correlated with Gout. Gout is inflammatory disorder characterized by hyperuricemia, deposition of uric acid crystals in and around joints. Prevalence of Gout is increasing day by day due to sedentary lifestyle of people. Conventional treatments for Gout have many severe adverse effects with low efficacy. So, herbal based medicines can be used as a best option for the treatment of Gout. In AFI standard formulations are mentioned. In this review article formulations are listed from three Parts of Ayurvedic Formulary of India. By using these herbal medicines we can get better efficacy with fewer side effects.

Keywords: Ayurveda, Vatarakta, Gout, hyperuricemia

INTRODUCTION

Vatarakta is a Tridoshaja Vyadhi, in which firstly Vata getting aggravated vitiates Rakta (blood) which turn, obstructs the path of Vata; becoming greatly aggravated such obstruction of its path. Vata causes great vitiation of blood; because the vitiated blood combined with greatly aggravated Vata, which is very predominant the disease is called as Vatarakta¹. It is most common inflammatory arthritis in men and in older women. It is a disorder of purine metabolism with the increased level of serum uric acid (se-

rum uric acid >6.8mg/dL)². Gout is a crystal deposition disease. It is defined as the pathological reaction of the joint or periarticular tissues to the presence of monosodium urate monohydrate crystals (MSU). MSU crystals preferentially deposit in peripheral connective tissue in and around synovial joint, initially favoring lower rather than upper limbs and especially targeting the first Metatarsophalangeal joint and small joints of feet and hands³.

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NIDANA (ETIOLOGICAL FACTORS)

Generally, Vatarakta arises in persons of tender physique who indulge in unhealthy foods and activities. Persons who are greatly troubled by diseases, excessive walk, women (sexual activities), drinking wine and physical activities are more prone to Vatarakta. Persons who involve in foods and activities opposite of the *Ritu* (seasons) and *Satmya* (suitable to the body)⁴.

TYPES AND SYMPTOMS

Acharya Charaka has described two types of Vatarakta⁵:-

- 1. *Uttana Vatarakat* (Superficial):- It is characterized by blackish, red or coppery skin. It is associated with itching, burning sensation, stretching, piercing pain, quivering and contraction.
- 2. Gambhira Vatarakta (Deep):-It is characterized by swelling, stiffness, and hardness with severe pain inside, blackish and coppery skin with burning sensation, piercing pain, quivering and inflammation associated with distress and burning sensation in the stomach. Vata moves with force frequently in joint, bone and marrow as if cutting and making them crooked produces limping or lameness while moving all over the body.

ACCORDING TO CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE PATHOLOGICAL FEATURES WITH SIGN AND SYMPTOMS

Initially, there is monoarticular involvement associated with intense pain, but later it becomes polyarticular along with constitutional symptoms like fever. It affects firstly and commonly great toe than ankles, heels, knees, wrists, fingers and elbow. Then synovial proliferation, panus formation and progressive destruction of articular cartilage and subchondral bone. Deposits of urates in the form of tophi may be found in the periarticular tissues. Chronic gouty arthritis frequently involves the kidney⁶.

TREATMENT PRINCIPLE

According to *Acharya Charaka* firstly *Rakta mokshana* (letting out blood) should be done with horn, leech, needle, bottle-gourd, *Pracchaan* (scarifying) or *Siramokshana* (venesection) according to morbidity and strength of patients.

General treatment principle for Vatrakta is following⁷:

- 1. Snehana (Oleation)
- 2. Snehayukta Virechana or Ruksha (Dryness) and Mridu (Softness), Virechana
- 3. Repeated *Basti Karma* (Medicated enema)
- 4. Seka, Abhyanga, Pradeha with Avidahi Dravya and

Anna prepared with decoction of *Avidahi Dravya Acharya Charaka* has stated the *Basti Karma* most important treatment. There is no treatment of *Vatrakta* equal to *Basti* (Medicated enema). *Basti chikitsa* is one side and all other treatments are one side.

Acharya Sushruta has mentioned following treatment principle for treatment of Vatrakta⁸:

- 1. Shodhana by Vaman (emesis and other purifactory therapies)
- 2. Medicated oil for external application
- 3. *Parishechana* (pouring liquids on the body)
- 4. Pradeha (Warm poultice)

TREATMENT ACCORDING TO CONTEM-PORARY SCIENCE

Currently, in modern science NSAID'S, Colchicine, Corticosteroids and Uricosuric drugs like Allopurinol are being used to treat Gout. But these drugs have certain limitations and many drawbacks. Therefore, it is necessary to find alternative treatments which should be more effective and fewer drawbacks. So, plant-based medicine can be a better option for its treatment in present era⁹.

FORMULATION INDICATED IN TREAT-MENT OF VATARAKTA IN AFI

Ayurvedic Formulary of India has many classical formulations of Ayurveda, which are most common-

ly manufactured and used in the clinical practice of Ayurveda. AFI is the only authentic document to make standard formulations and to know their indications. In AFI there are many formulations for Vatarakta. In Ayurvedic formulary of India Part I twenty-two formulations have been indicated in the treatment of Vatarakata, which are mentioned in Table No.1. Six formulations in Part II, which is listed in Table No.2 and thirteen formulations in Part III, which is listed in Table No.3.

TABLE 1: Formulation Used In Vatrakta In AFI Part I¹⁰

S.N.	Name of Formulation	Dosage	Anupana	Page No.	Reference
1.	Vatari Guggul	3gm	Warm water	70	Bhaishajya Ratnawali Aamavatadhikar 87
2.	Saarivaadyasava	12 to 24ml	Water	22	Bhaishajya Ratnavali Vataraktadikara/119-122
3.	Madhusnuhi Rasayan	12gm	Water, Milk	42	Sahasrayoga lepaprakaran 41
4.	Brhanmanjisthadi Kavatha	48gm	-	59	Sharangdhar Samhita madhaymkhand 2:135-141
5.	Gokshuradi Guggul	3gm	Mustakvatha, Pasanabhedkvath, Usirkavath	67	Sharangdhar Samhita Madhyakhand 7:84-86
6	Mahayograja Guggul	½ -1 gm	-	68	Sharangdhar Samhita madhyakhand 7;56-60
7.	Amrita ghrta	12gm	Warm milk ,Warm water	61	Cakradatta amavatachikitsa 58
8.	Kasisadi ghrta	-	-	83	Sharangdhar Samhita madhaymkhand 9
9.	Dhatryadi ghrta	12gm	Ghee mixed with equal quantity of sugar	88	Sahastrayoga lehaprakrana 41
10.	Panchtikta (Bitter) guggul ghrta	12gm	Milk, Warm water	91	Astanghriday chi.21;57-58
11.	Sukumar ghrta	12gm	Warm milk, Warm water	99	Sahasrayog ghrtaprakran 4
12.	Nimbadi churna	1 -3gm	Guduchi kvatha,Warm milk	112	Bhaishajya Ratnawali vatadhikar31-33
13.	Ksirbala taila	12gm	Milk, warm water	132	Astanga hridaya chikitsa sthan22;44
14.	Pinda taila	-	-	140	Astanga hridaya chikitsa sthan22;22
15.	Balaguchyadi taila	-	-	143	Sahasrayog ,taila prakran 14
16.	Brhatguduchi taila	12gm	Warm water	145	Bhaishajya Ratnawali Vatadhikar53-56
17.	Madhuyastyadi taila	6gm	Milk, Warm water		Astanga hradaya chikitsa
18.	Visatinduka taila	-	-	153	Bhaishajya Ratnawali Vatarakta 76,77
19.	Somaraji taila	-	-	155	Bhaishajya Ratnawali ,kushtaadhikar 208
20.	Grhadhumadilepa	-	-	173	-
21.	Vataraktantaka rasa	500mg	Nimbapatra, Nimbapushpa, Nimbatvak	274	Bhaishajya Ratnawali Vataraktadhikar-119-122

TABLE 2: Formulation Used In Vatrakta In AFI Part II^{11}

S.N.	Name of Formulation	Dosage	Anupana	Page No.	Reference
1.	Punarnava gugulu	3gm		94	Bharata bhaisajya Ratnakar tritiyobha 40
2.	Guduchyadi taila	-	-	141	Bhavprakash Vatarakta 132-137
3.	Brhanmaricayadi taila	-	-	147	Yogratnakar
4.	Visnu taila	2-6gm	Hot water	156	
5.	Manikya rasa	125-250 mg	Cold water, Milk	252	Bhaisajya Ratnavali kusthadikar 300-308
6.	Guduchi lauha	250mg	-	309	Bhaishajya Ratnavali kusthadikar /90

TABLE 3: Formulation Used In Vatrakta in AFI Part III¹²

S.N.	Name of formulation	Dosage	Anupana	Page No.	Reference
1.	Guduchi arka	20-50ml	-	30	Ayurved Sarsangrah Arkprakran
	Triphala arka	20-50ml TDS		32	Ayurved sarsangraha Arkprakran
2.		four dhara			
3.	Yogsaramrit Bharat	5-15gm BD		56	Bhaishajya Ratnakar bhag4
`4.	Shatavari Modaka	6-12gm	Luke warm	67	Bhaishajya Ratnawali
			milk		Vajikaranaprakaran 208-225
5.	Navakarshika kvatha Churna	24-48gm	-	85	Yogratnakar Vatarakta chikitsa
6.	Laghu (Lightness)	24-48gm	-	95	Sharangdhar Samhita
	manjisthaadi Kvathchurna				madhyakhand2;139
7.	Amritaadi Guggul	250-500mg BD	-	95	Bhavaprakash Vatarakta chi.183-
					190
8.	Vrihataagnimukh churna	5-10gm BD	-	144	Chakradatta agnimandya chi.30-38
9.	Madhyamanayika churna	1-3gm	-	147	Bhaishajya Ratnavali kushtarog
					chi.294-298
10.	Kushtarakshas taila			186	Bhaishajya Ratnavali kushatrog
					chi.294-298
11.	Khuddakpadmak taila	-		187	Chakradattta Vatarakta chi.36
12.	Rudra taila	-		208	Bhaishajya Ratnavali Vatarakta chi.
13.	Jivanandabhra churna			315	Bhaishajya Ratnavali jvarchikitsha

TABLE 4: Contents of Amritaadi Guggul

S.N.	Name of content	Guna (Property)	Rasa (Taste)	Veerya	Vipaka	Doshkarma (Ac-
				(Potency)	(Post di-	tion)
					gestion	
					effect)	
1.	Guduchi	Guru (Heaviness),	Tikata (Bitter),	Ushna	Madhura	Tridhosha
		Snigdha (Soothingness)	Kashaya (astrin-	(Hot)	(Sweet)	shamaka
			gent)			
2.	Shudhda Guggul	Snigdha (Tikta (Bitter), Katu	Ushna	Katu (Pun-	Tridhosha
		Soothingness), Pichhil	(Pungent)	(Hot)	gent)	shamaka
		(Sliminess)				
3.	Aamala	Guru (Heaviness),	Panchrasa	Sita (Cold)	Madhura	-
		Ruksha (Dryness), Sita	(Lavanrahit)		(Sweet)	
		(Coldness)				

4.	Haritaki	Laghu (Lightness),	Panchrasa	Ushna	Madhura	Tridhosha
		Ruksha (Dryness)	(Lavanrahit)	(Hot)	(Sweet)	shamaka
5.	Bahedatvak(bark)	Ruksha (Dryness),	Kashaya (astrin-	Ushna	Madhura	
		Laghu (Lightness)	gent)	(Hot)	(Sweet)	
6.	Punarnava mula	Laghu (Lightness),	Madhura	Ushna	Madhura	Tridosha shamaka
		Ruksha (Dryness)	(Sweet), Tikta (Bit-	(Hot)	(Sweet)	
			ter),Kashaya (as-			
			tringent)			
7.	Danti mulchurma	Guru (Heaviness), Tikta	Katu (Pungent)	Ushna	Katu (Pun-	Shothhara,
		(Bitter)		(Hot)	gent)	Vedanashamaka
						(Analgesic)
8.	Chitraka	Laghu (Lightness),	Katu (Pungent)	Ushna	Katu (Pun-	Kaphvatashamka
	mulchurna	Ruksha, Tikshna		(hot)	gent)	
9.	Pippali	Laghu (Light-	Katu (Pungent)	Anushna	Madhura	Vatashamaka
	mulchurna	ness),Snigdhha		(Hot) Sita	(Sweet)	
		(Soothingness), Tikshna		(Cold)		
10.	Sunthi churna	Laghu (Lightness),	Katu (Pungent)	Ushna	Madhura	Kaphvatshamaka
		Snigdhha ((Hot)	(Sweet)	
		Soothingness)				
11.	Vayvidanga	Laghu (Lightness),	Katu (Pungent),	Ushna	Katu (Pun-	Kaphavatshamka
		Ruksha (Dryness), Katu	Kashaya (astrin-	(Hot)	gent)	
		(Pungent)	gent)			

TABLE 5: Contents of Vatari Guggul

S.N.	Name of	Guna (Property)	Rasa (Taste)	Veerya (Po-	Vipaka (Post	Doshkarma
	content			tency)	digestion ef-	(Action)
					fect) a	
1.	Eranda	Snigdhha	Madhura (Sweet)	Ushna	Madhura	Vatashamaka
	Taila	(Soothingness),		(Hot)	(Sweet)	
		Tikshna, Sukshma				
2.	Gandhaka	Sara (Mobility)	Katu (Pungent), Tikta	Ushna	Madhura	Kaphvathara
			(Bitter), Kashaya (as-	(Hot)	(Sweet)	
			tringent)			
3.	Guggulu	Snigdha (Tikta (Bitter), Katu	Ushna	Katu (Pungent)	Tridoshhara
		Soothingness),	(Pungent)	(Hot)		
		Pichhila (Sliminess)				

TABLE 6: Contents of Amritadi Ghrita

S.N.	Name of content	Guna		Rasa	Veerya	Vipaka	Doshkarma
					(Potency)	(Post diges-	(Action)
						tion effect)	
1.	Guduchi	Guru	(Heaviness),	Tikta (Bitter), Kashaya	Ushna	Madhura	Tridoshshamaka
		Snigdha		(astringent)	(Hot)	(Sweet)	
		(Soothin	gness)				
2.	Mulethi	Guru	(Heaviness)	Madhura (Sweet)	Sita	Madhura	Vatapittashamaka
		Snigdha			(Cold)	(Sweet)	

		(Soothingness)				
3.	Munakka	Snigdha (Soothingness), Guru (Heaviness), Mridu (Softness)	Madhura (Sweet)	Sita (Cold)	Madhura (Sweet)	Vatapittashamaka
4.	Triphala	Laghu (Lightness), Ruksha (Dryness)	Kashaya (astringent)	Anushna (Hot)	Madhura (Sweet)	Tridoshshamaka
5.	Sunthi	Laghu (Lightness), Snigdha(Soothingness)	Katu (Pungent)	Ushna (Hot)	Madhura (Sweet)	Kaphavatanashaka
6.	Bala	Laghu (Lightness), Snigdha (Soothingness)	Madhura (Sweet)	Sita (Cold)	Madhura (Sweet)	Vatapittashamaka
7.	Vasa	Ruksha (Dryness), Laghu (Lightness)	Tikta (Bitter), Kashaya (astringent)	Sita (Cold)	Katu (Pungent)	Shothahara, Vedanasthapana
8.	Amalatasa	Guru (Heaviness), Mridu (Softness)	Madhura (Sweet)	Sita (Cold)	Madhura (Sweet)	Shothahara, Vedanasthapana
9.	Punarnava	Laghu (Lightness), Ruksha (Dryness)	Madhura (Sweet), Tikta (Bitter)	Ushna (Hot)	Madhura (Sweet)	Tridoshhara
10.	Devdaru	Laghu (Lightness), Snigdha (Soothingness)	Tikta (Bitter)	Ushna (Hot)	Katu (Pungent)	Vatashamaka
11.	Gokshura	Guru (Heaviness), Snigdha (Soothingness)	Madhura (Sweet)	Sita (Cold)	Madhura (Sweet)	Vatashamaka
12.	Shatavari	Guru (Heaviness), Snigdha (Soothingness)	Madhura (Sweet), Tikta (Bitter)	Sita (Cold)	Madhura (Sweet)	Vatapittashamaka
13.	Pippali	Laghu (Lightness), Snigdha (Soothingness)	Katu (Pungent)	Anushna (Hot), Sita (Cold)	Katu (Pungent)	Vatashamaka
14.	Rasna	Guru (Heaviness)	Tikta (Bitter)	Ushna (Hot)	Katu (Pungent)	Vishahagna
15.	Talamakhana	Laghu (Lightness), Ruksha (Dryness)	Tikta (Bitter), Katu (Pungent), Kashaya (astringent)	Sita (Cold)	Katu (Pungent)	Shothahara
16.	Eranda multvak	Snigdha (Soothingness), Tikshna	Madhu	Ushna (Hot)	Madhura (Sweet)	Vatashamaka
17.	Nagarmotha	Laghu (Lightness), Ruksha (Dryness)	Tikta (Bitter), Katu (Pungent)	Sita (Cold)	Katu (Pungent)	Shothahara
18.	Neelkamal	Laghu (Lightness)	Kashaya (astringent)	Sita (Cold)	Madhura (Sweet)	Dahashamaka

TABLE 7: Contents Of Vishatinduka Taila

S.N.	Name of con-	Guna		Rasa		Veerya	Vipaka (Post	Doshkarma (Action)
	tent					(Poten-	digestion	
						cy)	effect)	
1.	Tila	Guru (Hear	viness),	Madhı	ıra	Ushna	Madhura	Tridhosha shamaka
		Snigdha		(Sweet	t)	(Hot)	(Sweet)	
		(Soothingn	ess)					
2.	Kuchala	Ruksha	(Dry-	Tikta	(Bitter),	Ushna	Katu	Shothahar, Vedanasthapana
		ness),Laght	и	Katu (Pungent)	(Hot)	(Pungent)	
		(Lightness))					
3.	Shahijana	Laghu	(Light-	Katu	(Pungent),	Ushna	Katu	Vatashamak
	Tvaka	ness),	Ruksha	Tikta (Bitter)	(Hot)	(Pungent)	
		(Dryness)						
4.	Dhatura	Laghu	(Light-	Tikta	(Bitter),	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatashamaka
	swaras	ness),	Ruksha	Katu (Pungent)	(Hot)	(Pungent)	
		(Dryness)						
5.	VarunaTvaka	Laghu	(Light-	Tikta	(Bitter),	Ushna	Katu	Vatakaphashamak
		ness),	Ruksha	Kasha	ya (astrin-	(Hot)	(Pungent)	
		(Dryness)		gent)				
6.	Chitraka	Laghu	(Light-	Katu (Pungent),	Ushna	Katu (Pun-	Kaphavatashamak
	mulaswarasa	ness),	Ruksha			(Hot)	gent)	
		(Dryness)						
7.	Snuhi patra	Laghu	(Light-	Katu (Pungent)	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahar
		ness), Tiksh	hna			(Hot)	(Pungent)	
8.	Ashvagandha	Laghu	(Light-	Tikta	(Bitter),	Ushna	Madhura	Vedanasthapana
		ness), Tiksh	hna	Katu (Pungent)		(Hot)	(Sweet)	
10.	Aagnmantha	Ruksha (Di	ryness),	Tikta	(Bitter),	Ushna	Katu	Shothahar, Pidahara
	tvakkvatha	Laghu (Lig	htness)	Katu (Pungent)	(Hot)	(Pungent)	

DISCUSSION

Contents of Amritadi guggulu are shown in table No.4. Amrita (Guduchi) is the drug of choice in Vatarakta. It acts as Vyadhi pratyneeka and is a very good Rasayana. Guggulu definitely has an action on the pacification of Vata Dosha. Vatari guggulu is a proven anti arthritic drug and its contents are mentioned in table No.5. Maximum drugs of Vatari gugglu have Ushna (Hot) veerya and Katu (Pungent) Vipaka (Post digestion effect) Also, it has dominantly Tikta (Bitter), Katu (Pungent), and Kashaya (astringent) Rasa, but it also has a Vata Shamaka property. Amalaki, Haritaki, and Gandhaka have Rasayana effects. Contents of Amritadi Ghrita are mentioned in table No.6. All ingredients have Tridosha shamaka and Vatashamak property and we know that *Vatarakta* is *Vata* dominance *Tridoshaja vyadhi*. All drugs have *Madhura* (Sweet) & *Katu* (Pungent) *rasa*, which are opposite to *Vata* and *Rakta*. Ingredients of *Vishatinduka taila* are shown in table no.7. Most of the ingredients have *Ushna* (Hot) *guna*, *Ushna* (Hot) *Veerya* (Potency) and *Katu* (Pungent) *rasa*, which is helpful to reduce pain¹³. All drugs are proved anti-inflammatory.

CONCLUSION

Vatarakta (Gout) is one of the major problems among articular diseases in the present era. There are many treatments introduced by contemporary medical science. But these conventional therapies have many less effect and severe drawbacks. So it is necessary to return to nature for the treatment of such

major problems. In Ayurveda many medicinal plants and herbal formulations are mentioned. We have collected the list of formulations from Ayurvedic Formulary of India, which are indicated in the treatment of Vatarakta. In AFI Part I, there is 22, and in Part II there is 6 and in Part III there is 13 formulations are mentioned. From these *Asava*, *Arka*, *Guggul*, *Vati*, *Arishta*, *Churna*, *Kvatha* are indicated use internally and Lepa & Taila should be used externally. Overall all these 41 herbal formulations are very effective in the treatment of *Vatarakta*. Further scientific study and pharmacological actions should be explored to know the exact mechanism of these herbal medicines.

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