INTERNATIONAL AYURVEDIC MEDICAL JOURNAL

Review Article

ISSN: 2320 5091

Impact Factor: 5.344

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UPDATED INFO ON SHANKHA VATI W.S.R. TO THE TURANGARATNAMALA (A TEXT ON TREATMENT OF HORSE)

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ABSTRACT

In Ayurveda, the 'Shankha Vati' is extensively used in the numerous gastrointestinal diseases. The available studies revile that there are about 15 recognized variations of the Shankha Vati/Maha Shankha Vati in the classical text of Ayurveda. This short communication is basically based upon a literary review of a classical preparation 'Shankha Vati' quoted amongst the various available Ayurveda texts in line with the text on Pashu Ayurveda (animal sciences). The critical study provides unique information on Shankha Vati along with its ingredients, dose, duration and therapeutic indications. This formulation from Turangaratnamala; a book on the treatment of horse diseases varies from other formulations with respect to the Bhavana Dravya (pulverization by adding a liquid to a powder), Matra (dose), Anupana (co-administers with medicine), etc. and it is presented here in detail for its contemplation by the researchers of Ayurveda.

Keywords: Ayurveda, Shankha Vati, Turangaratnamala, Animal sciences

INTRODUCTION

In *Ayurveda*, the treatment of human beings is given more stress than to the animals and it is more practiced, developed and adopted by the society. Thus, *Ayurveda* became much more popular than *Pashuayurveda*. Even though, veterinary science has given a greater consideration from the ancient times in our country. The popular texts of *Pashuayurveda* (animal sciences) are *Karikalpalata*,¹ *Ashva Viadhyakam*,² *Shalihotra Samhita*,³ *Turangaratnamala*,⁴ etc. deals with the treatment for horses, cows, and elephants. *Turangaratnamala* basically includes two parts; *Lakshana* (Signs and symptoms) and *Chikitsa* (Treatment) out of them, *Lakshana* part includes *Shubhashubha-lakshanas* (auspicious signs), *Varna* (color), *Shubhashubha Chinha* (beatific and malefic marks), and their effects on the owners of horses whereas second part contains the *Roganidhana* (diagnosis) of diseases and treatment of horses. It has been composed in excellent Marathi verses by author Koneri Bapu, who was a court poet of Rajah Serfoji-II (24 September 1777 – 7 March 1832).⁵ It has been edited with an introduction by Shri A Krishnaswami Ma-

hadik Rao Saheb and published by Tanjore Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur in 1986. In this text majority of therapeutic preparations are in the form of *Churna* (powder), *Kalka* (paste), *Vati* (tablet) and *Kwatha* (decoction) along with preparation *Nirmanvidhi* (method) *Matra* (dose), *Kala* (duration) and *Anupana* (co-administers with medicine). The Shankhavatika Kalpa has been mentioned in the *Chikitsa* portion for the management of *Kshaya* (Tuberculosis), *Grahani* (disorders of lower G.I.T.)⁶ Aganimandya (diminution of Agni) and Shula (abdominal pain).⁷ The formulation quoted in *Turangaratnamala* is as per table no.1.

Sr. No.	Sanskrit Name	Latin Name	Quantity as described	Approximate Quantity in gms			
1	Shankha Bhasma	Conch Shell	Pava shera	250 gm			
2	Shuddha Gandhaka	Sulphur	9 Tola	90 gm			
3	Parad	Mercury	9 Tola	90 gm			
4	Sunthi	Zingiber officinale Roxb	Pava shera	250 gm			
5	Maricha	Piper nigrum Linn.	Pava shera	250 gm			
6	Pippali	Piper longum Linn.	Pava shera	250 gm			
7	Imlika	Tamarindus indica	1 Shera	1000 gm			
8	Hingu	Ferula fietida Regel.	Pava shera	250 gm			
9	Saindhava Lavana	Rock salt	2 Tola	20 gm			
10	Samudra Lavana	Sea salt	2 Tola	20 gm			
11	Vid Lavana	Ammonium	2 Tola	20 gm			
12	Savarchal Lavan	Black salt	2 Tola	20 gm			
13	Romaka Lavana	Lack salt	2 Tola	20 gm			
14	Nimbuka Swarasa	Citrus medica Linn.	Q.S.	Q.S.			

Table 1: Ingredients of Shankha Vati mentioned in Turangaratnamala⁷

Method of Preparation: The fine powder of ingredient triturated with lemon juice to prepare a paste and from this paste made a *Vati* (tablet) of the size of *Badara* (fruit of *Zizyphus jujuba* Lamk.) and shed dried and stored.

Dose: 1 tablet early in the morning.

Indications: Kshaya, Grahani, Aganimandya, Udar-shoola

This formulation is exclusively mentioned in the treatment of horse Gastro-intestinal diseases. The dose of *Badara Pramana (Kola)* is generally considered as 5gm, ⁸ is to be given in the early morning.

DISCUSSION

Shankha Vati is a herbo-mineral compound and comes under the Khalveeya Rasa Kalpana and it has been described in many classical texts of Rasashtras like viz. Rasendra Chintamani,⁹ Rasa Yoga Sagara,¹⁰ Rasendra Sara Sangraha,¹¹ etc. and also it is mentioned in Ayurvedic Formulary of India (A.F.I.) Vol. About fifteen references Shankhava-2. of ti/Mahashankhavati have been found from these texts and it can be classified on the basis of ingredients; and drugs used for Bhavana (impregnation) to find out the alteration in the studied preparation.^{12,13} The comparative statement on Shankha Vati/Mahashankhavati as per Ayurveda texts is presented in table no.2.

Sr. No.	Ingredients	Ayurveda Texts							
		TR (1) ⁷	BR (1) 14	RYS (6) 15,16,17,18,19,20	RSS (3) 21,22,23	YR (2) 24,25	BP (1) ²⁶	BSR (1) ²⁷	RC (1) 28
1	Shankha Bhasma (Conch Shell)		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	V	V	
2	Shuddha Gandhaka (Puri- fied Sulphur)		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	V		\checkmark
3	Parada (Mercury)				\checkmark				\checkmark
4	Sunthi (Zingiber officinale Roxb)	V	V		V	\checkmark	V		V
5	Maricha (Piper nigrum Linn.)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		V
6	<i>Pippali (Piper longum</i> Linn.)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	V		\checkmark
7	Imlika (Tamarindus indica)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark
8	<i>Hingu (Ferula fietida</i> Regel.)	V	V	V		\checkmark	V		
9	Saindhava Lavana (Rock salt)		\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	
10	Samudra Lavana (Sea salt)	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark
11	<i>Vid Lavana</i> (Salt ammoni- um)	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	
12	Savarchal Lavan (Black salt)			\checkmark	\checkmark				\checkmark
13	Romaka Lavana (Lake salt)	\checkmark			\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark
14	Sudhha Vatsanabha (Aconi- tum chasmantum Staff.ex.Holmes)		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	V	V		\checkmark
15	Vacha (Acorus calamus)						\checkmark		
16	Lavanga (Syzygium aro- maticum (L.) Merr. & L.M. Perr.)			\checkmark		\checkmark			
17	Haritaki (Terminalia chebu- la Retz.)					\checkmark		\checkmark	
18	<i>Bibhitaki (Terminalia bellir- ica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb)					\checkmark		\checkmark	
19	Amalaki (Emblica officinalis Gaertn.)							\checkmark	
20	Tankana (Borax)			\checkmark					
21	Yavakshara (Hordeum vul- gare L.)			\checkmark	\checkmark				
22	Svarji Kshara (Crude sodi- um bicarbonate)			\checkmark	\checkmark			\checkmark	
23	Ashwatha (Ficus religiosa L.) Kshara					\checkmark		\checkmark	
24	Snuhi Kshara (Euphorbia								

Table 2: Comparative statement of ingredients used in Shankha Vati / Mahashankha Vati

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	neriifolia L.)								
25	Apamarga (Achyranthes			\checkmark					
	aspera L.) Kshara								
26	Arka (Calotropis procera			\checkmark		\checkmark		\checkmark	
	(Ait) R. Br.) Kshara								
27	Kadali (Musa paradisiaca			\checkmark					
	L) Kshara								
28 29	Tila (Sesamum orientale			\checkmark					
	L)Kshara			1					
	Palasha (Butea monosperma			\checkmark					
	(Lam.) Taub.) Kshara			1					
30	Louha (Iron) Bhasma								
31	Vanga Bhasma (Tin)								
32	Pipaali Mula (Piper longum			\checkmark					
	L.)			1					
33	Yavani (Trachyspermum			\checkmark					
24	ammi (L.) Sprague)			1					
34	Jatiphala (Myristica fra-			\checkmark					
25	grans)								
35	Shuddha Manashila (Arse-			\checkmark					
26	nic sulfide)								
36	Jeeraka (Cuminum cyminum								
27	L.)								
37	<i>Chitraka (Plumbago zeylan-</i> <i>ica</i> L.)			v					
38	Ajamoda (Apium graveolens								
30	L.)			v					
39	Guduchi (Tinospora cordifo-								
	<i>lia</i> (Willd.) Miers.)			v					
40	Dantimula (Balospermum								
-10	solanifolium (Burm.)			•					
	Total	13	14	35	17	23	15	16	14
	Bhavana Dravya	15	11		17	20	10	10	11
41	Nimbuka (Citrus medica L.)				1				
42	Chitraka Moola Kwatha	,	,		1	,	,		,
43	Apamarga Kwatha			,	1				
44	Adaraka (Zingiber officinale				,				
	Roscoe.) Swarasa			,					
45	Bringaraja (Eclipta alba			\checkmark					
10	(L.) Hassk.) Swarasa								
46	Mundi (Sphaeranthus indi-					1			
	cus L) Kwatha								
47	Chukra (Chukrasia tabularis					1		1	
	A. Juss)								
	Total	1	1	6	3	1	1	1	1
	Matra	Badarsthi	250mg	1 Masha		1 Gun-		1	250-
			5			ja			500mg

[BR- Bhaishajya Ratnavali, BSR- Basavarajeeyam, BP-Bhavaprakash, YR-Yogaratnakar, RSS-Rasendra Sara Sangraha, RYS-Rasa Yoga Sagar, TR-Turangaratnamala RC-Rasendra Chintamani]

CONCLUSION

There is no basic difference in the *Shnakha Vataka* mentioned for the treatment of the horse in *Tu-rangaratnamala* and other classical text of *Ayurveda* except the omission of *Vatsanabha*. It has a total of 13 ingredients that are easily available and the *Nimbuka Sawarasa* has mentioned for *Bhavana* which is again the most common *Bhavana* drug mentioned in other texts. The basic aim of this communication is to put forth the information on the use of *Shankhavati* in horse disease with ingredients, doses, etc. So that it may be integrated into the systemic evaluation and further researches.

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Source of Support: Nil Conflict of Interest: None Declared

How to cite this URL: Mane Santosh & Gajarmal AmitAshok: Updated Info on Shankha Vati W.S.R. to theTurangaratnamala (A Text On Treatment Of Horse).International Ayurvedic Medical Journal {online} 2019 {citedDecember, 2019}Available from:http://www.iamj.in/posts/images/upload/2297 2302.pdf