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RASNASAPTAKA KWATHA: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Kwatha Kalpana (Decoction) is one among five fundamental dosage forms in Ayurveda. The method of Kwatha preparation is very much similar to decoction method of extraction from herbs. Herbs are boiled with 4/8/16 times amount of water on mild fire and it is reduced up to 1/4th or 1/8th, then it is filtered and instantly used within three hours. Rasnasaptaka Kwatha is having seven ingredients i.e. Rasna (Pluchea lanceolate), Amrita (Tinospora cordifolia), Argavadha (Cassia fistula), Devadaru (Cedrus deodara), Gokshura (Tribulus terrestris), Eranda (Ricinus communis) and Punarnava (Boerrhavia diffusa). These all are made into coarse powder and Kwatha is prepared with general method of preparation. Then Eranda Tail (Seed oil of Ricinus communis) or Shunthi (Zingiber officinale) Choorna is added into the prepared Kwatha and given to patient. It is important to compile and understand all the information regarding formula and individual ingredients available in classics. So, considering these points into the mind the present review has been planned. It can be concluded that it is effective combination for Amavata and some supportive medications & Panchkarma therapies along with it can produce synergistic action in Amavata.

Keywords: Rasnadi Kwatha, Amavata, Kwatha Kalpana, Pravahi Kwatha, Maharasnadi Kwatha, Kadha.

INTRODUCTION

Kwatha Kalpana (Decoction) is a very important dosage form in the practice of Ayurveda. Acharya Charaka, Sharangdhara has listed the Kwatha Kalpana under fundamental dosage forms (Panchavidha Kashaya Kalpana)^{1,2}. To prepare Kwatha, the drug is coarsely powdered and boiled with 4 times / 8 times / 16 times water and reduced to 1/4th or 1/8th part and then filtered³. Quantity of water is decided according to hardness [Mridu (soft) / Madhyama (moderate) / Kathina (hard) / Atyanta Kathina (Very hard) and amount of drug. For soft drug (leaves and flowers) 4 times of water is used, for medium hardness (soft barks, roots of shrubs and plant, soft roots, tubers and medium tubers) 8 times and for too hard materials (hard barks, root barks, creeper) 16 times of water is used⁴. If there is mixture of drugs of different hardness, then 8 times water should be taken^{5,6}. The process of *Kwatha* is very much similar to decoction method of extraction^{7,8,9}, which is preferred for extraction of harder herbs, roots, bark and seeds¹⁰. In both the process drug comes in contact of liquid and water-soluble fractions is dissolved on a definite heat for certain period¹¹. The parameters of well-prepared Kwatha are, it should possess characteristic smell, color and taste and Gatarasa / Muktarasa stage^{12,13}. Prakshepa Dravya (materials added to prepared Kwatha and their quantity according to disease condition, their quantities are also mentioned accord-1. ingly¹⁴. Kwatha are used directly as it is, to prepared another Kalpas (Dosage forms) i.e. Arishtha (Fermented preparation), Kshirapaka (prepared with drug and milk), Yavagu (gruel), Peya (dietary forms), Mansarasa (meat soup), Laksharasa, Sharkara (syrups), Sneha Kalpana (Oil-ghee preparation), Avaleha, Rasakriya (Semisolid preparation) etc. and to as levitation media to prepare some medicine and to enhance their potency¹⁵. For oral administration 4 Pala (192 ml) by Shushruta, 2 Pala (96 ml) by Sharangadhara¹⁶, 1 Pala

(48 ml) by *Acharya Yadava Trikam ji* doses are indicated¹⁷. Properties of *Kwatha* is depend upon its ingredients; and can be categorized as *Pachana*, *Dipana*, *Shodhana*, *Shamana*, *Tarpana*, *Kledana* and *Shodhana Kwatha* according to their action^{18,19}. It is used instantly within 3 hours of preparation²⁰. *Pravahi Kwatha* are also famous in for make it useful for longer period. *Rasnasaptaka Kwatha* is a very popular and potent formulation, used commonly in day to day *Ayurvedic* practice to treat *Amavata*, *Vata Vyadhi* and some other similar disease conditions²¹. It is having seven ingredients i.e. *Rasna* (*Pluchea lanceolate*), *Amrita*

practice to treat Amavata, Vata Vyadhi and some other similar disease conditions²¹. It is having seven ingredients i.e. Rasna (Pluchea lanceolate), Amrita (Tino- spora cordifolia), Argavadha (Cassia fistula), Devadaru (Cedrus deodara), Gokshura (Tribulus terrestris), Eranda (Ricinus communis) and Punarnava (Boerrhavia diffusa)²². Generally, Rasnasaptaka Kwatha is prepared form the mixed coarse power of all these ingredients, but it is also available in some modified forms i.e. Pravahi Kwatha, Tablet, Granules etc. are also available in market. Present paper is aimed to understand the formula, its probable mode of actions and to review and criticize the formula.

Materials and Method:

Classical *Ayurvedic* text, Compilatory books, Therapeutic indexes of various manufactures, Research journals and other print / digital sources were reviewed.

Rasnasaptaka Kwatha in Classics: There are numbers of formulations are available with similar names i.e. Rasnadashamula Kwatha, Rasnadi Kwatha, Maharasnadi Kwatha, Laghurasnadi Kwatha, Rasnadidashmula Kwatha, Rasna Dwadashaka Kashava, Rasna Panchaka Kwatha, Rasna Panchadasha Kashaya and Rasna Saptaka Kwatha²³. Among these all Rasna Sapaka Kwatha is selected for the present study, composition of the same has been mentioned in Table 1.

Table 1: showing the ingredients of *Rasna Saptaka Kwatha*

S.N.	Ingredient	Botanical Name	Part used	Quantity
1	Rasna	Pluchea lanceolata	Root	1 part
2	Amrita	Tinospora cordifolia	Stem	1 part
3	Aragvadha	Cassia fistula	Fruit Pulp	1 part

4	Devdaru	Cedrus deodara	Heart wood	1 part
5	Trikantaka	Tribulus terrestris	Fruit	1 part
6	Eranda	Ricinus commiunis	Root	1 part
7	Punarnava	Boerrhavia diffusa	Root	1 part

The Rasna Saptaka Kwatha is first described by Vrinda madhava, in 9th century. Then other later books i.e. Chakradatta, Vangasena, Gadanigraha, Sharangdhara Samhita, Yoga Tarangini, Yoga Chin-

tamani, Yoga Ratnakara, Bhaishajya Ratnavali, Ayurveda Sara Samgraha etc. have also mentioned the same formula but some did changes in name like Maha Rasnadi Kwatha, changes in indications, or suggested Prakshepa Drvya as in Table 2.

 Table 2: Showing the Rasna Saptaka kwatha in different classical text

Book	Chapter	Name of the for- mula	Prakshepa Dravya	Indications
Vrinda Madhava (9 th AD) ²⁴	Amavatadhikara	Rasnadi Spataka Kwatha	Shunthi Choorna	Jangha- Uroo- Janu- Trika- Parshava Shoola
Chakradatta (11 th AD) ²⁵	Amavata Chikitsa	Rasna Saptaka Kwatha	Shunthi Choorna	Jangha-Uroo-Trika-Par- shava Shoola
Vangasena (12 th AD) ²⁶	Amavatadhikara	Maharasnadi Kwatha	Shunthi, Ajmodadi choorna	Jangha-Uroo-Janu-Asthi Shoola, Gradhrisi-Arsha
Gada Nigraha Part- II (12 th AD) ²⁷	Amavata Chikitsa- Sarva- roga Chikitsa	Rasnadi Kwatha	Eranda tail	Kati-Uroo-Trika-Prishtha- Parshav-Jathar Shoola
Sharnagdhara Sam- hita (13 th AD) ²⁸	Kwatha Kalpana	Rasna Saptaka Kwatha	Shunthi Choorna (Eranda Taila- Deepika ²⁹ commen- tary; Tanka Matra of Shunthi ³⁰)	Jangha- Kati Graha, Par- shava- Prishtha- Uroo Peeda, Amavata
<i>Yoga Tarangini</i> (17 th AD) ³¹	Amavata Chikitsa	Rasnadi saptaka Kwatha	Shunthi Choorna	Jangha-Uroo-Trika-Par- shava Shoola
Yoga Ratnakara (18 th AD) ³²	Amavata Chikitsa	Rasna Saptaka Kwatha	Shunthi Choorna	Jangha-Uroo-Trika-Par- shava Shoola
Bhaishajya Ratnavali (19 th AD) ³³	Amavata Chikitsa	Rasna Saptaka Kwatha	Shunthi Choorna	Jangha-Uroo-Trika-Par- shava Shoola
Yoga Chintamani ³⁴	Kwathadhikara	Rasnadi Kwatha	Eranda Tail, Pippli choorna	Vataroga, Gulma, Shool, Katigraha
Sahsrayoga (20 AD) ³⁵	Kashaya yoga	Rasasaptakam Kashaya	Shutnhi Choorna	Jangha- Uroo- Prishtha- Trika- Parshava Shoola
Ayurveda Sara Samgraha (20 th AD) ³⁶	Kwatha Prakarana	Rasna Saptaka Kwatha	Eranda Taila	Amavata, Kati-Peetha (Back)- Pasali (Ribs) Pain, Vatata- Peta Darda
The <i>Ayuvedic</i> Formulary of India Part-II ³⁷	Kwatha Choorna	Rasna Saptaka Kwatha Choorna	Shunthi Choorna	Janghashoola, Urooshoola, Parshvashoola, Trikashoola, Prishthashoola

2. Published Articles:

- Sharma B et al. (2018) has reported that *Rasna Saptaka Kwatha* can be used in as the best supportive therapy in the management of *Gridhrasi*. Properties of the ingredients are beneficial to overcome the pathogenesis of the disease and providing proper relief and cure³⁸.
- In a review article Shruti Pandey et al. (2017) have made conclusion that *Rasnasaptaka* is a significant formulation which respond positively to the cardinal symptoms of arthritis like inflammation, pain, stiffness etc. As these herbs cumulatively works as an immunosuppressive and antioxidants for management of the arthritic symptoms by countering at cellulo-mechano-bio molecular level³⁹.
- Same authors have reported (2017) in another review paper that *Rasna Spataka Kwatha* possess analgesic, anti-inflammatory, immunosupportive and antioxidant properties. It is effective on *Ama* and Agni and reduces the symptoms of *Amavata*. No side effects of any ingredients is reported yet⁴⁰.
- Chacko J et al. (2015) have reported the Analytical study reports of *Rasnasapthakam Kashayam*. The formulation was analyzed through qualitative and quantitative physicochemical parameters and HPTLC. Findings were as: pH- 5.7, LOD- 99.81 %, Total solids: 0.33 %, Total Ash: 0.18 %, Acid Insoluble Ash: Not detected, Specific gravity: 0.9942 % and Total suspended solids: 0.56 %. No heavy metals were detected. In HPTLC four major peaks with RF values of 0.22, 0.48, 0.54 and 0.77 were found, test solution was methanolic extract (2g *Kashayam* in 25 ml methanol) & mobile phase-Toluene: Ethyl acetate (7: 3 v/v) and scanned at 254 nm⁴¹.
- In another study carried out by Pandey S et al. (2017), Hydroalcoholic (50%) and aqueous extracts of *Rasnasaptaka Kwatha* and studied on invitro model of rat skin to evaluate the drug release and on rat models to evaluate anti-inflammatory effect topically. It was found that drug was permeating through the skin. In the carrageenan edema model, hydro alcoholic extract showed better inhi-

- bition in comparison to aqueous extract. It was concluded that extracts could be served or can be modified for topical or transdermal drug delivery system⁴².
- Patil A et. al. (2016) have reported that in clinical trial on 30 diagnosed patients of *Sandhigata Vata*, who were given *Rasna Saptaka Kwatha* 25 ml with 3 ml *Tila taila* as *Prakshepa Dravya*, twice a day for 4 weeks. Very significant relief was found in *Shula* (Pain), *Shotha* (swelling), *Sandhisphutana* and Range of motion (ROM). No adverse effect from medication were observed during the duration of the study⁴³.
- A case study has been reported by Tile S et al. (2018) on *Ayurvedic* management of Lumber canal stenosis w.s.r. to *Katigata Vata*, where *Ayurvedic* medication i.e. *Rasnasaptaka Kwatha*, *Maha-Rasnadi Kwatha*, *Shiva Gutika*, *Rajarajeshwara Rasa* and *Trayodashanga Guggulu* was given to patient along with *Panchkarma* therapy, Local oil application and some exercises for 20 days. Significant relief in symptoms has been observed⁴⁴.
- In one another case study Tank N (2015) has reported that in a patient of low backache, by using Ayurvedic medication i.e. *Kala Basti*, *Abhyanga*, *Swedana* along with *Yogaraja Guggulu* and *Rasna Saptaka Kwatha* marked improvement and almost nil complain of problem was observed⁴⁵.
- Ausare SR et al. (2016) has reported that in a patient of Ankylosing Spondylitis with *Ayurvedic* therapy i.e. *Arogyavardhini Vati* (250 mg BD), *Vishatinduka Vati* (125 mg TDS), *Amritarishtha* (30 ml TDS) & *Rasna Saptaka Kwath* (30 ml TDS) along with local application of *Dashang Lepa* & *Latakaranja* seed, *Merudand Basti* with *Karkatadya Tila* for 15 days and then some with some changed *ayurvedic* treatment showed promising results and patient was symptomatically normal⁴⁶.
- Chaudhary S et al. (2018) has reported that in a clinically diagnosed patient of *Amavata* (Rheumatoid Arthritis), by using *Ayurvedic* treatment of line i.e. *Singnaad Gugglu* 500 mg BD, *Rasnasaptaka Kwatha* 15 ml BD, *Punarnavashtaka Kwatha* 15 ml BD along with *Baluka Sweda*, after one month

all the cardinal symptoms were subsided and laboratory findings were negative for RA⁴⁷.

In one another case study reported by Lakshmi R et al (2016), a patient of Rheumatoid Arthritis (*Amavata*) *Valuka Sweda* (fomentation therapy with sand) was done for the first 7 days followed by *Sarvanga Abhyanga Bahpa Sweda* (Massage and steam) with *Kottamchukkadi taila* for the next 7 days, and on the 15th day, *Virechana* with *Moorchchita eranda taila* was given. Internal medicines like *Rasnasaptakam kashayam* and *Dasamoolahareetaki lehyam* were given for 30 days. Impressive and fruitful results have been observed⁴⁸.

3. Manufacturing process:

All the material should be cleaned individually and then subjected for *Yavakuta* (Coarse powder). Then should be passed through 10/44 sieves. *Then* equal quantity of all the ingredients should be mixed uniformly. 10-50 g of this mixed coarse powder is placed in clean vessel, 8 times of water is added into it and kept overnight for soaking. On next day it is boiled on mild fire up to reduction of the liquid to 1/4th and then filtered. 1-2 *Pala* (48-96 ml) is taken in a cup, 1 Tanka (3 g) of *shunthi Choorna* is added into it and given to patient.

4. Availability in market:

Rasna Spataka kwatha is available in the form of liquid kwatha, Kwatha choorna, Kashaya tablet and granules. Rasna Saptaka Kadha/Kwatha in prepared liquid dos- age form either in PET or glass bottle of various man- ufactures like Sandu Pharmaceuticals Ltd⁴⁹, Arya Vaidya Shala⁵⁰ etc., Kwatha choorna from Jiva Ayur- veda⁵¹; Kashayam Tablet of AVN Ayurveda Formula- tion Pvt. Ltd.⁵² Rasna Spataka Kwatha granules from Abhinav health care⁵³.

DISCUSSION

As *Kwatha Kalpana* is one of fundamental classical *ayurvedic* dosage form. It is recommended to use the *Kwatha* instantly or within one *Prahara* (3 hrs) after preparation⁵⁴. So for make it useful and potent for a

longer period of time Pravahi Kwatha Kalpana came into the vogue. Where Salicylic acid is added into to keep the *Kwatha* as it is for longer period⁵⁵. As per Avurveda Sara Samgraha, 5-10 % alcohol or rectified spirit is added to Kwatha⁵⁶. Same book has said one more method where jaggary, sugar, honey, Woodfordia fruticose and some other herbs like Asava-Arishtha preparation for self-generated alcohol⁵⁷. In Rasatantra Sara va Sidhha Pravoga Samgraha, it is mentioned that salicylic acid can be added into Kwatha to preserve it for longer period. These all methods are coming under Pravahi Kwatha. Although author of Tasatantra Sara Va Siddha Prayoga Samgraha has said that these methods are harmful for human beings. He said that salicylic acid causes loss of appetite, constipation, diarrhea, Skin diseases, kidney diseases and mental disorders etc.⁵⁸ disease conditions, so it should be avoided. Modern system of medicines says that Salicylic acid has keratinolytic properties and is applied topically in the treatment of hyperkeratotic and scaling conditions such as dandruff, ichthyosis and psoriasis. Following oral in- gestion of salicylic acid (SA) and or any other salicy- late, nausea, vomiting, epigastric discomfort, tinnitus, loss of hearing, sweating, flushing (vasodilatation) tachypnoea and hyperpnoea are commonly served⁵⁹. In the same way usages of other preservatives is also questionable, there may be drug interaction or may cause some adverse effects within the human body, So, these all are the aspects, which requires some disciplined research. Another method, where alcohol is self-generated, it is a different dosage form than Kwa- tha, so its therapeutic results may vary from Kwatha. Granules may be a satisfactory method, but their clini- cal efficacy should also be watched under the lenses of research.

Rasnasaptaka Kwatha, which supposed to be an effec-

tive formulation especially in *Amavata*, used commonly and also reported in some research papers also. It is important to know the properties of all the ingredi- ents to understand the mechanism of action of the for- mula.

Properties of the ingredients and probable mode of action:

Table 3: Showing the properties of ingredients of *Rasnasaptaka Kwatha*

S. No.	Ingredient	Rasa	Guna	Veerya	Vipaka	Karma
1.	Rasna ⁶⁰	Tikta	Guru	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara, Vayasthapana, Shotha- hara, Shoolahara, Vedana Sthapana, Vatavyadhihara
2.	Amrita ⁶¹	Tikta, Kashaya	Guru, Snigdha	Ushna	Madhura	Tridoshashamaka, Deepaniya, Vatahara, Rasayani
3.	Aragvadha ⁶²	Madhura, Tikta	Guru	Ushna	Madhura	Sransanaottama, Shoolahanut, Pit- takaphahara, Koshthashuddhikara
4.	Devadaru ⁶³	Tikta	Laghu, Snigdha	Ushna	Katu	Vibandha-Adhmanahara, Shothahara, Kaphahra, Vatahara.
5.	Gokshura ⁶⁴	Madhura	Guru, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatanut, Deepana, Balya, Vrishya, Moot- rala, Rasayana, Vatahara
6.	Eranda ⁶⁵	Madhura	Snigdha, Teekshna, Sukshma	Ushna	Madhura	Kapha-Vatahara, Rechana, Vrishya, Amavatahara, Shoolahara, Shothahara
7.	Punarnava ⁶⁶	Madhura, Teekta, Kashaya	Ruksha	Ushna	Madhura	Anulomana, Shothahara, Mootrala
Praksh	epa Dravya					
1.	Shunthi ⁶⁷	Katu	Ruksha, Teekshna	Ushna	Madhura	Kapha-Vatashamaka, Vedanasthapana, Shothahara, Deepana, Pachana, Amavataghani, Shoolahara, Vatahara
2.	Eranda Taila ⁶⁸	Tikta, Madhura	Guru, Sara, Visra	Ushna	Madhura	Shoolahara, Vatanashaka, Rasayana, Vatashodhana, Vatashoolahara

Table 3 reveals that among all the ingredients most are having Tikta Rasa, Madhura Rasa, Guru, Snigdha Guna, Ushna Veerya, Madhura Vipaka, Vatahara, Deepana, Pachana, Shothahara, Shoolahara, Vedana Sthapana, Amapachana properties and actions. Shunthi or Eranda Taila has been recommended by most of the authors. Both are having some similar properties to the above said ingredients. Shunthi is recommended as best for Amapachana, Ernada Taila is also recommended as very effective medicine for Amavata, Yoga Ratnakara has said Eranda Taila is like Gajakesari (King of Elephants) for Amavata.

Rasnaspataka Kwatha is recommended to be used in Amavata or in some conditions of Vata Vriddhi i.e. Janghashoola, Prishthashoola, Janu shoola etc. The pathogenesis of Amavata is due to Viruddha Ahara, Acheshta, Mandagni, Nishchala, Ama, inspired by Vayu get increase in Shleshmasthana and then features

of Amavata occurs⁶⁹. So, the main factors are Amavastha, Vatavriddhi, Vedana & Shotha (in Amavata and other indications). Rasnasaptaka Kwatha covers all these aspects of the diseases. All the above-mentioned drugs having Tikta Rasa, Ushna Veerya, Katu vipaka are effective for Amapachana. Madhura Rasa, Madhura Vipaka, Ushna Veerya, Guru & snigdha Guna do the Vatashamana. Ushna Veerya, Snigdha, Sukshma guna are having Vedanasthapana nature. Ushna Veerya, Guru, Snigdha & Sukshma Guna reduces the Shotha. Rasna, Eranda, Shtnthi and Eranda Taila as per their properties do Vatashamana, Shoolahara, Shothahara and Vedana Sthapan. Shunthi does Amapachana. Devadaru, Argavadha and Eranda Taila increase the *Rechana* and open the channels of the body and inspire the Doshas to flow on their own ways (Anulomana). Punarnava, Gokshura plays main role in reduction of Shotha. Amrita is best drug for Shamana Chikitsa it reduces Ama and also do Vatashamana.

CONCLUSION

The Rasnasaptaka Kwatha has been designed by ancient scholars with aimed on synergistic action of the herbs to cure all the aspects of Amavata and joint pains. It is an effective remedy that's why it is very popular on the pen of the Ayurvedic practitioners to cure Amavata. As reported in various research that it becomes more efficacious with some supportive medication and Panchakarma therapies like Snehana, Swedana, Basti, Kati Basti etc. Standardization and evaluation of modified dosages forms of Rasnaspataka Kwatha on laboratory and therapeutic parameters, these are some ideas for further research are suggested on the basis of the present review paper.

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