

#### **Clinical Research**

# Comparative effect of *Navayasa Rasayana Leha* and *Medhya Rasayana* tablet along with *Dhatryadhyo Lepa* in *Ekkakushta* (psoriasis)

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#### **ABSTRACT**

All skin diseases can be included under the umbrella of Kushta Roga. Ekkakushta is a variety of Kshudra Kushta with dominancy of Vata and Kapha Doshas. It is characterized by symptoms like- Aswedanam, Mahavastum, Matsyashakalopamam, etc., these characteristic features has a striking similarity with Psoriasis. It is a papulosqaumous disorder of the skin, characterized by sharply defined erythmatosqaumous lesion. Due to its chronic and recurrent nature, it has a great impact on the quality of life of the patients. The present study was aimed to compare the effect of Navayasa Rasayana Leha and Medhya Rasayana tablet along with Dhatryadhyo Lepa in patients of Ekkakushta (psoriasis). For this study, the selected patients were randomly divided into two groups. Koshtha Shuddhi was done by Eranda Bruhstha Haritaki (6 g-at night with Ushnodaka) in patients of both the groups for 3 days before starting the treatment. Total III patients were selected for present study. Patients of group A (45 patients) were given "Navayasa Rasayana Leha" and "Dhatryadhyo Lepa" for external application. Stress is a very well known precipitating factor of Psoriasis. Hence, to study the efficacy of Medhya Rasayana drugs, patients of group B (49 patients) were given Medhya Rasayana tablet along with the external application of Dhatryadhyo Lepa. The duration of the study was 3 months with follow up for one month. Both the groups showed highly significant results in all signs, symptoms and other parameters. Navayasa Rasayana Leha and Medhya Rasayana tablet along with Dhatryadhyo Lepa can be used effectively for the treatment of Ekkakushta.

Key words: Ekkakushta, Psoriasis, Navayasa Rasayana Leha, Dhatryadhyo Lepa, Medhya Rasayana tablet

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The nature of *Kushta* roga is described by Acharya Charaka by the term- "Dirgharoga" [1] (chronic disease). Its importance also lies in the fact that it is considered as one among the eight Mahagadas by Acharya Sushruta<sup>[2]</sup> and Vagbhatta. Ekkakushta can be correlated with Psoriasis due to its characteristic features like Matsyashakalopamam (Silvery fish like scale), Mahavastum (extensive surface area involved) etc., Probably due to such features, Acharya Bhavamishra has described Ekkakushta as – "Prime among Kshudra Kushta." [3]

The modern treatments given for Psoriasis have their own

Address for correspondence: Dr. Charmi Mehta, Resident Medical Officer, Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Chikitsalaya, Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, Gujarat, India. E-mail: drcharmij@yahoo.in limitations and side effects. Above all, the chronic and recurrent nature of the disease leaves a great psychological impact on patients. It disturbs the quality of life of the patients to a great extent.

The trial drug Navayasa Rasayana Leha is taken from the reference found in Chakradatta<sup>[+]</sup> It has the following ingredients in increasing proportions - Dhatri, Aksha, Haritaki, Vidanga, Chitraka, Shuddha Bhallataka, Bakuchi, Loha Bhasma, Bhrungraj and Tila Taila (Q.S). The fine powder of the drugs is to be licked with Tila Taila at the time of drug administration.

It is interesting to note that the same combination of drugs is described in Bharat Bhaishiya Ratnakara<sup>[5]</sup> for local application. Hence, this *Yoga* (formulation) was also selected for local application in both the groups.

Stress is the most crucial factor in onset and progression of the disease. Hence, in group B, Medhya Rasayana tablet was given along with local application of *Dhatryadhyo Lepa*. *Medhya Rasayana* tablet is *Anubhuta Yoga* (non-classical formulation). It contains the following drugs in increasing proportions- *Vacha*, *Haritaki*, *Jatamansi*, *Jyotishmati*, *Yashtimadhu*, *Shuddha Bhallataka*, *Guduchi*, *Brahmi and Shankhpushphi*.

#### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- To assess the efficacy of Navayasa Rasayana Leha and compare it with the efficacy of Medhya Rasayana tablet in the management of Ekkakushta (Psoriasis)
- 2. To assess the efficacy of *Dhatryadhyo Lepa* in the management of *Ekkakushta* (Psoriasis).

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Detailed study of *Ekkakushta* and Psoriasis was done along with study of drugs selected for the present study. Various books of Ayurveda, Modern science and web sites related to the subject were referred to. Patients consulting the Out Patient Department of Kayachikitsa, Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar were selected for the present study.

#### Criteria for selection

Patients having signs and symptoms of *Ekkakushta* (Psoriasis) like well circumscribed erythematous papules/Plaques covered with dry, brittle, silvery grayish white micacious scales, Auspitz sign, Koebner phenomenon, Candle grease sign etc., were selected. A special proforma was made for assessing all the patients.

#### Inclusion criteria

- Age- 13-70 years
- 2. Cardinal symptoms of Ekkakushta
- 3. Positive Signs of Psoriasis like Auspitz sign, Candle grease sign etc.

#### **Exclusion criteria**

- Patients suffering from systemic disease like Diabetes Mellitus, Cancer, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Tuberculosis\ (TB) etc., and other skin diseases like Seborrhic dermatitis, Lichen Simplex Chronicus etc
- 2. Age less than 13 years and more than 70 years.

#### **Laboratory investigations**

- Blood Hemoglobin (Hb), Total count of WBCs (TC), differential count of WBCs (DC), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), Total red blood corpuscles (RBC), Peripheral Blood picture
- 2. Urine Routine and Microscopic examination
- 3. Biochemical- Fasting blood sugar (FBS), Serum.creatinine, serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT), Serum calcium, Total protein, albumin globulin ratio (A/G ratio).

#### Plan of treatment

Patient's were randomly divided into 2 groups (with his/her consent) as follows:

Koshtha Shuddhi was given by Eranda Bruhstha Haritaki (6 gm-at night with Ushnodaka) in patients of both the groups for 3 days before starting the treatment.

#### Group A

- Navayasa Rasayana Leha with local application of Dhatryadyho Lepa.
- 2. Dose of Leha -2 gm twice a day.
- 3. Anupana- Koshna Jala (lukewarm water)
- 4. Dose of *Lepa* Q.S (as per the area of distribution of the lesion)
- 5. Duration 3 months.

#### Group B

- Medhya Rasayana Tablet with the local application of Dhatryadyho Lepa.
- 2. Dose of tablet-(Each Tablet-500 mg) 2 tablets twice a day.
- 3. Anupana Koshna Godugdha (lukewarm cow's milk)
- Dose of Lepa- Q.S (as per the area of distribution of the lesion.)
- 5. Duration 3 months.

#### Follow up

A follow-up study was carried out for one month after completion of treatment.

#### **Dietary restrictions**

The patients were strictly advised to follow the *Pathyapathya* for *Kushtha Roga*.

#### Criteria for assessment

- 1. Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI).
- Scoring pattern made specifically for the present study and scoring pattern of some symptoms as given by the National Psoriasis Foundation.

#### **Statistical analysis**

The information gathered on the basis of above observations was subjected to statistical analysis as follows:

- 1. Wherever there was qualitative data, paired t test and  $\chi^2$  test was carried out
- 2. Wherever there was quantitative data, paired t test and unpaired t test were carried out.

The obtained results were measured according to the grades given below:

1. Complete Remission: 100% relief
2. Marked Improvement: 75%-99% relief
3. Moderate Improvement: 51% to 74% relief
4. Mild Improvement: 25% to 50% relief
5. Unchanged: <25% or No relief.

#### Observations

The details of patients registered in group A and B are given in Table 1. Out of 111 patients registered, 45 patients in group A and 49 patients in group B, completed the study.

Maximum number of patients, i.e. 26.12% were from the age group of 41-50 years, 22.52% patients had the first onset of Psoriasis between age group of 21-30 years and 94.59% were

Table 1: Distribution of 111 registered patients

Group	Completed patients	Drop outs	Total
A	45	11	56
В	49	6	55
Total	94	17	111

vegetarian. 63.06% patients were of *Vata-Kapha Prakruti*, 98.19% patients were of *Rajasika Prakruti* and 46.84% patients were of *Vishamagni*. 61.26% were having negative family history of Psoriasis while 34.23% patients had positive family history.

63.96% had lesion in exposed areas, 61.26% reported asymmetrical pattern, 64.86% had well demarcated lesion, plaque variety of lesion was found in 49.54% of patients, 53.15% reported shiny color of lesion, 58.55% reported lower extremities as the commonest site of involvement and all patients had normal sensation.

Chief complaints reported were *Matsyashakalopamam*, *Kandu* and *Bahaltva* in all patients; *Mandala* was found in 99.09% of patients; *Aswedanam* in 98.19% patients and *Daha* was found in 96.39% of patients. 97.29% patients had involvement of 1-10% of body surface area.

Among the *Nidanas* found, *Virrudha ahara* was found maximum in 86.48% patients followed by *Chinta* in 80.18% patients [Figure 1].

Associated complaints reported were *Sandhishula* found in 23.42% patients, *Nidranasha* found in 21.62% patients, *Jwara* in 5.40% patients and palm and feet involvement in 0.90% patients. The Auspitz sign was present in 95.49% patients followed by Candle grease sign in 61.26% patients Koebner Phenomenon in 10.81% of patients.

In the present study, maximum patients, i.e. 85.58% had moderate type of Psoriasis.

Highly significant results were found in all signs and symptoms in both the groups [Table 2]. Insignificant results were found in all laboratory parameters in both the groups. It is observed that the therapy showed highly significant relief (P < 0.001) by 83.14% in psoriasis Area and severity index in group A and by 79.28% in group B [Figure 2]. In follow-up study, no recurrence was found in 77.14% patients in group A and recurrence was noted in 22.85% patients at the end of one month. In follow-up study, no recurrence was found in 58.53% patients in group B and recurrence was noted in 43.90% patients at the end of one month.

Chi square test was applied on the cardinal symptoms. Insignificant difference was found between effect of therapies of both the groups on *Mandala*, *Matsyashakalopamam*, *Aswedanam*, *Kandu*, *Daha*, *Bahalatva*, *Srava and Unnati*. Which suggested that both groups showed equally good effect on all above symptoms. In *Rukshata*, group A showed better relief than group B.

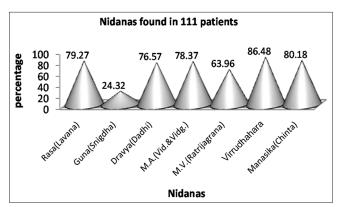


Figure 1: Different types of *Nidanas* seen in the 111 patients who were enrolled for the study

On comparing the effect of both therapies on associated symptoms and signs, it was found that both the groups were equally effective in *Nidranasha*, *Sandhishula*, Auspitz sign, Candle grease sign, Koebner phenomenon and Body Surface Area. Group A was more effective in *Jwara* in comparison to group B.

Overall effect of therapy shows that complete remission was found in 16.32% patients in group B and 6.66% patients in group A, while marked improvement was found in 62.22% patients in group A and 40.81% patients in group B [Table 3]. While on comparing the effect of therapy by  $\chi^2$  test, insignificant difference was found which meant that both the groups were equally effective.

Effect of therapy- In the present study, maximum patients between the age group of 41-50 years showed better relief (complete remission and marked improvement) in both groups.

Table 2: Effect of therapy in symptoms and signs of *Ekkushtha* in group A and group B of the patients selected for the study in percentage of patients showing improvement (paired *t* test)

Symptoms	Effect in	Effect in	
	group A (in %)	group B (in %)	
Mandala	82.31	80.31	
Matsyashakalopamam	76.35	74.25	
Aswedanam	82.97	84.61	
Rukshata	74.4	72.66	
Kandu	84.04	79.04	
Daha	88.54	87.20	
Bahalatva	83.59	73.53	
Sraava	90.41	91.46	
Unnati	81.25	80	
Nidranasha	47.82	56.09	
Sandhishula	21.87	31.81	
Auspitz sign	83.36	85.10	
Candle grease sign	84.61	77.52	
Koebner phenomenon	61.11	67.5	
Body surface area	53.28	57	

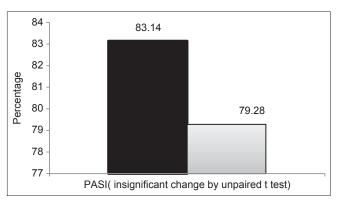


Figure 2: Effect of therapy on patients enrolled in the study and divided into groups A and B, on psoriasis area and severity index, in percentage of patients showing improvement

It was seen that patients of *Vata-Kapha Prakruti* achieved received benefit (complete remission and marked improvement) of the drugs. Group A showed better results in plaque type of Psoriasis whereas group B showed good results in both plaque and guttate type of Psoriasis. It was seen that patients with negative family history responded better in comparison to that of positive family history of Psoriasis. Patients with mild and moderate Psoriasis responded better to both the therapies.

#### **DISCUSSION**

It is observed that maximum number of patients (22.52%) had the first onset of Psoriasis between age group of 21-30 years. Psoriasis can occur at any age; however, due to a stressful life and dietary disturbances' in young age, incidence is found more in the age group of 21-30 years. 36.93% were doing Virrudhashana (Consuming incompatible foods) followed by 36.03% doing Vishamashana (Irregular dietary habits). Virrudhashana is said to cause-'Ninditavyadhies' and one among them is Kushta. The dominance of Rasa in the diet of the patients of this series was, Lavana (81.98%) Amla (68.46%) and Katu (59.45%). Acharya Charaka has quoted that excessive use of Lavanarasa is a direct cause of Kushta Roga. [6] Moreover, it aggravates Pitta ad Kapha Doshas. Also Amla Rasa is said to be Raktadushtikara Nidana by Acharva Charaka. [7] Katu Rasa is said to cause Bala Kshaya [8] and decreased immunity of the body, and hence may be responsible for causing psoriasis, as it is an immunological disorder. Most prominent precipitating factors reported by the patients of this series were climate (87.38%) and emotional stress (84.68%). The role of climate as a trigger is also supported by many studies. A number of studies have shown that psychological stress is often caused by Psoriasis, and also can be a factor in Psoriasis flare up.

#### Effect of therapy

On the basis of complete remission and marked improvement, it can be concluded that drugs in group A was more effective on following symptoms- Mandala, Bahalatva, Unnati, Auspitz sign, Candle grease sign, Daha and Kandu; whereas drugs in group B was more effective in Matsyashakalopamam, Rukshata, Koebner Phenomenon, Nidranasha, Srava and Aswedanam.

#### Probable mode of action

Navayasa Rasayana Leha- has dominancy of Tikta-Katu Rasa in 66.66% drugs. As described by Acharya Charaka, Tikta Rasa has the property of Deepana and Pachana[9] and thus, helps in Amanashana formed due to Nidanasevana. Tikta Rasa also has the property of Raktaprasadana, Vishaghna, Kushthaghna, Kandughna and Dahaprashamana. It also has Kaphaghna property. Thus through these properties Navayasa Rasayana Leha acts on Ekkakushta. Acharya Charaka has described that Katu Rasa possesses Deepana and Pachana[8] properties, through which it acts at level of Agni and stops Ama formation. One property of Katu Rasa described by Acharya Charaka is "Marganvivrunoti" which means it dilates the Srotas and thus acts on cellular level and stops the uncontrolled production of cells which causes hyperkeratinization. Other properties of Katu Rasa described by Acharya Charaka are Vishaghna, Kandughna and Vranaprasadana.

Also, the ingredients of Navayasa Rasayana Leha has dominancy

Table 3: Overall effect of therapy on patients enrolled in the study and divided into groups A and B, in number of patients and corresponding percentage of patients showing varying degrees of improvement

Effects	Group A		Group B	
	Number of Patients	%	Number of Patients	%
Complete				
Remission (100%)	3	6.66	8	16.32
Marked				
Improvement				
(75-99%)	28	62.22	20	40.81
Moderate				
Improvement				
(51-74%)	12	26.66	20	40.81
Mild Improvement				
(25-50%)	2	4.44	1	2.04
Unchanged (<25%)	0	0	0	0

Table 4: Pharmacologically proven actions of drugs of *Navayasa Rasayana Leha* 

Actions	Drugs
Immunomodulatory	Amalaki, Haritaki, Bakuchi
Antioxidant	Amalaki, Haritaki, Bhallataka
Adaptogenic	Amalaki, Haritaki
Wound Healing	Haritaki
Anti-inflammatory	Bhallataka, Bakuchi, Bhrungraj
Anti-arthritic	Bhallataka
Antistress	Bhallataka

Table 5: Pharmacologically proven actions of drugs of *Medhya Rasayana* tablet

Actions	Drugs
Sedative	Vacha, Jyotishmati, Shankpushpi
CNS depressant	Vacha, Jatamansi
Anti-inflammatory	Jyotishmati, Yashtimadhu,
	Guduchi, Bhallataka
Immunomodulatory	Yashtimadhu, Guduchi, Haritaki
Antioxidant	Yashtimadhu, Brahmi, Haritaki
Antistress	Yashtimadhu, Guduchi
Adaptogenic	Yashtimadhu, Guduchi, Haritaki
Nootropic	Yashtimadhu, Guduchi, Brahmi,
	Shankhpushpi

of - Laghu Guna-66.66% and Ruksha Guna-77.77% drugs. Laghu Guna possesses Kaphashamaka property. It also has Agnideepana property through which it helps in relieving Agnimandya. By its Srotoshodhaka property, it acts on minute channels and removes the Amavisha. Acharya Sushruta has described Lekhana and Ropana properties of Laghu Guna. [10] Lekhana property might help in management of hyperkeratinization which leads to scaling, Bahalatva and Unnati. Acharya Hemadri has given Shoshana property of Ruksha Guna which might help

in management of *Sraava*. It also has *Kaphashamaka* property. It is seen that 77.77% drugs in Navayasa Rasayana Leha were of *Ushna Veerya*. According to *Acharya* Vruudha Vagbhatta, *Ushna Veerya* has *Vatakaphashamaka* property and according to *Acharya* Vagbhatta, it has *Ashupaka* property through which it acts quickly at minute channels.<sup>[11]</sup>

#### Doshaghnata

It is seen that 33.33% drugs possessed *Tridoshahara* property and 44.44% drugs possessed *Vatakahpahara* property by which they act directly on the underlying *Doshas* of the disease.

#### Karmas of Navayasa Rasayana Leha

All the drugs of Navayasa Rasayana Leha possess Rasayana property. Drugs like Haritaki, Amalaki, Vidanga and Bhallataka are included in Kushthaghna Mahakashaya given by Acharya Charaka and, 55.55% drugs have Kushtaghna property, and 33.33% drugs have Medhya and Shothahara property.

Some pharmacologically proven actions of drugs of *Navayasa Rasayana Leha* are given in Table 4.

The drugs of *Navayasa Rasayana Leha* possess immunomodulatory, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory property [Table 4]. Thus, the probable mode of action of *Navayasa Rasayana Leha* can be understood.

Medhya Rasayana tablet Rasa Dominancy: Tikta Rasa-88.88%, Katurasa-44.44%. As discussed earlier, Tikta Rasa acts by the property of Amapachana, Raktaprasadana, Vishaghna, Kushtaghna, Kandughna and Dahaprashamana. Katu Rasa acts by its "Marganvivrunoti property", Deepana, Pachana, Kandughna and Vranaprasadana property.

Guna dominancy: Laghu and Snigdha Guna-55.55%. As discussed earlier, Laghu Guna acts by its Kaphashamaka, Agnideepana, Srotoshodhaka etc., properties. Snigdha Guna is Vatahara and is responsible for Mruduta, Bala and Varna. Here, Bala can be interpreted as Vyadhikshamtva. It may help in the management of Rukshata and Kharata by its Mruduta. Owing to the dominancy of Tikshna Guna it may not increase Kapha Dosha

Veerya dominancy: Ushna veerya-66.66%- acts by its Vatakaphashamaka and Ashupaka property.

Doshaghnata: 44.44% drugs in *Medhya Rasayana* have *Tridoshahara* and *Vatakaphashamaka* properties by which they directly act on the disease.

#### Karmas of Medhya Rasayana tablet

44.44% drugs of *Medhya Rasayana* tablet have *Kushthaghna* property and 22.22% drugs have *Swedajanana* property.

In Medhya Rasayana Tablet, all ingredients are having Medhya Prabhava. In the tablet, maximum 9 parts of Shankhpushpi is included which is said to be best Medhya Rasayana drug by Acharya Charaka. Also, all the four Medhya Rasayana described by Acharya Charaka have been included. [12]

Some pharmacologically proven actions of *Medhya Rasayana* tablet are provided in Table 5.

Drugs of Medhya Rasayana tablet have properties like sedative, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory actions etc., by which they act on the disease [Table 5].

#### Dhatryadhyo lepa

Loha Bhasma present additionally in the Lepa has Lekhana property which may help in removing hyperkeratinization. Also it has Yogvahi and Raktaprasadana property, [13] which may help in management of the disease. Ekkakushta is a Kapha-Vata dominant disease. Upon topical application, the active principle of the Lepa reaches to the deeper tissues through Siramukha and Swedavahi Srotas and stains it with its Sukshma and Tikshna property. Due to its Ushna, Tikshna, and Sukshma properties it deblocks the obstruction in Swedavahi Srotas and allows the local toxins to flow out through the Sweda, thus clearing out the micro channels. The Ushna Veerya of Dhatryadhyo Lepa and Snigdha, Sukshma and Picchila Guna of its vehicle, i.e. Tila Taila causes pacification of Vata and Kapha which forms the Samprapti thus alleviating the symptoms. In the present study, no adverse effects of the research drugs have been found during the clinical trial and follow up period.

#### CONCLUSION

Stress may lead to early onset of disease (maximum patients-21-30 years) and early recurrence. *Virrudhaashana* is one of the predominant *Nidana* found (36.93%) which is also described by *Acharya* Charaka as cause of *Ninditavyadhies*, one among which is *Kushtaroga*. Maximum patients were depressed/anxious- which clearly shows the psychosomatic nature of the disease. Family history was positive in 34.23% of the patients, suggesting a genetic cause of the disease. In the present study, maximum patients were of *Vata-Kapha Prakruti* (63.03%). It may be inferred that people of *Vata-Kapha Prakruti* may be more susceptible to Psoriasis.

Both the groups showed almost equal effect in improvement of all signs and symptoms of *Ekkakushta* (Psoriasis) without any adverse effects. On the basis of maximum number of patients getting complete remission and marked improvement, the therapy in group A was concluded to be more effective on the following symptoms- *Mandala, Bahalatva, Unnati*, Auspitz sign, Candle grease sign, *Daha* and *Kandu*. Whereas Group B was more effective in *Matsyashakalopamam*, *Rukshata*, Koebner Phenomenon, *Nidranasha*, *Srava* and *Aswedanam*.

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### हिन्दी सारांश

## एककुष्ठ में नवायसरसायनलेह, मेध्यरसायन टेबलेट तथा धात्र्याद्यो लेप का तुलनात्मक अध्ययन

### चार्मि मेहता, अलंकृता आर. दवे, वी. डी. शुक्ल

एककुष्ठ (सोरीयासीस) एक जीर्ण रोग है जो आतुर की जीवनशैली को बहुत प्रभावित करता है। इस अध्ययन में रूग्णों को पंजीकृत करके सामान्य विभिन्न विभजन वितरण पद्धित से दो वर्गों में विभाजीत कीया। वर्ग अ में नवायस रसायन लेह – २ ग्राम प्रतिदिन दो बार उष्णोदक के साथ दिया गया। साथ ही धात्र्याद्यो लेप का बाह्य प्रयोग करवाया गया। वर्ग ब में मेध्य रसायन टेबलेट – २ गोली दिन में दो बार कोष्ण गोद्ग्ध के साथ दी गई। साथ ही धात्र्याद्यो लेप का बाह्य प्रयोग करवाया गया। दोनो वर्गो में रुग्णों पर औषध का प्रभाव देखा गया। पाये गये परिणामों से यह सिद्ध हुआ कि दोनों वर्गों में रूग्णों की जीवनशैली पर अच्छे परिणाम प्राप्त हुए।