Role of Ayurvedic Drugs in Immunomodulation

Dr. Priyanka B Patil

Assistant Professor, Department of Rasashastra & Bhaishajya Kalpana, RKM Ayurvedic Medical College, Vijayapura, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT

Immunomodulators are considered now as one of the most potent tools in the management of health and disease by modern medicine. The modulation of immune response by using Ayurvedic medications as a possible therapeutic measure has now become a subject of scientific investigation. The recent understanding of Circadian rhythms, seasonal variatons, different psychological states on immune system, neuro - endocrine - immune axis or the influence of exercise are unfolding many such concepts which are bringing the modern concept closer to the Ayurvedic principles of Vyadhikshamatwa. In Ayurveda Rasayanas having qualities of immunomodulation. Agastya haritaki rasayana one such popular avaleha kalpana used in the pranavaha sroto vikaras like Kasa, Shwasa, Vishamajvara, etc. Most of the ingredients are having -Tikta, Madhura rasa, laghu, ruksha guna, katu vipaka, ushna veerya and having kaphavata shamaka properties. Thus, Agastya Haritaki Rasayana is used in the management of diseases which are mainly vatakapha pradhana. Plays important role in boosting immunity for Fighting and Preventing from COVID-19.

KEYWORDS: Immunomodulator, Rasayana, Agastya haritaki Rasayana, Vyadikshamatwa, Kasa, Shwasa, COVID19

INTRODUCTION

The modulation of immune response by using Ayurvedic herbal medications as a possible therapeutic measure has now become a subject of scientific investigation. The concept in modern scientific understanding would mean enhancement of immune responsiveness of an organism against a pathogen by nonspecifically activating the immune system using immunomodulatory agents of plant origin. Immunomodulation could provide an alternative to conventional chemotherapy for diseased conditions of impaired immune responses & helps in selection of immunesuppression for autoimmune disorders and rejection in organ transplantations.

Immunomodulators are considered now as one of the most potent tools in the management of health and disease by modern medicineThe more recent understanding of neuro – endocrine – immune axis or the influence of exercise, circadian rhythms, seasonal variations, different psychological states on immune system are unfolding many such issues which are bringing the modern concept closer to Ayurvedic principles of Vyadhi-ksamatva, Ojas and Bala.

How to cite this paper: Dr. Priyanka B Patil "Role of Ayurvedic Drugs in Immunomodulation" Published in

International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-6 | Issue-7, December 2022, pp.1131-1137,



URL:

www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd52576.pdf

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The basic concept of immunomodulation not only existed in Avurveda but is being really practiced by the Avurvedists for centuries. Avurveda details the concept of immunomodulation by the term "Rasayana". The use of formulation is to enhance the body's overall natural resistance to the disease causing agent rather than directly neutralising the agent itself. Ayurveda concept immunity propounded the of as Vyadhikshamatwa. Acharya Chakrapanidatta has interpreted the term Vyadhikshamatwa as "Vyadhibala Viroditwa¹, i.e. antagonistic to the strength and of disease virulence & Vvadhi utpadana *pratibandhakatwa*² i.e. the capacity to inhibit and bind the causes of disease. Charaka has also described bala as factor that destroys the *doshas* and disease causing factor.

In Ayurvedic practice, the objective of immune enhancement is achieved through the use of the Rasayana and Vajikarana therapy, following Acar Rasayana measures and also by use of Ojovardhaka remedies. Rasayana yogas posseses immunomodulatory effect like Chyavanprasha, *Agastya haritaki rasayana*, Pippali Rasayana, Guduchi, Yashtimadhu, Haridra, Ashwagandha, Tulsi are used. Rasayana working on Respiratory system are best for Prevention of Coronavirus and boosting immune system. Rasayana Chikitsa can be effective in the Prevention as well as reducing symptoms of COVID-19.

Agastya Haritaki Rasayana is an Avaleha preparation, propounded by Sage Agastya used in the pranavaha srotovikaras like kasa, shwasa, vishamajvara.Most important ingredient haritaki is having properties of *Tikta madhura* rasa, *laghu ruksha teekshna* guna, *Katu* vipaka and *Ushna* veerya and having *Kaphavata shamaka³* properties..posseses the qualities of rasayana. used as nimittika rasayana. as this yoga indicated in disease like Kasa (cough), *Shwasa* (asthma), *Pratishaya* (running or stuffy nose), *Vishamajvara⁴*, which are similar to Coronavirus.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The study was taken with a view

- to enlist the ingredients & indication of Agastya Haritaki Rasayana from Classical text of Ayurveda
- to enlist the immunological study carried on ingredients of Agastya Haritaki Rasayana
- to analyze the properties of Agastya Haritaki Rasayana.

METHODOLOGY

A review on concept of Immunomodulation, *Vyadikshamatwa & Agastya Haritaki Rasayana* with its ingredients, method of preparation, indications and immunological study conducted on ingredients are collected from Ayurvedic classical texts, contemporary texts, online journals, articles and internet materials has been done.

Sl. no	Ingredients	Proportion
1.	Bilva (Rt/st.Bk)	2 pala
2.	Syonaka (Rt/st.Bk)	2 pala
3.	Gambhari (Rt/st.Bk)	2 pala
4.8	Patala (Rt/st.Bk)	2 pala
5.	Agnimantha (Rt/st.Bk)	nal 2 pala
6.	Salaparni (pl) in Scient	ific 2 pala
7. 9	Prisniparni (pl) ch and	2 pala
8.	Brhati (pl)evelopment	2 pala
9.	Kantakari (pl) 456-6470	2 pala
10.	Gokshura (pl)	2 pala
11.	Atmagupta (sd)	2 pala
12.	Shankapusphi pl)	✓2 pala
13.	Sati (Rz)	2 pala
14.	Bala (Rt)	2 pala
15.	Hastipippali (Fr)	2 pala
16.	Apamarga (Rt)	2 pala
17.	Pippalimula (Rt)	2 pala
18.	Chitraka (Rt)	2 pala
19.	Bharangi (Rt)	2 pala
20.	Puskaramula (Rt)	2 pala
21.	Yava (Sd)	1 adhaka
22.	Haritaki (P)	100 in number

Table1: Table showing list of drugs with Quantity. ⁵	Table1:	Table sh	lowing l	ist of d	rugs with	Quantity. ⁵
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TABLE 2. Indications of Agastyaharitaki avaleha.⁶

S. No	Indication
1.	Vali
2.	Palitya
3.	Varna Ayu Bala vardhana
4.	Kasa

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5.	Kshaya		
6.	Swasa		
7.	Vishamajwara		
8.	Gulma		
9.	Meha		
10.	Grahani		
11.	Arsha		
12.	Hridroga		
13.	Aruchi		
14.	Pinasa		
15.	Rajayakshma		

METHOD OF PREPARATION.⁷

The drugs from the 1 to 20 (from table 1) (2 pala = 96 gm each; Dashmoola 96gm each individual) are coarsely powdered and kept in a vessel.

Pancha adhaka (5*3.072 ltrs=15.360 ltrs) of water is added and qwatha is prepared reducing it to 1/4th (4.8 ltrs)

Yava (1 adhaka=3.072kg) and Haritaki (100 in number) are bundled in a piece of cloth which is immersed by suspension, as in dolayantra. Mixture of Yava and Haritaki is boiled till Yava becomes soft.

Bundle is opened and Yava is discarded.

Jaggery (1 tula=4.2 kg) and Haritaki is added to the decoction and boiled to the required paka.

After paka ghrita & taila (4 pala=192 g each) is added along with the pippali churna (4 pala=192gm). Allowed to cool and finally honey (4 pala=192gm) is added.

The siddhi lakshana of the avaleha includes asanna siddhi lakshana (Tantumatva, Apsumajjana, Sthirata) and Siddha lakshana (Piditomudre, Gandhavarnarasodhava, Sukhamarda).⁸

 Table 3: Rasa panchaka of Individual components of Agastyaharitaki Rasayana based on

 Bhayaprakash Nighantu

agnata agna atashamaka asamaka
utashamaka usamaka
isamaka
1
isamaka
atasamaka
isamaka
isamaka
atasamaka
atasamaka
asamaka
us ut

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11	Atmagupta (sd)	Madhura Tikta	Guru, Snigdha	Ushna	Madhura	Tridoshasamaka
12	Shankapusphi pl)	Kashaya, Katu	Snigdha, Picchila	Sita	Madhura	Tridoshahara
13	Sati (Rz)	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Tikshna	Ushna	Katu	Vatakapha shamaka
14	Bala (Rt)	Madhura	Snigdha, Guru	Sita	Madhura	Vatapitta Samaka
15	Hastipippali (Fr)	Katu	Ruksha	Ushna	Katu	Vatahara
16	Apamarga (Rt)	Tikta Katu	Sara, Tikshna	Sita	Madhura	Kaphavata samaka
17	Pippalimula (Rt)	Katu	Tikshna, Lagu, Snigdha	Anusna	Madhura	Kaphavata samaka
18	Chitraka (Rt)	Katu	Tikshna	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavata samaka
19	Bharangi (Rt)	Katu, Tikta	Ruksha, Laghu	Sita	Madhura	Kaphavata samaka
20	Puskaramula (Rt)	Katu, Tikta	Tikshna, Lagu	Usna	Katu	Vatakapha samaka
21	Yava (Sd)	Kashaya, Madhura	Ruksha, Guru, Picchila	Ushna	Katu	Kaphahara
22	Haritaki (P)	Kashaya pradhana lavana varjita	Lagu, Ruksha	Usna	Madhura	Tridoshahara

Rt/st bk- Root/stem bark, Pl-plant, Sd- Seed, Rz- Rhizome, Fr- Fruit, P-Pulp

01-	Table 4: Study conducted on Pippan and Haritaki					
Sl. No	Year	Author	Title	Drug	Result	
1.		Deepti Bisht et al	"A Clinical study to evaluate the efficacy of Pippali Rasayana in certain Respiratory disorders"	(Gr-I) (N=15): Pippali Rasayana prepared from Palash Kshara bhavit Pippali for 45 days (Gr-II) (N=12): On respective allopathic drug treatment	PippaliRasayana helps in increasing Hb% and reduction in ESR also showed improvement in frequency and duration of exacerbation. Hence it is very much effective in the management of Respiratory diseases as an adjuvant	
2.		E S Sunila & G Kuttan	Immunomodulatory and antitumor activity of Piper longum Linn. and piperine	alcoholic extract of Piper longum (10 mg/dose/animal) as well as piperine (1.14 mg/dose/animal	Administration could inhibit the solid tumor development in mice induced with DLA cells and increase the life span of mice bearing Ehrlich ascites carcinoma tumor to 37.3 and 58.8%, respectively. increased the total WBC count to 142.8 and 138.9%, respectively, in Balb/c mice.	
3.		Pranoti Belapurkar, Pragya Goyal, and Preeti Tiwari- Barua	Imunomodulatory Effects of <i>Triphala</i> and its Individual Constituents: A Review	the model animals were pretreated with 500 mg/kg of aqueous extract orally and challenged with 50 000 CFU of <i>S. typhimurium</i> .	The animals showed 3×10^3 /mm ³ increase in WBC count and 4% increase in lymphocyte count as compared to saline treated control animals 102% increase in lymphocyte proliferation and 28.87% increase in foot pad thickness as compared to the infected control in DTH test. study concluded that the extract shows its protective effect through its immunomodulatory activity in mice against typhoid	

Table 4: Study conducted on Pippali and Haritaki

DISCUSSION

Rasayana/Immunomodulator helps to improve digestion and metabolism as well as microcirculations, thus allowing to obtain the best qualities of all Dhatus. Rasayana acts on seven Dhatus which further improves the Oja which is responsible for producing good immune power in the body. This Oja gives immunity to the body by nonspecific way mediated through neutrophils and monocytes and by specific way mediated by B lymphocytes which acts against the virus and bacterial pathogens. Humoral mediated by B lymphocytes become plasma cells and produces immunoglobin which destroys antigens. Majority of Rasayana drugs works on numerous organs by their improving functions by acquiring Vyadhikshamatva through its appetizer, digestive, cognition enhancement, antioxidant, adaptogenic and immunomodulators

Based on the properties, the major drugs mentioned in the preparation of the Agastya Haritaki rasayana are of Ushna veerya. Tikta Katu, Madhuara Kashaya is the dominant rasa present within it. Laghu Ruksha and Tikshna guna are the major Guna. Katu Vipaka is the more in number compared to the Madhura vipaka. Based on the properties of various ingredients present in Agastya Haritaki Rasayana, it has been mentioned in various diseases like- Kasa, Swasa and Hikka. Laghu guna is Lekhana & Ropana¹⁰ in nature whereas Tikshna guna is Sodhana & Kaphavatahrut¹¹. Laghu Tikshna guna acts as antagonistic to gunas of Kapha, normalises the Kapha¹². Ruksha guna does Soshana & is Kaphahara¹³. Katu rasa combats the Kapha, clears the obstruction in the Srotas and does Sodhana¹⁴ whereas Kashaya rasa does alleviation of the Kapha and Pitta disorders along with the Sodhana effect. Tikta rasa has the property of the Lekhana and Kanta-sodhana ¹⁵. Ushna veerya drugs are Agnimahabhoota dominant and contribute to Pachana, Liquification of Kapha¹⁶, are a potent Vatakapha samaka. it helps in reversing the pathophysiology of swasa roga. Most of the dravyas in Agastya Haritaki rasayana are of Tridosha samaka and of Vatakapha pacifying in nature. In Kaphaj type of Kasa it will be more beneficial since the drugs enlisted are of Kaphavata samaka¹⁷ along with Tridoshahara. It can also be given as the adjuvant therapy, as Naimittika rasayan which helps in preventing the disease to become more chronic and thus prevents any damage to the involved tissues as well as recurrence of the disease.

Pranavaha Srotas carries Pranavayu, in connection (moolsthna) with Hruday (heart) and Dashadhamanis. In COVID-19 the Respiratory system mainly get affected which is evident from its symptoms like cold, cough and breathlessness. Here the drugs working on Respiratory system and strengthening its functions can be useful. For boosting immune system for Prevention of Coronavirus Agastya Rasayana & Pippali Rasayana are the best Rasayana working on Pranvaha Strotas (Respiratory system).can be used due to their antipyretic, antiallergic, immunomodulatory, anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties. Kantakari (Solanum surattense Burm. F.), Pushkarmool (Inula racemosa Hook. f.), Haritaki (Terminalia chebula Retz), Pippali (Piper longum Linn.), Tulsi (Ocimum sanctum Linn), & Brihati (Solanum indicum Linn.) can be used in Pranavaha Strododushti for strengthening it.

CONCLUSION

Health is defined as a "state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity to lead a socially and economically productive life". Ayurveda can be used effectively in the management of immunecompromised conditions like acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), Tuberculosis and malignancy. The *Rasayana* therapy makes it easily possible with its remarkable benefits on immunity, health, longevity, regeneration of cells and tissues in the body. Rasayana as immunomodulator herbs are perhaps the only drug that can be taken securely for long period, even in a healthy state, without any specific contradictions. Acharyas described many Rasayana formulations that increase the life span and refers to them as Ayuskara. Rasayana therapy has various beneficial effects on our body like Jaravyadhi Nashana, promotion of body strength including immunity, promotes body tissues and alleviation of disorders. Immunomodulators corrects the immune functioning that is out of balance. The immunomodulators have ability to stimulate natural and adaptive defence mechanism of the body that can be helpful in boosting immunity for Prevention of COVID-19.

Rasayanas are effective in enhancing immunity of the body. Agastya haritaki *Rasayana* working on Respiratory system helps in strengthening function of Respiratory organs as well as reducing symptoms of Respiratory disorders. Immunity plays an important role in Prevention of diseases. So, it can be concluded that *Rasayana Chikitsa* can be effective in the Prevention as well as reducing symptoms of COVID-19. *Agastya Haritaki Rasayana*; a popular *Avaleha kalpana*, works at various levels including *Dhatus*, *Agni & Srotas*, improving the *Vyadikshmatva* of the body. The methods of preparation, ingredients and indication are almost similar with few differences in classical texts. Most of the diseases mentioned in phalashruti are of *Vatakapha pradhana* type & the ingredients in *Agastya Haritaki Rasayana* have *Vatakapha samana* and *Tridoshahara* properties. Based on *Gunakarma* and *Doshakarma* of the drug; it can be used as main line of treatment in disease as well as *Naimittika Rasayana* to boost up the immunity and cure the diseases in faster & better way. Concepts of *Naimittika Rasayana* bring a new dimension into the health care and promote an integrated approach between different modalities in the field of medicines. Further research work can be taken to analyze the potent *Agastya Haritaki Rasayana*, as mentioned in different classical texts.

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