

Review Article

A review on therapeutic use of Agadas in toxicology according to ancient Ayurveda

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Article Received on: 03/12/2019 Accepted on: 25/12/2019 Published on: 31/12/2019

ABSTRACT:

Agadtantra is one of the special branch among Ashtanga Ayurveda to deal with source, guna, symptoms and management of poison. The word Agadtantra is derived from two words- Agad and Tantra. Agada means anything that conquers a poison and Agadtantra is a system of knowledge for conquering poisons. Acharya Charaka explained that even strong poison is consumed in a proper way, it may work as a medicine (amruta) and medicine consumed in improper way works as a poison. Acharya Vagbhata in Ashtanga Sangraha well explained the use of vish dravyas (poison) in rasayan chikitsa i.e. for promoting immunity and maintain health. Every drug when used as medicine, the shodhana (purification) procedure is most important. Importance of shodhit drug explain by aacharya bhavprakash in details. In the process of shodhana the impure drug becomes pure and the medicinal properties of the drug increases due to contact in various dravyas. Through this research paper I am going to discuss the agada in toxicology and other diseases in ancient Ayurveda.

KEY WORDS: Agadas, Agadtantra, Rasayan Chikitsa, poison

INTRODUCTION:

Agadtantra is one among the eight branches of Ayurveda. This deals with the nature, effects and treatment of poisonous substances, both animate and inanimate.

Poison is defined as a substance which when administrated, inhaled or ingested, causing the illness or death or harmful to your body.

The word **Agadtantra** consists of three separate words - **A, Gada and Tantra**. 'A' stands for **defending** or to **combat**. **Gada** means **visha** or the one which causes diseased condition. **Tantra** means the **science**.

Agada stands for **defending disease or to combat visha i.e. anti poison**. In Modern toxicology, Antidotes are agents which either neutralize the poison itself or counteract the effects of poisons².

In **Ancient Ayurveda**, these agadas(Antidotes) are used in **vega** (in between fifth to seventh condition) of poisonous case³. These formulation of Agadas contains

drugs which have opposite properties to the vishas i.e., **antipoisonous properties**.

Due to **antipoisonous conditions** Agdas are useful for only in **several emergency conditions**. But in **Ayurvedic samhitas and various referance Granthas**, Acharyas used Agadas as **medicine in diseases**. This article is collection of Agadas from ancient text which is used for treatment of various diseases.

Aims and Objectives:

Aim:

- To collect the Agadas from ancient Granthas which is used as medicine for poisoning cases and their Therapeutic Use.

Objectives:

- To study the use of various Agadas in poisonous conditions.
- To study the therapeutic use of Agadas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

- References of Agada and its therapeutic use have been described in ayurvedic texts as well as samhitas.
- All the data were compiled, analysed and discussed through in depth understanding of therapeutic use of Agada which is mentioned in Ayurvedic literature.

Table No. 1: Agada according to Acharya Charaka:

Sr. No.	Name of Agada	Main uses	Therapeutic use
1	Gandharvahastyadi Agada ⁶	Shirogatvisha, Keetdansha (Insectbite), Savishvrana (Poisonous Wound), Vishpana.	Jwar, Bhutgrana, Visuchika, Ajirna, Murcha, Unmad, Apsmar, Netrarog, Pandurog, Madatyaya, Arsha, Udar, Mudhgarbha, Dushtapratishyaya, Kitibhkustha, Vicharchika
2	Mahagandharvahastyadi Agada ⁷	Sarpvisha, Mushikavisha, Kandavisha	Netraroga, Vishamjwar, Ajirna, Dadru, Kandu, Visuchika, Pama, Udar, Mudhagarbha, Murcha
3	Ksharagad ⁸	Sarvvishvikara	Shoth, Gulhane, Arsha, Bhagandar, Plyharoga, Apsmar, Krumi, Bhutpretbadha, Swarbheda, Panduroga, Mandagni, Kas, Unmad
4	MansyadiYoga ⁹	Sarvvishvikara	Sarvshothprakara
5	KutjadiYoga ¹⁰	Sarpvisha, Vruschikvisha, Lootavisha	Ajirn
6	Amrutghrit ¹¹	Sarvvishanashak, Garvish	Apsmar, Kshaya, Unmad, Bhutpretbadha, Udar, Pandu, Krimirog, Gulma, Pliharog, Urusthambha, Kamala, Hanugraha, Skandhagraha
7	Siddharthakadiagada ¹²	Sarvvishvikara	Jwar, Apsmar, Unmad, Shwetkushtha, Halimaka, Arsha, Pandu, Arochaka, Shosh, Shoth, Visuchika, Gulma, Ashmari, Shwas, Kas, Kustha
8	Kshargutika ¹³	Garavisha	Philavikara, Udar, Shwetkushtha, Halimaka, Arsha, Pandu, Arochaka, Shosh, Shoth, Visuchika, Gulma, Ashmari, Shwas, Kas,
9	Pippalimulyadi kshar Yoga ¹⁴	Sarvvishnashak	Sarvvatroga
10	Snuhikshirghrita ¹⁵	Garavisha	Gulma, Udar
11	Narayan Churna ¹⁶	Danshtravish Mulavisha, Garavisha,	Udar, Gulma, Aanadhvat, Vatvikara, Arsha, Ajirna, Bhagandar, Pandu, Shwas, Kas, Galgraha, Hridayaroga, Grahani, Kushtha
12	YograjYoga ¹⁷	Sarvvishroga	Pandu, Kas, Rajyaksha, Vishamjwar, Kustharoga, Ajirna, Prameha, Shosh, Shwas, Arochaka, Apsmar, Kamala, Arsha
13	Shilajatuvatak ¹⁸	Garavisha	Kustha, Pandu, Jwar, Pliha, Tamakshwas, Arsha, Bhagandar, Shosh, Kas, Raktpitta, Gulma.

Table No. 2: Agada according to Sushruata:

Sr. No.	Name of Agada	Main Uses	Therapeutic Use
1	Vanshtwagadi Agada ²⁰	Lootavisha, mushikavisha, sarpavisha	Vatvikara, garbhavrodh, kach, arma, akshikosh, patalgatrog
2	Kharagada ²¹	Takshakavisha, sarpavisha	Sharkara, ashmari, arsha, vatgulma, kas, shul, udar, ajirna, ajirna, grahani, shoth, shwas
3	Kalyanaksarpi ²²	Garavisha	Kustha Pandu, apsmar, shwas, mandagni, jwar, kas, sarvvishnashskosh

Table No. 3: Agada according to Ashtanghridayam:

Sr. No.	Name of Agada	Main use	Therapeutic use
1	Paravatadi Agada ²³	Garavisha	Trushna, ruja, kas, shwas, hikka, jwar
2	Himwan Agada ²⁴	Mandalisarpa	Shoth, visarpa, visphot, jwar, dah
3	Bilvadi Agada ²⁵	Sarp, loota, mushaka, vruschikavishnashska	Visuchika, ajirna, jwar

Table No. 4: Agada according to Ashtangasangraha:

Sr. No.	Name of Agada	Main use	Therapeutic use
1	Sanjivan Agada ²⁶	Sarvvishnashaka	Jwar , grahabadha
2	Jatamansyadi Agada ²⁷	Sarvvishnashaka	Grahabadha, utpat, gallapitika
3	Udumbaradi Agada ²⁸	Sarvvishanashaka	Visphot, visarp, jwar, dahshamak
4	Chandanadi Agada ²⁹	Vishvikarnashaka	Dah, trushna, raktavikar, visarpa, pittashamak
5	Nishadi Agada ³⁰	Sirogatvisha	Shirashul, vishamjwar, ajirna, visuchika, upsmar, unmad, pandu, prameha, madatya
6	Himwan Agada ³¹	Mandali Sarpa vishnashaka	Shoth, visarp, visphot, jwar, jwar, dahshamak
7	Rodhradi Agada ³²	Sarp, vruschik, alarkavishhar	Jwar, grahabadha, apsmar, unmad, gulma, ajirna, visuchika, shirshul, netrashul, karnashul
8	Bilwamuladi Agada ³³	Sarp, vruschik, loota, Mushakadamsha vishnashak	Visuchika, ajirna, jwar
9	Dhawadi Ksharagad ³⁴	Sarv vishnashaka	Shul, gulm, udar, ajirna, shwas, kas, ashmari, sharkara, Arsha, shoth, grahani, arsha
10	Sugandha Agada ³⁵	Sarv vishnashaka	Bhutbadha, balgraha, unmad
11	Rodhradi Agada ³⁶	Sarv vishnashaka	Jirnjwarnashaka

Table No. 5: Agada according to Sharangadhar Samhita:

Sr. No.	Name of Agada	Main use	Therapeutic use
1	Chaturjatchurna ³⁷	Sarvvishnashaka	Varnya, ruchikar, kapharoghar
2	Narayan churna ³⁸	All types of sthavar and jangamvisha	Grahani, galrog, hridayrognashaka, pandu, kas, shwas, bhagandar, mandagni, jwar, kushtha, ajirna, udar,
3	Sanjivanivati ³⁹	Sarpadanshavishahar	Ajirna, visuchika, gulma, sannipatjwar
4	Yograjuggulu ⁴⁰	Mushakavishanashaka	Grahani, prameha, vatrakta, nabhishul, bhagandar, udavarta, kshaya, apsmar, urograha, mandagni, shwas, kas, aruchi
5	Paniyakalyanakghrita ⁴¹	Sthavar and Jangamvishanashaka	Apsmar, jwar, kshaya, unmad, vatrakta, kas, mandagni, pratishyaya, katishul, jwar, mutrakruchha, pandu, prameha
6	Kasisadighrita ⁴²	Lootavishnashaka	Kushtha, dadru, pama, vicharchika, shukdosha, visarpa, upadamsha, bhagandar
7	Gauradyagrita ⁴³	Sarpivishahar, lootavish, Keetvishnashaka	Visarpa, vrana
8	Shatavaritaila ⁴⁴	Garvishnashaka	Angashul, shirashul, kamala, pandu, grudhrasi, shosh, prameha, ardit
9	Suchikabharan rasa ⁴⁵	Sarpadansh stumrutavsthoapijivti	Raktabheshajasamparkamurcha
10	Kanaksundar rasa ⁴⁶	Garvishnashaka	Kushtha, visarpa, jwar, ajirna

DISCUSSION:

Aacharya Vagbhata described Agadas as formulations that can be used in all conditions of poisoning⁴⁷.

In ancient Samhita Granthas, Aacharya described Agadas for treatment of other diseases, while it contains some poisonous drug also.

Aacharya Charaka explained that even a strong poison can become an excellent medicine if administered properly⁴⁸.

On the other hand even the most useful drug can act like a poison if handled carelessly.

The drugs which is used in day-to-day life such as Sanjivanivati, Yograjuggulu which is used As Agadas for Sarpvisha.

There are some preparation such as Suchikabharan Rasa is used for emergencies in sarpvisha which is used on Murcharoga.

Poisoning cases are the medical emergencies even death can occur in this cases. This medicine generally very strong in mode of action. But in Ancient times, Aacharya had deeply knowledge about the medication. They use this formulation in other diseases also.

Aacharya Vagbhata, in Uttartantra; Vishpayogi Adhyaya described uses of poisons in various diseases such as netravigara, shirogatavigara, twachagatroga etc⁴⁹.

Hence there is a need of research about this formulations that can be used other than poisoning cases.

CONCLUSION:

Agadas are the formulations which can be used in treatment of other diseases as well as medical emergencies of poisonous cases.

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Cite this article as:

Vidya S. Ahire, Amrapali Patil, Ocean Verma, Ramesh Ahire, A review on therapeutic use of Agadas in toxicology according to ancient Ayurveda, ADJIM 2019; 4(4), p. 13-18.