

EFFECT OF ABHRAKA SATVA BHASMA IN ALLAXON INDUCED HYPERGLYCEMIA

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ABSTRACT

In the matter of standardization Ayurveda lags behind seriously. So far as the Ayurvedic pharmaceuticals is concerned it can be said that though it was quite rational at ancient time but in the present time it definitely requires a through reorientation. Because of lack of standardization nobody knows about the nature of metallic bhasmas and presence of free metals in them. However, it is well known that when the Ras-aushadhis are prepared as per the texts they don't produce any side effect. Also the pharmaceutical process of bhasma preparation is not uniform all over India, hence the quality of bhasmas varies from place to place, and reproducibility of the results becomes impossible. Again it requires longer duration of time to prepare good quality medicines by traditional methods. In this connection it may be mentioned that, mass production of standardized and efficient metallic preparation is definitely needed for the propagation and practice of Ayurveda. Without such undertaking, practice of Ayurveda can neither be encouraged amongst the physicians nor popularized amongst the sophisticated public.

Key Words: *Abhrak Bhasma .Maran Process, demographic factors*

INTRODUCTION

If we see the chronological development of Bhaishajya Kalpana & Rasa-Shastra, these branches were in the first stage of development during classical Ayurvedic period. At that time mainly herbal & few mineral medicines were in use. With the development of Rasa-Shastra the by-products produced during alchemical processes were found to be highly useful in preventing & curing diseases. Being highly efficacious in small doses & having long shelf life, mineral medicines became very popular among Ayurvedic physicians in short period of time. In the later period, the scholars observed that, the metal extracted from the minerals were many times effective than original material for Alchemical as well as therapeutic purpose. Keeping this in view they developed metal extraction method, denoted as 'Satvapatana' and the metal extracted as 'Satva' . Actually the history of satvapatana is as old as history of metals. In 'Yajurveda' the origin of metals has been claimed through yajnya karma. Because of continuous heating at high temperature during yajnya karma metallic compounds in the earth crust reduced to metal. Here we are dealing with Abhraka Satva patana & Abhraka Satva.

DESCRIPTION OF ABHRAKA :

Abhraka is the second most important drug of Rasa Shastra (R.S.). In the texts of Rasa-Shastra it is claimed that medicines prepared from Abhraka are very efficacious & highly potent. Gautam 2nd cen. A.D. in Nyaya Sutra has mentioned Abhraka for the first time. India during 1st century started use of Abhraka for various Alchemical & therapeutic purpose. All the Rasa texts have placed Abhraka next to Mercury on the basis of its role in mercurial processings. Chakradatt was the first physician who started internal use of Abhraka. Out of various types of Abhraka, Krishna Vajra Abhraka is said to be the best variety for therapeutic and alchemical processes.

Abhraka in Modern Science : It is known as MICA.

- (i) **Definition** : 'MICA is a particular family of mineral, consisting essentially silicates of Aluminium with varying proportion of Alkalis Iron oxide, Magnesia etc.

and are characterized by a highly natural crystal to be readily split into very thin plates.'

(ii) Chemically : Micas are silicates & in most cases cause orthosilicates of Aluminium with potassium & Hydrogen etc.

Abhraka Satva (A.S.) : Abhraka Satva is a metallic extract of Abhraka. According to R.R.S. no other substance in the world is better than Abhraka Satva for making Hg thermo stable. It is said that Abhraka Satva Bhasma is 8 time (Ref. R.H.T.)/10 times (Ref. Rasarnava) more potent than Abhraka bhasma (Abhraka Bhasm.) About 10 methods and 40 various drugs described for this process. Here for extraction Abhraka Satva, the standard procedure we adopted from the thesis "Study on satvapatan with special reference to Abhraka & Makshika by Dr. C.B. Jha et at (1990).

AIM & OBJECT :

Though being a highly effective & no medicine Abhraka Satva Bhasma (A.S.B.) hardly used in routine practice. The reason behind this seem to be a tedious process of satvapatana and small amout of satva recovered. The present study was undertaken to reveal facts & figures for the users of this drug on the basis of scientific up-to-date knowledge. The problem has been studied at its literary level, pharmaceutical standardization, chemical analysis and at the level of experimental study.

Pharmaceutical Study : (Abhraka Satva Patana) :

Material -

1. Krishna Vajra Abhraka
2. Musali
3. Furnace
4. Graphite Crucible
5. Lining Material
6. Tankana

Methods –

1. Shodhana
2. Dhanyabhrakikaran
3. Pelletization
4. Preparation of crucible
5. Smelting
6. Collection of Satva
7. Satva Marana

DISCUSSION :

1. Preparation of Charge Material and Pelletization :

Krishna vajrabhraka was taken for satva patina. Its shodhana was done by heating to red hot & quenching into decoction of Triphala for seven times. After that Dhanyabhraka was made to get homogeneous Abhraka particles & to remove impurities Dhanyabhraka was mixed with 1/4th part of Tankana & decoction of 1/4th part of Musali powder, triturated and small spherical balls were made & dried in Sun.

2. Crucible Preparation :

Instead of musa. standard graphite crucible, obtained from local market was used. The inner & outer surface of the crucible were lined with a mixture of Alumina, 3% sodium silicate & water. After lining it was dried, first in sun & then kept in drying oven at 200°C for 6 hours. Lining was given to resist high temperature and to prevent the reaction between graphite & charge material during smelting.

3. Heating Schedule :

Temperature was given in electric muffle furnace (Silicon Carbide electric Muffle furnace) having capacity to raise the temperature upto 1700°C. The prepared spherical balls were kept in a crucible & it was kept Inside the electric furnace.

The temperature was raised slowly 5°C/min. & maintained at 1000°C for 3 hours after the temperature raised upto 1400°C and maintained for 1 hour. The furnace was

put off to allow the charge material to cool in the furnace by itself. On next day slag & metal were separated from crucible.

4. Preparation of Abhraka Satva Bhasma:

The pharmaceutical process of ASB may be divided into three parts :

(i) *Mridukarana (Softening)*

(ii) *Shodhana*

(iii) *Marana (incineration)*

A) Abhraka Satva Mridukarana –

For this the hard satva material was heated to red hot in a big iron spoon & was dipped into Honey, Oil, Fat (vasa) & Ghee for 10 times in each liquid. After Completion of the process the hard metal in button form turned into soft & brittle material.

B) Abhraka Satva Shodhana –

It includes samanya & vishesha shodhana.

(a) **Samanya Shodhana** - In this process, softened satva heated to red hot & dipped in freshly prepared decoction of triphala. This process was repeated for 7 times. (R.T.).

(b) **Vishesha Shodhana** – The samanya shodita Abhraka Satva was again heated to red hot in a big iron spoon & dipped in Kanji containing grass & immediately crushed in an iron mortar. This process was repeated for several times till it gets converted into fine powder. This powder was fried with Ghee & Amalaki Swarasa for 3 times. After each frying the powder was ground well.

5. Abhraka Satva Marana :

There are two method for Abhraka Satva Marana (i) Putapaka (ii) Kupipakva Vidhi. Of which Kupipakva Vidhi was selected. Abhraka Satva was mixed with ½ part samaguna kajjali & triturated well with Kanji, after drying the powder was filled in kachekupi having seven coatings of cloth smeared with mud. Then it was subjected to

heat through electric furnace. Temperature was given upto 700°C. The whole process was repeated for 7 times. Bhasma shows all character of good bhasma. e.g. Rekhapurnata, Varitaratva, Nischandratva, Apunarbhava.

Properties of Abhraka Satva Bhasma it is said that :

अभ्रसत्त्वं सुषिषिरं मधुरं रुचीरं परमं।
सुस्निग्धं केश्यं औयुष्यं त्रिदोषघ्नं रसायनं॥ र.त.

Colour of Abhraka Satva :

Ras Hriday Tantra- Lohanibha, Suwarvarna Devamukhtulya

Ras Prakasha Sudhakara - Kamsyanibha

Properties of Abhraka Satva Bhasma –

Rasa - Madhura,

Vipaka – Madhura

Virya- Atishteeta

Doskarma - Tridoshaghna

Karma- Rasayan, Vajikarana, Keshya, Aushya, Santanakara, Punsatva, Janana,
Vayasthaapana.

Chemical Analysis of Abhraka Satva Bhasma

Table showing the chemical composition of Abhraka Satva & Slag :

Abhraka Satva		Slag	
Fe	98.2%	Fe	10.7%
Al	0.8	Al ₂ O ₃	87.3
Si	0.45	SiO	40.2
Mg	Nil	MgO	7.2
Ca	Nil	CaO	0.8
Ti	0.1	TiO	0.3%

Trace Elements in Abhraka Satva & Slag - (in ppm)

	Cu	Co	Ni -	Mg	Al	Sn	K	V
Satva	3+	60	Trace+	+	+	+	Trace	12.5 ppm
Slag	260	nil	nil	trace	nil	nil	+	nil

EXPERIMENTAL STUDY :

Introduction –

The present day trend demands the scientific research for the drug effects. Experimental model is the tool of research and it is scientific approach to investigate effects of a drug. So in order to verify the claims on scientific lines the animal experimentation is **prima- acle** necessary to be supplemented by clinical research for a valid conclusion.

Materials :

Animals - Albino rats of either sex weighing 150-200 gm.

Drugs - Abhraka Bhasma

Abhraka Satva Bhasma

Glibenclamide

Gum acacia powder

Chemical - For blood sugar estimation SPAN blood sugar estimation locks.

For induction of Diabetes, Allaxon monohydrate.

Method :

The present study has been divided into following three experiments –

- I (a) Study on the effect of Abhraka Bhasm on normo-glycemic Albino rats
(b) Study on the effect of Abhraka Satva Bhasma in normo-glycemic Albino rat
- II. (a) Study on the prophylactic effect of Abhraka Bhasma in albino rats
(b) Study on the prophylactic effect of Abhraka Satva Bhasma in albino rats.
- III. (a) Study on the effect of Abhraka Bhasma on allaxon Induced hyperglycemia in albino rats.
(b) Study on the effect of Abhraka Satva Bhasma on allaxon induced hyperglycemia in albino rats.

Dosage Schedule – Minimum 25mg/Kg & maximum 50mg/kg of animal.

Exp. 1

Evaluation of effect of AB & ASB in normoglycemic rates :

5 groups were made, 6 animals each

Group A = Control treated with -----mucilage.

Group B = Treated with 25 mg/kg A.B.

Group C = Treated with 25 mg/kg A.S.B.

Group D = Treated with 50 mg/kg A.B.

Group E = Treated with 50 mg/kg A.S.B.

The blood suger level was estimated before starting treatment and on 3rd, 6th,and 10th day after treatment.

Table :Showing Effect of drugs on normo-glycemic Rates (Data represent mean BSL:±SE, ' t' , ' p' values.)

Gr.	Initial	3 rd day	6 th day	10 th day	' t' value	' p' value
Control	92.33±3 A ₁	90.66±2.47 A ₂	91.33±2.47 A ₃	91.5 ±2.14 A ₄	A ₁ :A ₂ =0.49 A ₁ :A ₃ =0.225 A ₁ :A ₄ =0.22	› 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS
AB 25mg/kg	86.5±4.58 B ₁	92.33±3 B ₂	89.0±3.16 B ₃	89.0±3.16 B ₄	B ₁ :B ₂ =1.06 B ₁ :B ₃ =0.45 B ₁ :B ₄ =0.45	› 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS
ASB 25mg/kg	30.6±4.58 C ₁	92.31±3 C ₂	89.0±3.16 C ₃	84.83±4.72 C ₄	C ₁ :C ₂ =2.02 C ₁ :C ₃ =1.43 C ₁ :C ₄ =0.60	› 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS
AB 50mg/kg	76.5±3.8 D ₁	89±3.16 D ₂	79±4.83 D ₃	79.1±4.82 D ₄	D ₁ :D ₂ =2.53 D ₁ :D ₃ =0.40 D ₁ :D ₄ =0.42	› 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS
ASB 50mg/kg	77.6±3.6 E ₁	79±4.83 E ₂	84.0±4.72 E ₃	83.16±4.36 E ₄	E ₁ :E ₂ =0.22 E ₁ :E ₃ =1.05 E ₁ :E ₄ =0.91	› 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS › 0.05 NS

Exp No. 2

Evaluation of prophylactic effect of AB & ASB in albino rats.

3 groups were made each containing 6 rats.

Gr. 1 = Control

Gr. 2 = Treated with 50 mg/kg AB

Gr. 3 = Treated with 50 mg/kg ASB

Treatment was given for 10 days. Then allaxon was administered & BSL was estimated before starting treatment, 24 hr., 48 hr. & 10 days after allaxon administration.

Table : Showing prophylactic effect of Abhraka Bhasma & Abhraka Satva Bhasma
(Data represent means BSL±SE ' t' , 'p' values on 1, 2, 10 days after allaxon administration)

Gr.	Initial B.S.L.	After Pre treatment	After 24hr	After 48 hr	After 10 Days	' t' ' p' value
Control	79.0 ±4.83 A ₁	78.04 ±4.72 A ₂	236.14 ±0.97 A ₃	286.9 ±.86 A ₄	290 ±12.96 A ₅	A ₁ :A ₂ =0.14 <0.05 NS A ₁ :A ₃ =81.93 <0.001NS A ₁ :A ₄ =42.25 <0.001NS A ₁ :A ₅ =15.25 <0.001NS
AB 50mg/kg	74.83 ±2.38 B ₁	76.45 ±3.8 B ₂	234.5± 0.63 B ₃	284.5± 0.63 B ₄	288.2 ±15.86 B ₅	B ₁ :B ₂ =0.36 <0.05 NS B ₁ :B ₃ =66.87 <0.001NS B ₁ :B ₄ =85.23 <0.001NS B ₁ :B ₅ =13.9 <0.001NS
ASB 50mg/kg	83.16 ±4.36 C ₁	80.56 ±4.61 C ₂	234.5 ±0.37 C ₃	285.6 ±0.57 C ₄	284.1± 13.0 C ₅	C ₁ :C ₂ =0.40 <0.05 NS C ₁ :C ₃ =34.63 <0.001HS C ₁ :C ₄ =46.21 <0.001HS C ₁ :C ₅ =14.65 <0.001HS

Exp. No. 3

Evaluation of effect of AB & ASB on allaxon induced hyperglycemia in albino rates. 6 groups were made each consisting 6 rats.

Gr. A = Control, Gr. B = Treated with 25 mg/kg A.B., Gr. C = Treated with 25mg/kg A.S.B., Gr. D = Treat with 50 mg/kg A.B., Gr. E = Treated with 50 mg/kg A.S.B., Gr. F = Treated with Glibenclamide 2 mg/kg.

The BSL was estimated before starting experiment, then the rats were kept under fasting for 24 hrs after that the diabetes was Induced in usual manner. BSL was estimated after 2, 7, 14, 21 days of allaxon administration.

Table : Showing prophylactic effect of Abhraka Bhasma & Abhraka Satva Bhasma
(Data represent means BSL±SE ' t' , 'p' values on 0, 2, 14, 21 days after allaxon administration)

Gr.	Initial	2 nd Day	7 th Day	14 th Day	21 st Day	' t '	' p' value
Control	75.0±	274.0±	283.4±	278.5±	269±	A ₁ :A ₂ =13.0	<0.001HS
	2.3	15.03	4.13	12.89	14.03	A ₁ :A ₃ =0.47	>0.05 NS
	A ₁	A ₂	A ₃	A ₄	A ₅	A ₁ :A ₄ =0.22	>0.05 NS
						A ₁ :A ₅ =0.23	>0.05 NS
AB	77.13	281.8	284.4	268.2	251.9	B ₁ :B ₂ =12.52	<0.001HS
25mg/kg	±4.1	±15.8	±12.94	±12.20	±10.00	B ₁ :B ₃ =0.27	>0.05 NS
	B ₁	B ₂	B ₃	B ₄	B ₅	B ₁ :B ₄ =0.68	>0.05 NS
						B ₁ :B ₅ =1.59	>0.05 NS
ASB	78.45	285.85 ±17.45	272.0 ±12.22	264.8 ±13.86	241.4 ±12.89	C ₁ :C ₂ =11.45	<0.001HS
25mg/kg	±4.80	C ₂	C ₃	C ₄	C ₅	C ₁ :C ₃ =0.65	>0.05 NS
	C ₁					C ₁ :C ₄ =0.94	>0.05 NS
						C ₁ :C ₅ =2.04	>0.05 NS
AB	75.62	302.5 ±14.08	301.45 ±15.77	284.9 ±16.08	220	D ₁ :D ₂ = 15.92	<0.001HS
50mg/kg	±2.4	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	±8.27	D ₁ :D ₃ =0.64	>0.05 NS
	D ₁				D ₅	D ₁ :D ₄ =0.82	>0.05 NS
						D ₁ :D ₅ =5.42	>0.05 NS
ASB	76.52	289.9	285.88	241.3	191.4	E ₁ :E ₂ = 15.75	<0.001HS
50mg/kg	±3.8	±13.0	±15.86	±12.37	±4.99	E ₁ :E ₃ =0.48	>0.05 NS
	E ₁	E ₂	E ₃	E ₄	E ₅	E ₁ :E ₄ =2.71	<0.001HS
						E ₁ :E ₅ =7.2	<0.001HS
Glibenclamide 2mg/kg	78.07	296.3	251	243	212.82	F ₁ :F ₂ =15.82	<0.001HS
	±4.72	±12.96	±15.16	±13.23	±8.27	F ₁ :F ₃ =2.27	>0.05 NS
	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₄	F ₅	F ₁ :F ₄ =2.88	<0.001HS
						F ₁ :F ₅ =5.42	<0.001HS

CONCLUSION OF EXPERIMENT :

In normoglycemic animals none of the two bhasmas showed any significant hypoglycemic effect in 25 mg/kg to 50 mg/kg dose.

Both Abhraka Bhasma & Abhraka Satva B. do not show prophylactic effect when given in 50mg/ kg for 10 days prior to allaxon administration.

For curative study AB & ASB were administered for 21 days in allaxon induced hyperglycemic rats, in two doses i.e., 25 mg/kg & 50 mg/kg. After 14 days of treatment significant fall in BSL was observed in group treated with ASB 50mg/kg & reference group. Also significant hypoglycemia was observed in the Gr. treated with AB 50mg/kg on 21st day. The results suggest that the claim of our ancient physicians seems to be more correct. However, this experiment was of preliminary in nature, hence extensive studies at the level of mechanism of action and clinical studies are required.

References & Abbreviations

R.T. = Rasa Tarangini, RRS = Rasa Ratna Samucchaya R.Chu. = Rasendra Chudamani, A.K. = Anand Kand, R. Chi. = Rasendra Chintamani, RHT = Rasa Hriday Tantra.

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