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# UNFOLDING THE ACTION OF HERBO-MINERAL COMBINATIONS IN AMAVATA

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### ABSTRACT

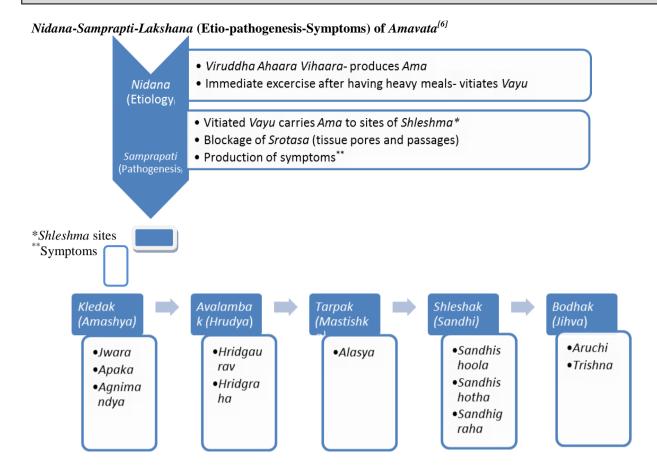
Amavata, being the most common inflammatory Arthritis, caused by aggravated Vata associated with Ama, has the potential to cause substantial joint damage and disability among various musculoskeletal disorders. The objective of the present study is to highlight the importance and promising effects of Rasaushadhi (Shamana Chikitsa) in Amavata. The focus is on herbo-mineral preparations like Amvatari Rasa, SinhnaadGuggulu, Swarna Bhasma etc. containing minerals as well as incinerated metals triturated or processed with biocompatible materials/herbs. The present discussion explores the modes of action of key Rasaushadhi or herbo-mineral formulaations in Amavata, emphasizing their pharmacodeynamic effects, therapeutic rationale and classical references related to Amapachana and Vata-shamana.

KEYWORDS: Amavata, Herbo-mineral preparations, Rasaushadhi.

## INTRODUCTION

Amavata, disease of RasavahaSrotasa, popularly correlated with rheumatoid disease, involves the condition in which vitiated Ama and Vata simultaneously lodge in *Trika* and *Sandhi* (Joints) leading to *Stabdhata* (Stiffness) of the body. [1] In many patients, the pain, disability, deformity and reduced quality of life persists in spite of the management made meticulously and vigorously. [2] Hundreds of formulations are explained in classical texts with the permutation combination of Bhasma along with herbal ingredients, [3] these are called as Rasaushadhi. The successful preparation of Rasaushadhi is one of the boons of Ayurveda, [4] bestowed by Rasacharya who had pharmacovigilant attitude. These Rasaushadhi focus on nano-medicine based delivery strategies i.e. minimizing the drug dose required to control articular inflammation circumvents collateral damage to healthy tissues, thusprovide selective control both in space and time of the inflammatory process in affected joints. [5]

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### Treatment in Amavata

The principles of treatment of *Amavata* are *Langhana*, *Swedana Karma*, use of *Tikta*, *Agnideepaka* and *Katu* drugs, *Virechna*, *Snehapana* and *Basti Karma*.<sup>[7]</sup> Thus, the

therapeutic path in *Amavata* begins with the cleansing of *Ama* and the soothing of disturbed *Vata*. *Rasaushadhi*, with their herbo-mineralsynergy, bridge these aimsoffering both detoxification and restoration from within.

## Rasaushadhiused in Amavata

S. No.	Name	Ingredients	Dose	Anupana
1.	Sinhnaad Guggulu <sup>[8]</sup>	Triphla, ShudhhaGandhaka, ShudhhaGuggulu, Eranda Taila		Ghrita, Taila, Vasa, Shali- Shashti
2.	Vatari Guggulu <sup>[9]</sup>	Eranda Taila, ShudhhaGandhaka, ShudhhaGuggulu, TriphlaChurna	1 Masha (~1g)	Ushna Jala
3.	Amavatari Rasa <sup>[10]</sup>	Shudhha Parada, Shuddha Gandhaka, TriphlaChurna, ChitrakamoolChurna, ShudhhaGuggulu	1 Karsha(12g) 6 Ratti	Ushna Jala
5.	Amavatari Vajra Rasa <sup>[11]</sup>	Shudhha Parada, Shuddha Gandhaka, Lauha Bhasma, Abhraka Bhasma, Ahiphena, Yavakshara, Bhanga Patra Swarasa	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> Masha (~500mg)	According to disease
6.	Ramban Rasa <sup>[12]</sup>	Shudhha Parada, Shuddha Gandhaka, Shuddha Vatsanabha, Lavanaga, Maricha, Jayphala	1 Masha (~1g)	-
7.	Amavateshwara Rasa <sup>[13]</sup>	Shuddha Parada, Shuddha Gandhaka, Tamra Bhasma, Lauha Bhasma, ErandmooltwakaSwarasa, PanchkolaKwatha, GiloyKwatha, Tankana, Vida, Maricha, ImliKshara, Trikatu, Triphla, Lavanga	4 Ratti (500mg) Current Dose 250-500mg	Katu, Amla, TiktaRasayukt a Dravya
8.	Triphladi Lauha <sup>[14]</sup>	Triphala, Mustaka, Trikatu,	½ <i>Masha</i> (~500mg)	According to disease

		Vidanga,		
		Pushkarmoola,		
		Vacha, Chitraka, Madhuyashti, Palasha, Lauha		
		Bhasma, ShudhhaGuggulu, Honey		
		Lauha Bhasma,		
9.	Panchanan Rasa Lauha <sup>[15]</sup>	Shuddha Guggulu,		
		Abhraka Bhasma,	½ - 2 Masha (500mg- 2g)	Decoction of Guduchi, Nagara, Erandamool
		Shudhha Parada,		
		Shuddha Gandhaka,		
		Triphala,		
		Ghrita,		
		Shatavari Rasa,		
		Dugdha,		
		Vidanga, Nagara, Dhanyaka, Gududchi Satva,		
		Jeeraka,		
		Panchkola,		
		Trivrita,		
		Danti, Ela, Mustaka		
	Brihat Yograja Guggulu <sup>[16]</sup>	Trikatu, Triphla, Patha, Saunfa, Haridra,		
		Daruharidra, Ajwain, Vacha, Hingu, Hapusha,	1 <i>Masha</i> (~1g)	
		Gajpippali, Krishna Jeeraka, Shati, Dhanyaka, Vida,		
		Sauvarchla, Saindhva, Pippalimoola, Chaturjata,		
		Tulsi, Lauha Bhasma, Shuddha Rala, Gokshura,		
10		Rasna, Atisa, Shunthi, Yavakshara, Amalvetsa,		-
10.		Chitrakamoola, Pushkarmoola, Erandmoola,		
		Chavya, Vrikshamla, Anardana, Ashwagandha,		
		Trivritmoola, Dantimoola, BdriphalaMajja, Devdaru,		
		Haridra, Kutki, Murvamoola, Traymana, Duralbha,		
		Vidanga, Vanga Bhasma, Ajwain, Vasa, Abhraka		
		Bhasma, Shuddha Guggulu		
1	Vatagajesndrasin gha Rasa <sup>[17]</sup>	Abhraka Bhasma, Lauha Bhasma, Shuddha Parada,	3 Ratti	MandoshnaDu
11		Shuddha Gandhaka, Tamra Bhasma, Naga Bhasma,	(325mg)	gdha
11.		ShuddhTankana, Shuddha Vatsnabha,Saindhava,	Current Dose:	(Lukewarm
		Lavanaga, Hinga, Jaiphala, Trijata, Triphla, Jeeraka	250 mg	water)
	Amapramathini Vatika <sup>[18]</sup>		1 Masha (~1g)	
12.		Soraka, Arkamoola, Shuddha Gandhaka, Lauha	Current Dose:	Nishotha
14.		Bhasma, Abhraka Bhasma, Amaltasa Patra Swarasa	3 Ratti	Kwatha
			(325mg)	
13.	Amritmanajari <sup>[19]</sup>	Shuddha Hingula, Shuddha Vatsnabha, Pippali,	1 Ratti	ArdrakaSwara
13.	Amrumanajart	Maricha, Shuddha Tankana, Javitri	(~125mg)	sa
	Vidangadi Lauha <sup>[20]</sup>	Lauha Bhasma, Abhraka Bhasma, Shuddha Parada,		
		Shuddha Gandhaka, Triphla, Ghrita, Shtavari,		According to
14.		Dugdha, Vidanga, Giloy Satva, Jeeraka, Palasha,	-	disease
		Gajpippali, Triphla, Trikatu, Trivrit-Danti-Eranda-		uiscasc
		Chitrakamoola, Ela, Chavya, Pipramoola, Vidhara		
	-	Triphla, Eranda Taila, Shuddha Guggulu, Shuddha		
15.	Shiva Guggulu <sup>[21]</sup>	Gandhaka, Rasna, Vidanga, Trikatu, Dantimoola,	-	-
		Devdaru		

Mode of action of Rasaushadhi: The use of Rasaushadhi comes under ShamanaChikitsa (= the properties of drugs used should be pacifying or acting against the properties of Doshainvolved in the disease). The ingredients inabove RasaushadhicounteractVata (aggravated by immediate exercise after meals) and KaphaDosha(aggrevated byViruddha Ahara Vihara that further causes Mandagni and eventually produces Ama Rasa) through their unique Raspanchaka profile whichrestore Dosha balance and relieve associated symptoms.



Action of Rasaushadhi at various levels



At the level of *Dosha*: The main motive is to pacify *Vata* and *Kapha*. Some of the drugs act by their *Rasa*, some by *Virya* and others by *Vipaka* and *Prabahava*. According to *Acharya Charaka*, the action of these properties present in a drugalso happen or occur in the following sequence

Rasa<Vipaka< Virya< Prabhava

Prabhava is something which has its peculiar and specific action inspite of other properties like Rasa, Virya, Vipakaalready present in the drug. It is the most effective and rapid in action among all. For example, in many of the above formulations (e.g., Panchanana Rasa Lauha), Ghrita is added during manufacturing or formulatory process, which although is Madhura in Rasa and Sheeta in Virya, helps in kindling the digestive fire required to cope up Mandagni (Kindling fire is actually the action of Katu Rasa and Ushna Virya). AfterPrabahava comes Virya i.e., potencyof the drug. Virya of the drugs used for Amavata is Ushna because the *Ushna* property of drugs helps to digest *Ama* and to some extent, also helps in Agnideepana(kindling of fire) which had been interrupted by Kapha. After Virya, the next property is Vipaka, which is the end product formed after completion of digestion. It is mostly Katu in maximum drugs in this context and helps in pacifying Kapha by elevating some of the required properties of Vata (this Vata is different from aggrevated Vata which is one of the cause of pathogenesis). Some of the drugs like Shatavari and Ghrita in Vidangadi Lauha, Eranda in SinhnaadaGuggulu and many othersdrugs used for Amavatahave Madhura Vipaka which help in pacifying aggrevated Vata by increasing Snigdha, Guru and Manda properties. Next after Vipaka is Rasapresent in drugs. The drugs used for Amavata are of Tikta and Katu Rasa. Tikta Rasahas Ruksha, Sheeta and Laghu properties<sup>[22]</sup>

which act against the Guru, Manda, Snigdha properties of Kapha, thereby help in eliminating Mandagni which are similar to properties of Kapha Dosha. Therefore, Tikta Rasa helps in Deepana, Pachana. [23] Next is the combination of Agni and Vayu in Katu Rasa. Agni has properties of Dahana (kindling fire), Pachana (digestion), Prakashkar (lightning) which act against the Dravata (liquefying), Sheetata (Coldness) and Snighdhta components of Kapha responsible for production of Ama Rasa, and help in the digestion. Vayu has properties of Virukshna (drying up), Vicharna (circulation), Laghavkara (lightness), Ashukari (fast acting), which again by acting against Dravata, Sthirata (Stability), Guruta (Heaviness) and Snigdhata, eliminates the factors that act against fire components and eventually help in kindling fire Therefore, we can see, most of the drugs used in Rasaushadhi are mainlyperforming the action of Deepana, Pachana and Lekhana.

At the level of *Dhatu*: As in *Amavata, Amadushti* occurs, this *Dushita Ama Rasa* will give nourishment to the subsequent *Dhatu* thus vitiating the other *Dhatu*, thus decreasing *Vyadhikshamatva* (immunity) of the person and thus making him more susceptible to diseases. [24] *Tikta Rasa* is also known for drying *Meda* and *Vasa*. As explained by *Chakrapani*, *Meda* is composed of *Prithvi* and Jala *Mahabhuta*, having properties like *Guruta*, *Mandata*, *Snigdhta*, *Pichhilta*. The opposing properties of *Tikta Rasa*, i.e., *Laghuta*, *Rukshta*, *Ashukari* help in drying up *Meda*. *Vayu* and *Agni* present in *Katu Rasa* also help in drying up *Kleda*, *Meda*, *Vasa*, *Majja*, *Lasika*, *Puya*. [25] The combined *Vayu* and *Agni* in *Katu Rasa* also help in *Lekhana* i.e., dries up *Meda* and *Kapha*.

At the level of Mala: Kleda (wetness), Vasa (Mala of Mamsa), Lasika, Puya, Sweda (Mala of Meda) are dried

up by *Tikta Rasa*<sup>[26]</sup> and *Katu Rasa*, *Ushna Virya* and *KatuVipaka*.

At the level of *Strotasa*: When vitiated *Vayu* carries *Ama* to *Dhamani*, it becomes more *Dushita*(various colored and *Pichhilta Yukta*)due to aggrevation of all three *Dosha*. This *Dushita Ama* eventually produces *Kleda* in various channels of body. *Tikta, Ushna* and *Katu* properties of drugs dry up this *Kleda* (wetness) and clear the channels.

### DISCUSSION

Amavata, characterized by the simultaneous aggravation of *Vata* and accumulation of *Ama*, presentscomplex pathology involving impaired Agni, obstructed Strotas and inflammatory joint manifestations. The management of this condition demands a therapeutic strategy that addresses both Ama-pachana (Metabolic correction) and Vata-shamana (Neuro-muscular balance). Herbo-mineral combinations (Rasaushadhi) play a pivotal role in this their multi-dimensional context due to pharmacodynamics. The herbal components contribute to Pachana, Shothahara and Vata-shamak actions., while the mineral constituents (Like Parad, Gandhak and metallic Bhasma) act at deeper cellular and metabolic level, enhancing absorption and potency. The synergistic interplay of these components facilitates Amapachanathrough Agni-deepana and Strotoshodhana actions (as seen in Amavatari Rasa), Shothaharaand Vedanasthapaka effects via anti-inflammatory and analgesic actions (e.g. Yograj Guggulu, Rasnasaptak Kwatha) Rasayanaand Dhatu-poshana outcomes in chronic stages by restoring metabolic balance and tissue integrity (e.g. MahayograjGuggulu). These formulations act not merely symptomatically but break the Samprapti(Pathogenesis) by digesting Ama-correcting Jathragni and Dhatvagni, clearing Strotorodhaimproving circulations and nutrient delivery, pacifying *Vata*- relieving pain, stiffness and swelling, *Dhatu*-preventing rejunvenating recurrence degeneration.

Thus, the herbomineral combinations provide holistic and sustained relief-addressing both the root cause and systemic effects of *Aamvata*. Their *Rasayana* potential further promotes joint health, vitality and long term immunity against inflammatory recurrences.

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