

AYURVEDIC INSIGHT OF BHASMA IN AMAVATASharma Shivani¹, Rupali^{2*}¹Assistant Professor, Department of *Rasa Shastra* and *Bhaishajya Kalpana*, Smt. Urmila Devi Ayurvedic College of Medical Sciences, Hoshiarpur, Punjab.²Assistant Professor, Department of *Rog Nidan Evam Vikriti Vigyan*, Smt. Urmila Devi Ayurvedic College of Medical Sciences, Hoshiarpur, Punjab.***Corresponding Author: Rupali**Assistant Professor, Department of *Rog Nidan Evam Vikriti Vigyan*, Smt. Urmila Devi Ayurvedic College of Medical Sciences, Hoshiarpur, Punjab.DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17746088>**How to cite this Article:** Sharma Shivani¹, Rupali^{2*} (2025). Ayurvedic Insight Of Bhasma In Amavata. World Journal of Pharmaceutical and Medical Research, 11(12), 57–63.

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ABSTRACT

Amavata, a chronic inflammatory disorder described in *Ayurveda*, closely parallels Rheumatoid Arthritis in its clinical presentation of joint pain, swelling, stiffness, and systemic features arising from the interaction of aggravated *Vata Dosha* and accumulated *Ama*. Traditional *Ayurvedic* management emphasizes *Deepana*, *Pachana*, *Vata-shamana* and *Shothahara* therapies, in which *Bhasma* preparations play a significant role. *Bhasmas*—calcined metallic and mineral formulations—possess unique physicochemical properties including *Sukshma* (nano-sized particles), *Laghu*, *Deepana* and *Rasayana* qualities that enhance their bioavailability, tissue penetration, and therapeutic efficacy. Contemporary analytical studies (TEM, SEM, XRD) confirm that *Abhraka*, *Swarna*, *Lauha*, *Tamra*, *Naga* and *Vanga Bhasmas* contain nanoparticles ranging from 10–100 nm, correlating with modern nanomedicine concepts. These nanoparticles exhibit anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, immunomodulatory and mitochondrial-enhancing actions, supporting their role in *Amavata* by promoting *Ama-pachana*, *Agni-deepana*, *Vata-shamana*, *Srotoshodhana* and tissue rejuvenation. This conceptual review integrates *Ayurvedic* principles with modern scientific findings to elucidate the pharmacodynamics, safety, and therapeutic rationale of *Bhasma* in *Amavata*, highlighting their potential as natural nanomedicines for effective management of inflammatory joint disorders.

KEYWORDS: *Amavata*, *Bhasma*, *Nanomedicine*, *Rasaushadhis*, Rheumatism.**INTRODUCTION**

Amavata is a chronic, painful disorder first described by *Madhavkara* in *Madhav Nidana*, characterized by the simultaneous aggravation of *Vata Dosha* and accumulation of *Ama* (undigested metabolic toxins) in the body. Clinically, it resembles Rheumatoid Arthritis, presenting with *Sandhi Shoola* (Joint pain), *Sandhi Shotha* (Swelling), *Stambha* (Stiffness) and systemic symptoms like heaviness and fatigue.^[1] The management of *Amavata* aims to eliminate *Ama*, pacify *Vata* and reduce inflammation, thereby correcting the underlying pathophysiology.

In *Ayurvedic* pharmaceuticals, *Bhasma* preparations—calcined mineral and metallic ashes—play a significant therapeutic role in *Amavata* due to their *Deepana*, *Pachana*, *Sbhothahara* and *Vata-Kapha*

Shamana actions.^[2] Recent analytical studies using Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) and X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) have revealed that *Bhasma* consist of nanoparticles in the range of 10-100nm, which exhibit enhanced bioavailability, tissue penetration and target specificity.^[3] These properties correlate with the modern nanomedicine and nanocarrier concepts, suggesting that *Bhasma* function as natural nanoparticles that can act at the cellular level.

Hence, *Bhasma* like *Abhraka Bhasma*, *Lauha Bhasma*, *Swarna Bhasma*, *Tamra Bhasma* etc. provide an integrative management of *Amavata*, bridging the wisdom of *Ayurveda* with modern nanoscience.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the role of Bhasma (Nanoparticles) in the management of *Amavata* with reference to Ayurvedic and modern perspective.

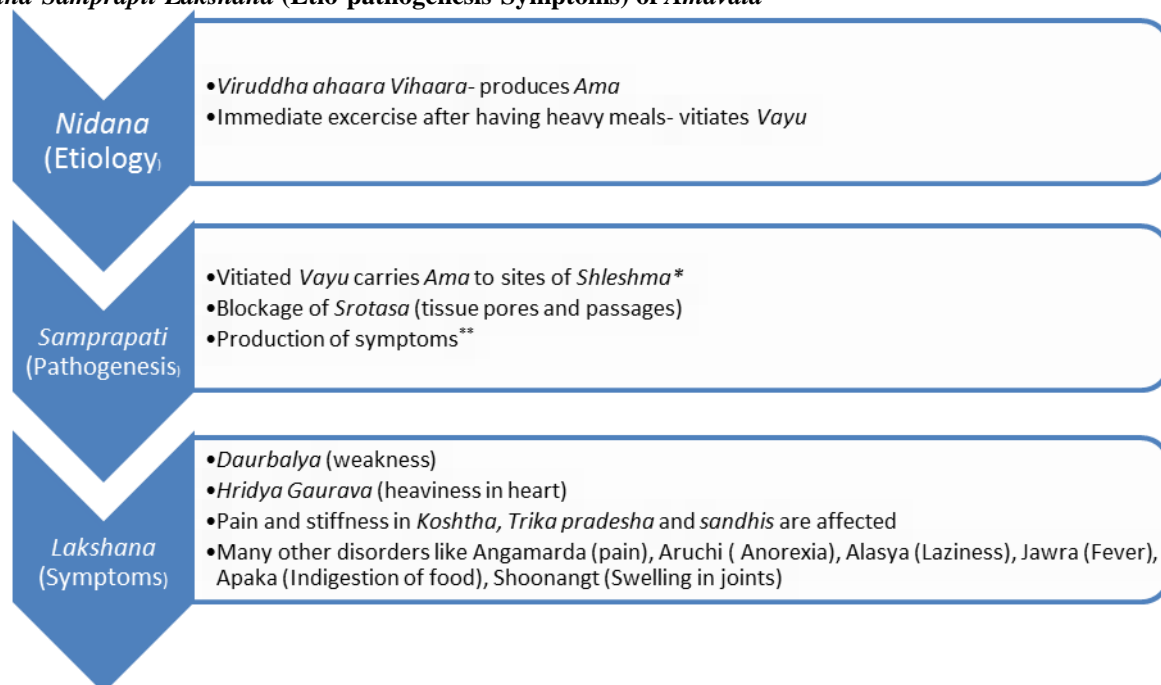
OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the pharmacodynamics of *Bhasma* in *Amavata*.
2. To correlate *Bhasma* properties with modern nanomedicine principles.
3. To highlight their efficacy and safety in inflammation and joint disorders.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This conceptual study is based on a critical review of classical Ayurvedic texts such as *Madhav Nidana*, *Rasa Tarangini*, *Rasa Ratna Samuchhaya* along with modern scientific literature. *Bhasma* like *Abhraka Bhasma*, *Lauha Bhasma*, *Tamra Bhasma* and *Naga Bhasma* were selected for the *Deepana*, *Pachana* and *Shothahara* actions in *Amavata*. Analytical studies employing TEM, SEM and XRD were reviewed to establish that *Bhasma* possess nanoparticles (10-100nm) with enhanced bioavailability and targeted therapeutic effects compared to modern nanomedicine.

Nidana-Samprapti-Lakshana (Etiopathogenesis-Symptoms) of *Amavata*^[4]

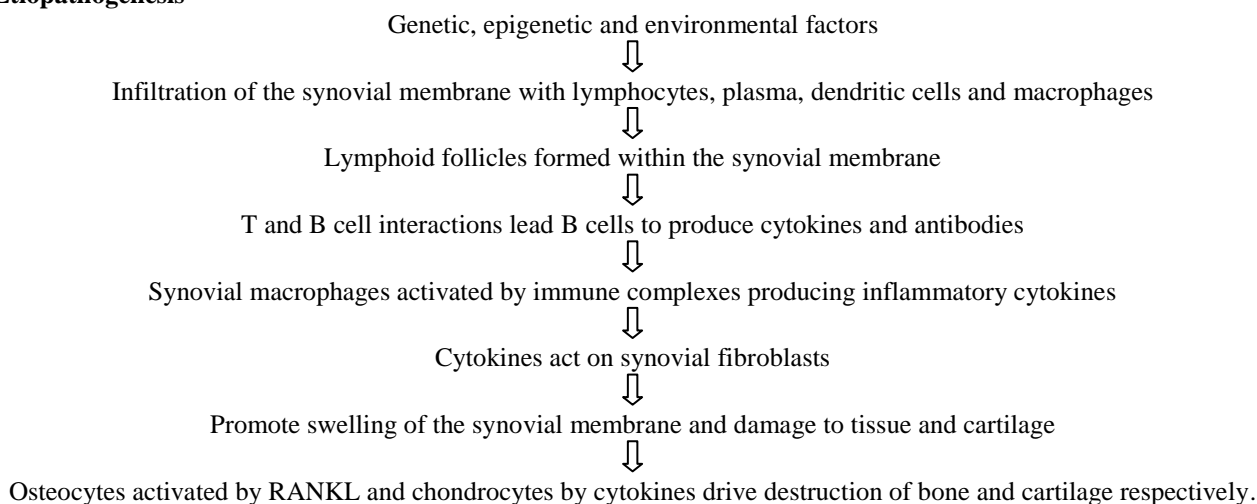


Correlation with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is the most common persistent inflammatory arthritis, occurring throughout the world and in all ethnic groups. The prevalence is 0.8-1.0% with

female to male ratio of 3:1. The clinical course is prolonged, with intermittent exacerbations and remissions.^[5]

Etiopathogenesis^[6]



| Clinical features of RA ^[7] | Features of Amavata ^[8] |
|---|---|
| Pain | Sandhishoola, Angamarda |
| Joint swelling | Sandhishoth |
| Stiffness in joints of hands, feet wrists | Sandhigraha |
| Large joint involvement | Sandhishoola-shotha-graha |
| Systemic symptoms | Aruchi, Pipasa, Alasya, Gaurava, Jwara, Apaka |
| Extra-articular features | |

To understand the role of *Bhasma* in the management of *Amavata*, it is essential to review the properties and therapeutic significance of commonly used *Bhasma*. Ayurveda describes several *Rasaushadhi* with potent *Deepana*, *Pachana* and *Shothahara* and *Rasayana*

actions that help correct *Agnimandya*, eliminate *Ama* and pacify *Vata Dosha*. Among them *Abhrak Bhasma*, *Swarna Bhasma*, *Rasa-sindoor* are most frequently employed due to their proven efficacy and safety.

Bhasma used in *Amavata*

| S. No. | Name of <i>Bhasma</i> | Rasa | Guna | Virya | Vipaka | Present in formulations |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. | <i>Kajjali</i> | - | - | - | - | <i>Amavatari Rasa</i> , <i>Sameerpannaga Rasa</i> , <i>Amavatari Vajra Rasa</i> , <i>Ramban Rasa</i> , <i>Amavateshwara Rasa</i> , <i>Panchanan Rasa Lauha</i> , <i>Vatagajendrasingha Rasa</i> , <i>Brihat Yograj Guggulu</i> |
| 2. | <i>Abhraka Bhasma</i> ^[9] | <i>Madhura</i> (Sweet), <i>Kashaya</i> (Astringent) | <i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Snigdha</i> (Unctuous) | <i>Ushna</i> (Hot) | <i>Madhura</i> (Sweet) | <i>Amavatari Vajra Rasa</i> , <i>Panchanan Rasa Lauha</i> , <i>Vatagajendra Singh Rasa</i> , <i>Amapramathini Vatika</i> , <i>Vidangadi Lauha</i> |
| 3. | <i>Swarna Bhasma</i> ^[10] | <i>Madhura</i> (Sweet) | <i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Snigdha</i> (Unctuous) | <i>Sheeta</i> (Cold) | <i>Madhura</i> (Sweet) | <i>Swarna Vasant Malti Rasa</i> , <i>Swarna Malini Vasant Rasa</i> , <i>Soota Shekhara Rasa</i> , <i>Swarna Pushpa Rasa</i> . |
| 4. | <i>Lauha Bhasma</i> ^[11] | <i>Kashaya</i> (Astringent), <i>Tikta</i> (Bitter) | <i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Ruksha</i> (Dry) | <i>Ushna</i> (Hot) | <i>Katu</i> (Pungent) | <i>Amavatarivajra Rasa</i> , <i>Amavateshwar Rasa</i> , <i>Triphladi Lauha</i> , <i>Panchanan Rasa Lauha</i> , <i>Vatagajendra Singh Rasa</i> , <i>Amapramathini Vatika</i> , <i>Vidangai Lauha</i> |
| 5. | <i>Tamra Bhasma</i> ^[12] | <i>Tikta</i> (Bitter), <i>Kashaya</i> (Astringent), <i>Katu</i> (Pungent) | <i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Ruksha</i> (Dry), <i>Tikshna</i> (Sharp) | <i>Ushna</i> (Hot) | <i>Katu</i> (Pungent) | <i>Vatagajendra Singh Rasa</i> , <i>Amavateshwar Rasa</i> |
| 6. | <i>Naag Bhasma</i> ^[13] | <i>Kashāya</i> (Astringent), <i>Madhura</i> (Sweet) | <i>Guru</i> (Heavy), <i>Snigdha</i> (Unctuous) | <i>Ushna</i> (Hot) | <i>Madhura</i> (Sweet) | <i>Vatagajendra Singha Rasa</i> |
| 7. | <i>Vanga Bhasma</i> ^[14] | <i>Madhura</i> (Sweet), <i>Kashāya</i> (Astringent) | <i>Laghu</i> (Light), <i>Snigdha</i> (Unctuous) | <i>Sheeta</i> (Cold) | <i>Madhura</i> (Sweet) | <i>Brihat Yograj guggulu</i> |

1. *Kajjali*^[15]- The word *Rasaushadhis* emphasizes the importance as a prime ingredient *Rasa* (synonym of *Parada*), mercury in English. Another element, which plays an important role next to *Rasa* among *Rasaushadhis* is *Gandhaka* (Sulphur). *Kajjali* is the primary compound of these two basic ingredients. It has *Rasayana* (counteracting the effects of ageing) and *Yogavahi* (which potentiates the action of drug and also carries the drug to its action site) properties when prescribed with the particular adjunct (*Sahapana*) and vehicle (*Anupana*). In a previous study, the SEM study of *Kajjali* sample shows about 90% of particles range from 60nm to 200nm. For the effective role in therapeutic bioavailability of metallic and mineral preparation, particle size is one of the important factors, as it decides the permeability of drug through cells, tissues and blood capillaries. It has been reported that

nanoparticles exhibited a size dependent uptake from the intestine and its passage via the mesentery lymph supply and lymph node to the liver with significant absorption of particles <100nm.

2. *Abhraka Bhasma*- Biotite mica enriched with Fe(2+) ions are widely used as a major mineral ingredient in traditional pharmaceutical science of alchemy.^[16] *Abhraka Bhasma* (mica ash), a pharmaceutical product containing treated mica has been used as major ingredient in many formulations used in *Amavata*. The conversion of *Abhraka* into *Abhraka Bhasma* involves purification steps that particularly influence the structural distortion while cracks and spallations of the micaceous plates and quenching can form nano-size particles. Carboxylic acids and other organic molecules present in quenching media through an ion exchange process serve

as chemical modifiers of mica.^[17] These nano-oxide particles are converted into a more favourable oxidation form for human consumption when the herbo-metallic mixture is incinerated in closed vessels.^[18] *Abhraka Bhasma* is *Madhura, Snigdha, Sheeta* in nature.^[19] It helps in *Deepana* and has *Rasayan* property.^[20] It is commonly used Ayurvedic drug against many diseases and has hepatoprotective action. When used with correct *Anupana*, it helps to cure all the diseases.^[21]

3. *Swarna Bhasma*^[22] - *Swarna Bhasma* (Gold *Bhasma*) has been used therapeutically in Indian System of Medicine since centuries. *Swarna Bhasma* has been well characterized physicochemically and since it contains more than 90% of gold nanoparticles, it may also be therapeutically applied in similar lines like Gold nanoparticles. It has been demonstrated that uptake of Gold nanoparticles occurred in the small intestine by absorption through single, degrading enterocytes in the process of being extruded from a villus and gold nanoparticles typically less than 58 nm in size ultimately reached blood and various organs through blood. These biosynthesized Gold nanoparticles achieved positive wound repair mechanisms in inflammatory function. These are an alternative source for treating inflammation in a natural way. Inflammation is a cascade process that produces immune responsive compounds such as interleukins and cytokines which can be produced by keratinocytes including T Lymphocytes, B Lymphocytes and Macrophages. Various inflammatory mediators such as enzymes, antibodies are secreted from the endocrine system. Other potential anti-inflammatory agents such as cytokines, IL-1, IL-2 are secreted from the primary immune organs. These anti-inflammatory mediators induce the healing process. *Swarna Bhasma* is *Snigdha* in nature and has *Madhura Vipaka* which help in pacifying vitiated *Vata*.^[23] Some *Acharya* are also of the opinion that it has *Madhura, Tikta, Kashaya* and *Katu Rasa* which helps it in *Deepana Karma*.

Gold salt appears to be slow acting neurotoxic drugs that significantly decrease the intrasynovial concentration of substance P, a well known inflammatory neuropeptide, in arthritis patients. *Swarna Bhasma* is useful in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. It works on ANA (Antinuclear antibody), *Swarna Bhasma* destroys the production of ANA. It has *Vatanulomak* and *Aampachak* properties.^[24]

4. *Lauha Bhasma*^[25] - Recent studies show that Heating & Quenching and the calcinations bring microcracks on the surface of the iron, which improved the reactivity with the herbal constituents in addition to incorporating nanostructured features. Further, the use of plant products facilitated the removal of Fe^{3+} present in the raw material by forming soluble complexes. The Fe^{2+} present in the raw materials also form an insoluble complex with the herbal constituents in the presence of UV radiation. *Lauha Bhasma* is *Tikta, Snigdha* and *Sheeta* in nature, its *Tikta Rasa* helps in *Agnivardhan* while *Snigdha* nature

helps in normalizing aggravated *Vata*, therefore it is used in *Amavata, Amadosha, Shotha Yakrita* disorders and in *Lekhana Karma*.^[26]

5. *Tamra Bhasma* - Copper (*Tamra Bhasma*) - *Tamra Bhasma* is used as a single drug and also in combination with many medicinal plant juices and then repeated calcinations performed with air so that the metallic state is transformed into the corresponding oxide form/*Bhasma* form.^[27] Likewise *Abhraka Bhasma*, the principle involved in *Tamra Bhasma* is same that give it nano-size form. It is used for the management of Arthritis and also has hepatoprotective effect.^[28] It is *Tikta, Kashaya, Madhura* and *Amla* in *Rasa*, and *Katu* in *Vipaka*. It helps in *Kaphanashana*, *Lekhana* and also alleviates pain and swelling^[29] thereby relieving symptoms of *Amavata*.

X-ray diffraction analysis and scanning electron microscopy results revealed that the crystallite size of *Bhasma* powder was less than 100 nm and nano crystallites of agglomerated size in micrometer.^[30]

6. *Naga Bhasma*: Heating and Quenching procedure during purification and heat treatment or incineration can reduce particle size of *Naga Bhasma* upto nanometers. *Naga Bhasma* being *Tikta* in *Rasa*, and *Snigdha* in nature, is *Vata-Kaphaghna* (main cause of *Amavata*), *Deepana*, relieves *Amashoola*, *Amashotha* and eventually helpful in treating *Amavata*.^[31]

Vanga Bhasma - The XRD of *Vanga Bhasma* showed its crystalline structure. The major component (over 95%) was Tin Oxide, possibly Cassiterite. The predominant peaks in the sample (*Vanga Bhasma*) corresponded to major phase comprising SnO_2 . During the synthesis of nanomaterials, amorphous materials are subjected to calcination to transform the same to crystalline materials, with degree of crystallinity increasing with increasing calcination temperature.⁽¹⁵⁾ *Vanga Bhasma* is also prepared by calcination at a high temperature of 800-1000 °C. This also facilitates the formation of nano sized *Vanga Bhasma* particles.^[32]

1. *Sukshma Strotogamitva* (Nano-level penetration)^[33]

Bhasma - Particle size = 1-100nm

This *Sukshmatva* allows them to cross biological membranes and reach deep *Dhatu* (tissues) - exactly where *Ama* and *Vata* have localized.

Thus, act directly at the site of inflammation and obstruction.

2. *Ama-pachana* and *Agni-deepana Karma* (Metabolic activation)^[34]

- Bhasma* stimulate *Jathragni* and *Dhatvagni*, helping digest and metabolize *Ama*.

- They normalize metabolism both at the gut level (correcting *Agni*) and cellular level (enhancing mitochondrial & enzymatic activity).

Modern correlation

- Nanoparticles of metals like *Suvarna* (Au), *Rajata* (Ag), *Tamra* (Cu), and *Abhraka* (Mica) exhibit antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and mitochondrial-boosting properties — helping clear inflammatory toxins and repair tissue.

3. *Vata-Shamana* (Neuromuscular modulation)^[35]

- *Bhasmas* like *Suvarna*, *Vanga*, and *Abhraka* pacify *Vata* by stabilizing nerve conduction and tissue nutrition (*Dhatuposhana*).
- This reduces *shoola* (pain) and *stambha* (stiffness) in *Amavata*.

Modern view

- Gold and silver nanoparticles modulate cytokines like TNF- α , IL-1 β , IL-6, reducing inflammatory signaling — which parallels *Vata-shamana* and *Shotha-hara* actions.

4. *Rasayana* Effect (Tissue rejuvenation & *Oja vardhana*)^[36]

- Many *Bhasmas* act as *Rasayanas* — strengthening *Dhatus*, enhancing *Ojas*, and supporting immune modulation.

DISCUSSION

| Ayurvedic concept | Modern Mechanism | Result in <i>Amavata</i> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Sukshmatva</i> | Nanoparticle penetration | Site-specific action at joints |
| <i>Agni-deepana/ Ama Pachana</i> | Enzyme & mitochondrial activation | Detoxification, reduced inflammation |
| <i>Vata- Shamana</i> | Cytokine & nerve modulation | Pain relief & mobility |
| <i>Srotoshodhana</i> | Improved circulation & drainage | Reduced Stiffness & Swelling |
| <i>Rasayana</i> | Antioxidant, immune modulation | Tissue rejuvenation & Vitality |

The successful preparation of any *Ayurvedic* formulation depends on the proper selection of ingredients based on their main action, palatability, stability, shelf life, synergism, bio-enhancers, and antidotal properties. These ingredients may be of metallic, mineral, or herbal origin. Formulations containing only metallic or mineral substances may not be fully compatible with the body due to their inorganic nature, whereas purely herbal preparations may not be potent enough to counter severe diseases. To achieve balance, ancient *Acharyas* since the 8th century introduced *Rasaushadhis*, formulations combining metallic and herbal ingredients to enhance therapeutic efficacy and stability.

Rasaushadhis may also include metals or minerals processed with herbal media. Their preparation involves several stages, from simple triturating to complex heat treatments, resulting in nano-sized particles. The processing of crude metals into nano-particles mainly involves **purification** (*Shodhana*) and **calcination** (*Marana*). During purification, metals and minerals are treated with herbal extracts through procedures such as *Bhavana* (levigation), *Mardana* (trituration), *Swedana* (boiling), and *Nirvapa* (heating and quenching). These steps remove impurities, soften metals, and convert them into nano-oxide forms.

- This is crucial in *Amavata*, where chronic inflammation leads to *Dhatukṣaya* (tissue depletion).

Modern correlation

- Nanoparticles stimulate antioxidant defenses (\uparrow SOD, catalase, glutathione), support cartilage repair, and modulate immune responses — equivalent to *Rasayana karma*.

5. *Srotoshodhana* (Channel cleansing)^[37]

- Due to *Ama* accumulation, *srotas* (microchannels) become blocked.
- The *Laghu* (light) and *Shukṣma* (fine) nature of *Bhasmas* helps remove *Srotorodha* by clearing micro-obstructions, restoring free flow of *Vata* and nutrients.

Modern link

- Nanoparticles improve microcirculation and lymphatic drainage, reduce oxidative sludge and inflammatory debris, acting as detoxifying agents at the cellular level.

In calcination, the purified materials are transformed into *Bhasma* through repeated *Bhavana* with herbal decoctions and controlled heating (*Agni Samyoga*). The herbal extracts, rich in secondary metabolites like flavonoids, alkaloids, and phenolic acids, assist in reducing ionic forms into metallic nanoparticles.

When these nanoparticles are incorporated into medicines, they are termed *Rasaushadhis* or Ayurvedic nanomedicines. They possess unique properties such as: use in small doses, absence of unpleasant taste, rapid action, effectiveness in critical diseases, and long shelf life—qualities highly valuable in managing chronic disorders like *Amavāta*.

When these nanoparticles are involved in the preparation of medicines, then the medicines are called as *Rasaushadhis* or nanomedicines having following properties-

Alpamatropyogitvatarucherprasangatah
Kshipramarogyadayitvataaushdhebhhyoadhikorasah.
 which means *Rasaushadhis* are used in

- Lesser quantities
- Produce no *Aruchi*
- Faster action
- Used in critical diseases

- Have Longer shelf lives

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