

VISHA DRAVYA AS AN ANTIDOTE: GENERAL PERSPECTIVE ON PRATIVISHA  
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## ABSTRACT

Agadatantra is one of the disciplines of ancient Ayurveda and this stream mainly deals with the poisoning and antidote. Poisoning is health problem especially in developing country due to the unsafe uses of chemical, drug abuse, industrial waste, environmental hazards, aquatic toxicity, occupational hazards, insect and snake bite, etc. Ayurveda defined poison as Visha, while antidotes is substance which control and reduces effects of poison. Prativisha as per Ayurveda considered as Chaturvimshati upakramas; work against specific poison and should be administered with great care in optimum amount. Prativisha possess Ruksha, Laghu, Vishada, Vyavayi, Vikashi, Teekshna, Ushna and Sukshma Gunas. As per ayurveda if these properties of Prativisha used in proper manner then it can work like medicine (Oushadha). Therefore Prativish can be used in Chikitsa as an antitoxic agent to treat effects of poisoning. Various Ayurveda texts described uses of Visha Dravya for the treatment of poisoning. Considering importance of this aspect present article dealt with concept of Prativish and their clinical importance.

**KEYWORDS:** Ayurveda, Visha, Prativish, Poison, Agadatantra.

## INTRODUCTION

Agadatantra the toxicology branch of Ashtanga Ayurveda which works around pathological and physiological aspect of poisons including treatment of poisons and utilization as antidote. Ayurveda mentioned various therapeutic modalities for the management of poisons and Prativish Chikitsa is one of them which utilize poisons in the treatment of other poisons. Prativish Chikitsa should be employed as last treatment option when other measures for poisoning treatment not work effectively. Prativish Chikitsa need great care while utilizing poisons as medicine and in this regards it is suggested that these poison should used as drug with great skill, in optimum dose with appropriate consideration of need of Prativish Chikitsa.

Substances possess specific properties as depicted in Figure 1, can be considered as antidote and used in Prativisha chikitsa for treating various poisoning conditions including insect bite, snake bite, Dhatura poisoning, Kuchala poisoning, Alarka Visha poisoning and Nagaphena overdosing, etc.

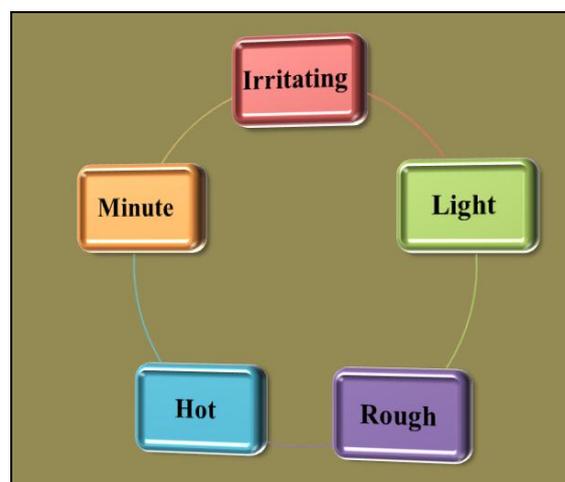


Figure 1: Characteristics of Prativisha.

## Principle of Prativisha chikitsa

As per Ayurveda poisons can be classified in two categories; Sthavara Visha and Jangama Visha. Sthavara Visha means inanimate poisons and Jangama Visha means animate poisons. The harmful effects of Sthavara Visha can be treated with Jangama Visha and vice versa is also true. Visha Dravyas employed in Prativisha

*chilitsa* since *Visha Dravyas* possesses *Laghu, Aashu, Sukshma* and *Vyavayi*, etc. properties hence reaches into system with in quick period of time and exert action quickly. These properties of poisons make them drug like substances while using as *Prativisha*. The *Visha Dravyas* having action opposite to other poisons can be used for the poisoning treatment of each other. *Prativisha* pacifies *Visha Utpanna Lakashana* and acts as an antidote. *Prativisha* prevent, inactivate, inhibit, reverse or counteract toxic effect of poisons therefore provide relief in poisoning treatment.

#### General consideration related to *Prativisha*

The physicians should be aware about the noxious effect of *Prativisha chilitsa* and all should prepare for any emergency that could arrive after *Prativisha chilitsa*. It is only require in utmost emergency therefore all other approaches think over first.

Physician should be aware about the uses of *Prativisha* in specific poisoning conditions since there are no chances of diagnostic and clinical misinterpretation.

*Prativish* acts as drug if used properly in case of poisoning but it can act poison itself if administered in non-poisonous condition therefore must be used in required conditions.

*Prativisha* should be used with *Ghrita*, with drugs, in *Sheeta Kala* or in *Vasant Ritu* when heat stroke is minimal in case of emergency need of poisoning treatment. *Prativish* not advised in rainy season and in cloudy condition.

#### Desirable properties of *Prativisha*

1. It should act on same site where poison effect is maximum, for example *Dhatu* used in *Alarka* poisoning and both acts on nervous system & brain.
2. *Prativisha* should produces opposite action to the poison, if poison increase secretions of glands then *Prativisha* should reduces secretions of that particular glands.
3. *Prativisha* should act in minimum quantity since its high dose can cause toxic effect itself.
4. Generally poison produces specific excitation & stimulation therefore *Prativisha* should causes calmness and suppress anxiety.
5. Should possess *Vatsanabha, Vedanasthapaka & Shothahara* properties.
6. Should not accumulate in body for time since accumulation may cause toxic effects.

#### Condition when *Prativisha chilitsa* required

- ❖ When poison not removed completely by other method like emesis.
- ❖ When other procedures of poisoning treatment are contradicted.
- ❖ When poison absorbed already and quick relief required.

- ❖ When other approaches of poisoning treatment not feasible.
- ❖ Emergency conditions.
- ❖ Overdosing of harmful substances.
- ❖ Drug abuse.
- ❖ Excessive intake of narcotic substances.

These antidotes exert their effects by various mechanisms including formation of inert complex with poison, enhance process of detoxification, and reduce formation of toxic metabolite; comparative inhibition of poison with receptor's binding sites, direct action on toxins and counteracting or reversing effects of poisons.

#### Some examples of *Prativisha chilitsa* are as follows

- ❖ *Karpasa Beeja* can be used for *Dhatu* poisoning.
- ❖ *Tamraparni* suggested in *Kuchala* poisoning.
- ❖ *Dhatu* can be used in *Alarka Visha* poisoning.
- ❖ *Jayapala* can be used in snake bite poisoning.
- ❖ *Nagaphena* overdosing can be relieved using *Bruhatkshudra* juice with cow's milk and *Pippali* for emesis.
- ❖ *Arkasheera* toxicity can be managed using *Neeli Swarasa*.

#### Contradiction of *Prativisha chilitsa*

- ⚠ When not sure that patient suffered with poisons or other condition.
- ⚠ When poison localized in blood.
- ⚠ Person consumes *Ruksha Aahar, Prativisha* in such case can produces disorders.
- ⚠ Condition of excessive hunger, thirst and exertion.
- ⚠ Pregnant woman, children and elderly person need great care or should avoid *Prativisha chilitsa*.
- ⚠ Emaciated person with diseases of vital organs.

#### CONCLUSION

As per ayurveda use of equally potent *Dravya* is recommended in case of poisoning toxicity. These *Dravyas* can acts as an antidote for specific poison and itself possess characteristics of poison, such substance can be termed as *Prativisha* and uses of *Visha Dravya* in poisoning management is referred as *Prativisha chilitsa*. *Prativisha* are equally potent to *Visha*, having *Vyavayi Guna*, acts vigorously, possess action opposite to that of poison thus counteracting effects of poison and relieves fatal symptoms of toxins. *Prativisha* can be used internally as well externally and provides quick relief in case of poisoning condition. However ayurveda suggested that dosage and safety of *Prativisha* must be taken in consideration while applying for therapeutic benefits.

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