

A Review on Natural or Herbal Materials and their Properties used in *Shalya Tantra*

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REVIEW ARTICLE

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ABSTRACT

Shalya Tantra or surgery is prime branch of traditional medical system of India; this branch helps to cures various surgical or para-surgical problems. It provide benefits of quick action and boost process of healing thus provide relief in pathological conditions like; wound, ulcer and cuts, etc. Shalya Tantra utilizes instruments, Kshar and other materials obtained from natural sources. Shalya Tantra not only utilizes but also uses animal based products. These products offer specific therapeutic benefits in various surgical or para-surgical interventions. Considering this present article summarizes importance of natural materials used in Shalya Tantra.

Keywords: Ayurveda, *Shalya Tantra*, *Kshar*, *Apamarg*.

Introduction

Ayurveda the classical system of social health management described various branches and *Shalya Chikitsa* is vital one amongst many since it provides health benefits in surgical and para-surgical problems. The *Shalya Tantra* mainly used for the management of pathological conditions such as; *Arsha*, *Bhagandara*, *Kadara* and *Aharmakeela*, etc.

Shalya Tantra not only involves uses of instruments or equipments but also utilizes various natural materials obtained from plant or animal sources. These natural materials offers analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, lesions healing, haemostatic and blood purifying effects, thus offers beneficial effects in surgical problems. As per ayurveda some plants such as *Snuhi*, *Apamarga* and *Haridra*, etc. possess *Vrana Shodhana*, *Vrana Ropana* and *Vranakled Shoshana* properties thus helps in the management of *Vrana* and other surgical problems. Similarly materials obtained from animal sources (**Figure 1**) also used in *Shalya Tantra*.

Plant materials used in *Shalya Tantra*:

- *Euphorbia nerifolia*
- *Achyranthus aspera*
- *Curcuma longa*

Euphorbia nerifolia

Euphorbia nerifolia (*Snuhi*) used to prepare *Snuhikshira* which employed in surgical problems. It was obtained from stem of *Snuhi* plant, the milk secreted from plant stem used for therapeutic purposes. The plant also termed as *Snuk*, *Sudha*, *Sehunda*, *Thuhar*, *Perumbu Kalli* and *Elaikalli*. It possesses *Katu & Tikta Rasa*, *Guru & Tikсна Guna*, *Usna Virya* and *Katu Vipaka* thus offers *Tiksnavirecana*, *Amakaphavatahara* and *Bhedana* actions (*Karma*).

It is used in para-surgical intervention for the preparation of *Kshara Sutra*, helps to cure *Vrana* & enhances process of natural healing. *Snuhikshira* imparts *Tridoshaghata* effect thus pacify diseases predominant to *Kapha & Vata*. The *Dahan & Darana* action of drug offers beneficial effects in non-healing ulcer.

The *Krimighna* effect of herb prevent microbial infections

Of wound thus improves process of healing and it detoxifies blood thus helps in blood related surgical problems.

Achyranthus aspera

Achyranthus aspera (*Apamarga*) plant used to prepare *Apamarga Kshara* for surgical purpose. Plant used after drying it in shade, burned in light fire and obtained ash was dissolved in water, filtered and remaining ash was again dissolved in water and procedure repeated to remove alkaline material from ash. The filtered fluid evaporated to obtain *Apamarga Kshara* for surgical purpose.

Apamarga also termed as *Kharmanjiri*, *Adhashalya*, *Pratyakpushpa* and *Aghata*. The

plant constituents such as; sterone, glycoside, saponin and alkaloids, etc. provides beneficial effects in many health ailments.

As per ayurveda Plant possess *Tikta Rasa*, *Ushna Virya*, *Katu Vipaka* and *Laghu & Ruksha Guna* thus imparts *Kaphavatshamak & Kaphapittasanshodhak* effects. These properties help to pacify surgical problems associated with *Dosha* vitiation. The *Shothahara*, *Lekhana*, *Vedanasthapana*, *Vranashodhan* and *Twakdosahar Karma* of *Apamarga Kshara* offers therapeutic benefits in ulcer and chronic wounds. The *Krimighna* effects of *Apamarga Kshara* prevent microbial infections thus enhances healing of fistula in ano and other ano-rectal problems. (1-5)

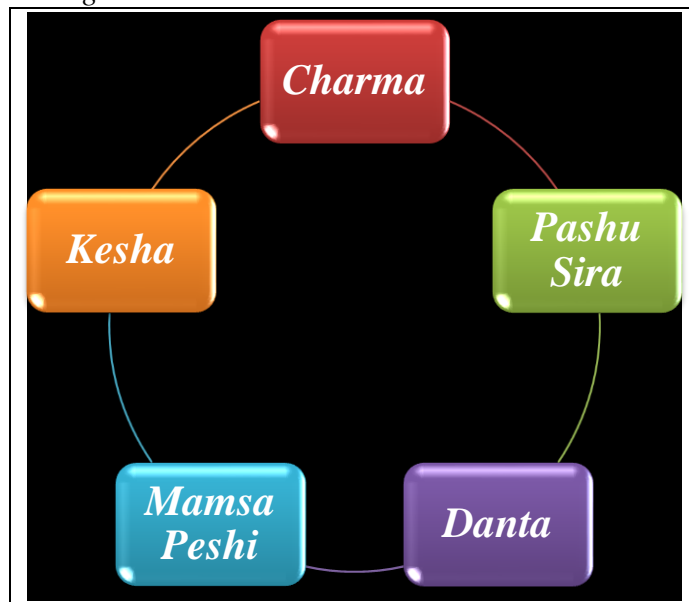


Figure 1. Examples of materials obtained from animal sources, used in *Shalya Tantara*

Haridra

Rhizomes of *Haridra* possess analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties thus used for therapeutic benefits in surgical problems. *Haridra*, *Peeta*, *Varvarnini*, *Haldi* and *Hattvilasini*, etc. are some synonyms of *Haridra*. It possess bitter & pungent taste, hot *Virya*, pungent *Vipaka* and *Laghu Guna*; thus offers *Rooksha* property, pacify *Kapha* and *Pitta Dosha*, therefore suppress oedema and enhances process of wound healing. *Haridra* offers *Lekhaneeya*, *Vishaghna* and *Kushthaghna* properties thus effectively used in surgical problems.

Curcumene, cineole, eugenol, camphene, curcumins and beta-sitosterol are major constituents present in *Haridra*, these constituents contributes towards analgesic, anti-inflammatory and antiseptic properties of *Haridra*.

As per ayurveda the *Lekhaniya* properties of drug helps for scraping wound, *Kushthaghna* property used to cure skin manifestation, *Kandughna* relief itching of wound & ulcer, *Krimighna* action relief infectious progression thus prevent pathological progression in chronic wound and non-healing ulcer.

Materials from animal sources used in *Shalya Tantara*:

- ❖ Animal parts also used in surgical and para surgical procedures as follows:
- ❖ *Saloma Charma* can be used for *Lekhana Karma*
- ❖ *Mrit Pashu Sira* can be used for *Vyadhana karma*
- ❖ *Mrit Pashu Danta* can be used for extraction techniques in *Shalya Tantara*
- ❖ *Mridu Charma* used for *Seevana Karma*
- ❖ *Mridu Mamsa Peshi* can be used to study *Karna Sandhi Bandhana*
- ❖ *Charma* (animal hides) helps in rectal prolapsed
- ❖ *Danta (Hasti Danta)* also used to prepare *Arsho Yantra*
- ❖ *Ashwa Kesha* can be used for non absorbable suture material
- ❖ *Snayu* (muscle tendons) can be used for absorbable suture material
- ❖ *Baala Varti* (wick of hairs) can be used to remove *Shalya* from the head region
- ❖ *Keshodunga* (bolus of hair) can be used to remove *Shalya* from bones
- ❖ *Jalouka* (leech therapy) can be considered as para-surgical therapy used to remove vitiated blood. (6-10)

Conclusion

The material used in *Shalya Tantara* helps in the removal of lesion, destroys residual epithelium, offers antimicrobial action, enhances wounds healing process and imparts anti-inflammatory properties thus provide therapeutic benefits in cysts, abscess, burn, fracture and wounds, etc. Natural materials like *Guduchi Pratan*, *Shanj*, cotton threads, silk and flax of *Ashmantak*, etc. can be used successfully in *Shalya Tantara*. Similarly materials from animal sources such as; *Charma*, *Pashu Sira* and *Danta*, etc. can also

be used for various purposes in surgical interventions.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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