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Review Article

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REVIEW RESEARCH ARTICLE ON RAKTAPRADAR

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ABSTRACT

A comprehensive study was conducted regarding the research done on drugs and their formulations used in case of *Asrigdar/Rakta Pradar* (Dysfunctional Uterine bleeding). Various research works and clinical studies were done in the past on *Asrigdar* and it was seen that *ayurvedic* medicine are very much effective in curing the disease. The drugs included in this article are- *Nagkeshar*, *Lodhra*, *Udumbara*, *Indrayava*, *Shalmali*, *Madhuka*, *Ashoka*, *Sariva*, *Bhumyamalaki*, *Daruharidra*, *Durva*. Other useful drugs mentioned in text are: *Tandulodaka*, *Sharkara*, *Madhu*, *Kanchnar*, *Amalaki*, *Shatpushpa*, *Jeeraka*, *Rasona*, *Bola*, *Badar*, *Amra*, *Babool*, *Parnabeeja*, *Palaksh*, *Kadli*, *Kusha*, *Kasha*, *Darbha*, *Japa*, *Pisachkarpasi*, *Ikshvaku*, *Ajaparna*, *Kakodumbar*, *Akshot*, *Hapusa*, *Sudarshan*, *Rakta Niryasa*, *Bhanga*, etc. ^[1,2] Their mode of action is studied in this article by considering the pharmacology and results of previous research. It was

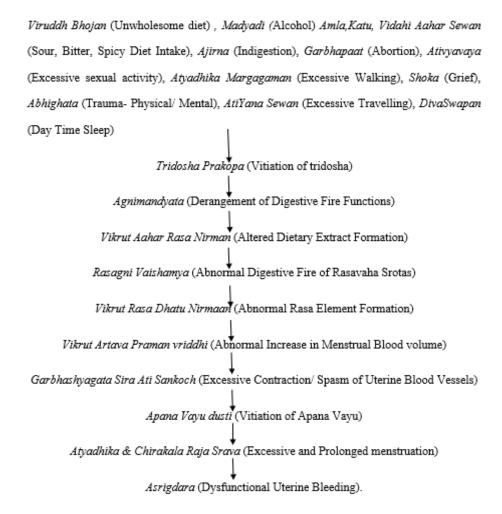
done to check how much the selected drugs were effective and safe as per treatment criteria of a specific disease.

INTRODUCTION

Raktapradar or asrigdara means a disease with excessive bleeding per vaginum during menstrual period or in between the cycle. Its description is available in various veda and puranas. It is mentioned in RaktaPradoshaj Vikara and the vikaras due to Pittaavrit Apana Vayu by Aacharya Charak^[3] while Aacharya Sushrut has mentioned it as RaktaPradoshaj

Vikara and vikara due to Pitta Samyukta Apana Vayu.^[4] It is explained as Raktayoni by Ashtang Sangrah, with synonyms asrigdara or pradar.^[5]

The term "Asrig" means Menstrual Blood and "dara" means excessive excretion which combinely means "Asrigdara" i.e., excessive excretion/ flow of menstrual blood. [6] The samprapti^[7,8] is as follows:



(ASRIGDARA SAMPRAPTI)

Its 4 types are mentioned in texts based on the character of the blood flow and its associated features.

Charaka^[9] and Vagabhatta^[10] has said to treat it on the lines of Raktatisara (Malena/Dysentry), Raktarsha (Haemorrhoids), guhyaroga (STDs) and garbhapata (Abortion). Sushruta has told to access tridosha status before initiating drug or surgical procedure and do treat on the line of Raktapitta.^[11]

It is can be correlated with dysfunctional uterine bleeding because of abnormal bleeding from uterine endometrium irrespective of any structural abnormality in pelvis or any endocrinal disorder or general disease.

The treatment is divides in two parts based on *bahya* (External Treatment) or *abhyantra chikitsa* (Internal Treatment).

Bahya Chikitsa (External Treatment) includes tying vyaghranakhi mula in kati pradesh (at Waist line) uprooted in uttarphalguni nakshatra while situated uttarmukhi.

Abhyantra chikitsa (Internal Treatment) includes

- i) Sanshodhan (Purification & Elimination of increased Doshas)- Virechana Karma (Purgative action) with Mahatikta Ghrita, Nasya (Oil instillation in nostrils) & Abhyanaga (Massage) of Shatpushpa Taila, Chandanadi Niruh Basti (Decoction Enema), Rasanadi Niruha Basti, Kushadi Asthapana, Lodhradi Asthapana, Mustadi Yapana Basti, Madhukadi Taila Anuvasan Basti (oil Enema), Shatapushpa Taila Anuvasan Basti.
- ii) Shanshaman (Pacification of Increased Doshas)- intake of drugs like *Darvyadi Kwath* (Decoction), *Tandulodaka* (Rice Water), *Ashoka Valkal Ksheera paka* (Medicine Flavoured Milk), *Kushmand khand* (Granular preparation of drug), *Jeerakavleha* (Semisolid drug flovoured *Chyawanprash* like paste), *Phala ghrit* (Ghee), *Shita Kalyanak Ghrit*, *Shalmali Ghrita*, *Shatavari Taila*, *Shatapushpa Taila*, *Bola Parpati* (formed by *Agni Sanskar* of *Rasa*-Hg Preparations), *Pradar ripu Ras* (Hg Preparation), *Gokshuradi Guggulu* (*Guggulu* coated drug flavored tablet preparation), *Chandraprabha Gutika*, *Lasuna Kalpa*, *Shatapushpa Kalpa*, *Shatavari Kalpa*, etc.^[12]

Relevant Research done on drugs used in Asrigdara

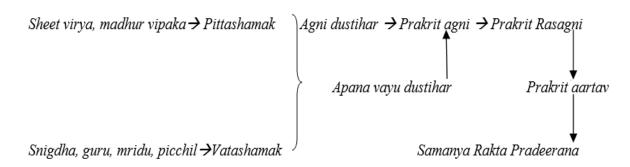
❖ *Nagkeshar* (*Mesua ferra* Linn.: Guttiferae family)

Staph. Aureus, Esch. Coli, Eberthella typhosa, Vibi cholera, B. Friedlanderi, Mycobacterium phlei inhibitory effect was found due to its active principles Mesuol and Mesuone. These active principles were found to be most effective against Staph. aureus. (Chakraborty et al. 1959)^[13]

Its chemical constituents -messiferon, mammeism, messumamic acid, β-sitosterol, a triterpenoid (guttiferol) shows astringent (*kashaya rasa*), haemostatic (*raktastambhan*) and antibacterial (*visham jeevanu nashak*) action (*karma*), while mesuagin, essential oils, fatty acids (palmitic, stearic, linoleic and oleic acids) shows antibiotic action.^[14]

❖ *Shalmali* (*Bombax ceiba* Linn.: Bombacaceae family)

Shalmali as ghrita formulation has madhura (sweet), tikta(bitter) rasa (taste); sheeta virya (cold potency); madhura vipaka (sweet end product of digestion); snigdha (unctous), guru (heavy), mridu (soft), pichhil (slimy) guna (properties); raktastambhan (haemostatic), dahaprashaman (relieves burning sensation), anuloman (normalizes the direction of flow), grahi (absorbs water element), deepana (carminative), balya (strengthening), medhya (increases intellectual power), agnivardhak (increases digestive fire at different levels in body), ayu-bala vardhak (increases life & strength), dhatu-ojo vardhak (improves elemental status of body & immunity), rasayan (rejuvination) prabhav (effect).



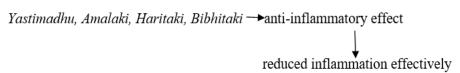
(MODE OF ACTION OF SHALMALI)

According to research, *Shalmali Ghrit* is more effective in *Adhodara Shool* (Lower Abdominal Pain) and *Rakta Kshaya Janya Daurbalya* (Weakness due to blood Loss).^[15] Vegetable preparation of *shalmali* flowers cooked with ghee and rock salt checks bleeding.^[16]

Yastimadhu (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* Linn.: Fabaceae family)

Drug appeared to possess a more potent anti-exudative activity in comparison to oxyphenbutazone. (Saxena et al. 1970)^[17]

Madhukadi gutika – have anti-estrogenic, anti-inflammatory, bleeding time and clotting time modulating effects with more anti-spasmodiac action. (Neha R. Pandya et al.)^[18]



Alum, Lodhra→ effectively reduced BT, CT

Deepaniya, Pachaniya, yakrit uttejaka action→ reduced uterus weight upto an extent.

Little effect also seen on contractile activity.

Yastimadhu churna mixed with sugar and rice water is said to be beneficial in raktapradar. [19]

❖ *Ashoka* (*Saraca asoca* Roxb.- Caesalpiniaceae family)

It stimulates uterus making more frequent and prolonged contractions (Doesn't make tonic contractions like ergot or pituitary). On the basis of this, it is considered that it will prove useful in all the cases of uterine haemorrhage where ergot is indicated, viz., metrorrhagia, menorrhagia, post-partum haemorrhage, etc. (B.N. Ghosh, PMMT).

Good oxytoxic activity of alcoholic extract was seen as its uterine response was found to be conditioned by hormonal environment and stage of gestation. Also extract had spasmodic action on rabbits intestine and cardiotonic action in frog and dog. (PID)^[20]

Observation and effects of Ashoka twak churna in raktapradar-[21]

- a) P/V Bleeding- maximum rakta stambhak (Hemostatic) effect was seen.
- b) Lower Abdominal Pain- Good relief as pain reduced with controlled bleeding.
- c) Pallor- relieved in majority because of controlled amount of blood flow.
- d) Generalized Body ache- not fully resolved but the intensity was reduced.
- e) Backache, Giddiness, Anorexia- maximum result was observed.
- f) Vomiting- 100% relief was seen.

Intake of *Ashoka* bark boiled in milk relieves *raktapradar*.^[22]

❖ Lodhra (Symplocos Racemosa- Symplocaceae family)

Lodhra churna- it acts on pitta due to its pharmacological action and rasapanchak and brings pitta to normal, then acts on ama (Undigested State) and breaks the Samprapti (Pathogenesis) of raktapradar.^[23]

Mode of Action

Increases serum FSH,LH levels → Restores fertility in women who fails to conceive.

(Hence is a drug of choice in all gynecological disorders.)

Great oestrogenic potentiality as uterine tonics because of its biologically active chemicals In Bark→2 alkaloids (loturine & calloturine), monomethyl pelargonidin glucoside of 7-0-methyl leucopelargonidin.

In Plant→ perlargonidin-3-0-glucoside, betulinic, acetyloleanoleic acid, leanolic acid & ellagic acid.

❖ Sariva (Hemidesmus indicus Linn.- Asclepiedaceae Family)

Sarivadi vati-have anti estrogenic, anti inflammatory, bleeding & clotting time modulating effects with more spasmodiac/oxytocic effect.^[24]

It contains- Sariva, Shatavari moola, Prishniparni moola, Shalaparni moola, Daruharidra, Palash twak, Ashok twak, Nagakeshar. The drug formulation have major effect-

- (i) In reducing absolute weight of uterus by *Deepaniya* (Carminative), *Pachaniya* (digestive) & *Yakrit uttejaka* (liver stimulant) of its contents.
- (ii) In contractile activity- maybe due to action of its ingredient *Ashoka* on uterus i.e., frequent and prolonged uterine contractions without tonic contractions.

Also, it controlled bleeding time more effectively than clotting time, and anti-inflammatory action of ingredients was helpful in reducing inflammation.

❖ *Daruharidra* (*Berberis aristata*- Berberidaceae family)

Darvi Churna has a Raktashodhak (Blood Purifier), Raktastambhak (Haemostatic), Shothahara (Anti-Inflammatory), Vedanasthapan (Analgesic), Deepana (Appetizer), Grahi (Water Absorbant), Jwaraghna (Antipyretic) actions and cures Raktapitta (Hematemesis/Malena), Vaman (Vomiting), Arti (Giddiness), Vishaktata (Poisoning), Jirna Jwara (Fever). [25]

Effects of darvi churna seen in raktapradar are as follows

- a. P/V Bleeding- reduced effectively due to raktastambhan karma (Haemostatic Action).
- b. Lower abdominal pain- reduced along with controlled bleeding.
- c. Pallor- less the amount of blood loss with *raktastambhan* (Haemostatic) action more is the improvement seen in pallor.
- d. Bodyache- relieves pain as well as its severity.
- e. Backache- mostly all patient got relieved.
- f. Giddiness, Anorexia, Vomiting- Got improved due to its *Bhedana* (Purgative) and *Rasayana* effects (Rejuvination action).

So, it can be concluded that this drug is beneficial for overall symptomatic relief in *Raktapradar*.

❖ *Durva* (*Cynodon Dactylon*- Cyperaceae family)

An alkaloid isolated from durva plant caused \rightarrow

- a) Reduced rate or slowing of blood flow in mesenteric capillary of rats & mice.
- b) Increased toxicity of isolated ileum of guinea pig.
- c) Reduced blood sugar levels in rabbit by 15% at the end of 1st hour.
- d) Reduced BT & CT in adult Rabbits at a dose of 2.5 mg/Kg i.v. (Dutta, 1974). [26]

Research says that *durva swarasa* (Juice of Cynodon Dactylon) is the best *raktastambhak* (Haemostatic) drug with phytoconstituents like phenolic phytotoxins, Ferulic, Syringic, p-coumaric, vanillic, p-hydroxybenzoic & o-hydroxyphenyl acetic acid. It is used in curing disease like *Raktapitta*, *Vishaktata*, *Arti*, *Jirna Jwara*.

Durva given with any *raktastambhak* (haemostatic) drug used in *raktapradar* enhances its haemostatic action by controlling BT & CT effectively. Probably *Kashaya rasa* (Astringent Taste) with *sheeta virya* (Cold Potency) is responsible for its maximum *raktastambhan* (Haemostatic) action.^[27]

❖ *Udumbar* (*Ficus racemosa*/*F. glomerata*- Moraceae family)

Udumbara have *kashaya rasa* (Astringent Taste), *sheeta veerya* (Cold Potency), ethnol extract stem bark inhibited COX-2 with 1C50 value of 100 ng/ml and treats inflammatory condition.

Methanol extract of stem bark at a dose of 256-500 mg shows hepatoprotective action, therefore, normalizes liver function.

Tannin present in barks gives astringent property showing antibiotic, antiulcer, antipyretic, antihelminthic, antidiarrheal, analgesic, antitussessive, antidiuretic, antifilerial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, hypoglycaemic, hypolipidaemic, hepatoprotective, renal anticarcinogenic & radioprotective effects. [28]

- Aqueous extracts of barks of F. glomerata & F. bengalensis found to reduce blood sugar in normal as well as alloxan induced diabetic rabbits (Shrotri & Aiman, 1960).

Stem bark's alcoholic extract possessed antiprotozoal activity against Ent. Hystolytica. It showed hypoglycaemic activity in albino rats (Dhar et al., 1968).

Benzene extract has significant analgesic activity when compared to morphine. Extracts of petroleum ether, ether and benzene potentiated pentobarbitone induced sleeping time

significanty on oral or trapertonially administration to mice and albino rats. (Annual Report 1976-77 CCRIMH).^[29]

❖ Bhumyamalki (Phyllanthus amarus/P. niruri-Euphorbiaceae family)

It acts on uterine blood vessels because of its *sheeta virya; laghu guna; madhura, kashaya rasa; madhura vipaka*.

It improves metabolic disorders of body, balances hormonal disturbances, and provides overall health of patients by *deepana* (Carminative), *pachana*(Digestive) & *Raktastambhan* (Haemostatic) properties.

Gives tonicity to uterine muscles because of its astringent property.

Provides rid of excessive blood flow from uterus and eradicated *Pitta dosha* because of its *Ushna*, *Teekshna virya* (Hot & Sharp Potency).^[30]

❖ *Indrayava* (*Halorrhena antidysentrica*- Apocynaceae family)

3- Orhamno glucoside from flowers exhibited significant anti-inflammatory activity in rats against carrageenin induced rat paw oedema (Sethuraman et al., 1984).^[31]

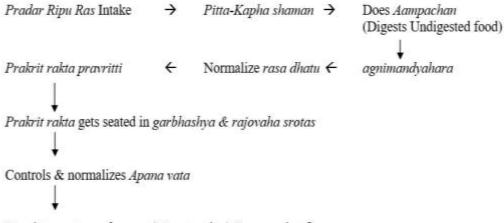
Indrayava churna with *Sharkara* and water is found effective in *raktapradar* reducing duration & quantity of P/V bleeding, pain & total amount of blood loss according to average weight of pad.

The drug reduced quantity of P/V bleeding due to *Pittashaman* (Alleviation of *Pitta Dosha*), *Agnideepan* (Carminative), *Raktasangrahan* (Preserves Blood), *Raktastambhan* (Haemostatic) Properties. It plays role in reducing bleeding duration but doesn't regularize menstrual cycle.

Also study is focused on symptomatic treatment as the drugs selected are *Pittashamak*, *Garbhasya Balya* (Strengthens the uterus), *Vatanuloman* (Allows easy passage of air from Natural orifices) indicating that these drugs act majorly by their pharmacological action. i.e., *prabhava*.^[32]

Pradarripu ras have Tikta (Bitter), Madhura (Sweet), Kashaya (Astringent) Rasa(Taste); Ushna Virya(Hot Potency); Katu Vipaka (Pungent); Laghu (Laghu), Ruksha (Dry) guna (Properties); Pitta-Kapha Shamak, Pachak (Digestive), Jatharagni Vardhak (Increase

Digestive Fire), Aam dosha Nashak (Eliminates Undigested metabolite), Sarak (Laxative), Balya (Strengthening), Raktastambhak (Haemostatic), Vranaropaka (Wound Healer), Purisha sangrahan (Absorbent) prabhav (Effect). [33]



Regulates raja pradeerana (Menstruation) & excessive flow.

(PRADAR RIPU RAS- MODE OF ACTION)

It suggests that *Pradar Ripu Ras* effectively maintains *Raja kala* (Menstrual Period), *praman evum swaroopa* of *Raja srava* (Quantity & Nature of Discharges).

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

In *Raktapradar, Rakta dhatu* is lost per vaginally. So the main *chikitsa* (Treatment) is *raktasthambhan* (Haemostasis) in order to control the excessive loss of *Rakta Dhatu* and preserve the Blood Volume in body.

According to modern aspect, it can be concluded that *raktapradar* is analogous to DUB i.e., Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding. Its occurance is considered mainly due to hormonal disturbance. So modern medicine advise hormonal therapy or hysterectomy as treatment choice.

In ayurveda, abhyantra evum bahya chikitsa is done which mainly included drug/formulation or sanshodhana chikitsa.

From this article we have found that the drugs mentioned here have *Madhura vipaka*, *Sheeta virya* mostly; while a few have *katu vipaka*, *ushna virya*. The probable mode of action is as follows:^[34]

The drugs with madhura vipaka have pitta shamak, dhatu kshinta nashak, sheetata property. So Madhura vipaka drug with Sheeta virya act together, pacify pitta dosha of pitta pradhan tridoshaj vyadhi; resolves rakta dhatu kshaya; stops rakta ati srava (Excessive Loss of Blood) by Stambhan action due to sheeta virya and sheetata guna of madhura vipaka.

The drugs with *katu vipaka* have *agni deepana*, *Vridddha Mala nashak* (Eliminates the Increased Wastes from Body), *Raktasanghat bhedan* (Removes the *Doshas* Stuck in *Rakta* Creating Obstruction in Natural Flow), *Srotomarga Vivrinotikaraka Karma* (Opens the Microchannels). So *Katu vipaka* drug with *Ushna virya* acts together, pacify *Vata* by *Ushna guna*, *Ama Dosha* by *Agnideepan guna*, normalizes *doshas* seated in *Rakta dhatu* by *rakta sanghat bhedan* property, *Ati aartava praman vriddhi* by its *vriddha mala nashak* property, and normalizes the cycle by removing all the *aavran* by *srotomarga vivrinokroti* property.

These drugs are mentioned in *Kashaya Skandha*, *Vedna Sthapana*, *Shool Prashaman*, *Shonit Sthapan Mahakashaya* mainly in *Charak Samhita* and in *Nyagrodhadi*, *Priyanguadi*, *Trin/Valli panchmoola gana* in *Sushruta Samhita*.

CONCLUSION

The entire work entitled "Review Research Article on *Raktapradar*" can be concluded as follows:

- Raktapradar is commonly occurring Yoni Garbhasya gata Vikar in female of 31-40 yr age group.
- Its incidence increases with parity i.e., seen more in multiparous women.
- The drugs used in *Raktapradar* are either dominant in *Madhura Vipaka-Sheet Virya* or *Katu Vipaka- Ushna Virya*.
- Maximum of these drugs included in study are of angamarda prashaman, shool prashaman, shonit sthapan, vedanasthapan mahakashaya or Kashaya skandha.

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