

AREVIEW ARTICLE ON SURYAKANTA MANI**Aabha Pandey***

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Accepted on 20 Feb. 2021DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/QT3PF>***Corresponding Author****Dr. Aabha Pandey**Final Year PG Scholar, Ras
Shastra and Bhaishajya
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Jagadguru Gavisiddheshwar
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Rasashastra has its roots in the Indian Alchemy. Alchemy was a form of chemistry studied in the Medieval period. Rasashastra is an important branch of ayurvedic pharmacology mainly deals with many minerals, metals, precious stones and semi precious stones. Uparatnas are semiprecious stones, which can be used therapeutically substitute to Ratnas. Among these upratnas suryakanta mani is a semi-precious stone with mineral origin. Rasashastra is a subject which deals with the study of metals and minerals, and their therapeutic effects. Rasa dravyas are broadly classified under the heading of Maharasa, Uprasa, Sadharanrasa, Dhatu, Ratna and Upratna varga. Ayurvedic formulations are formulated only after centuries of trials experience. These are well known to be free from toxicity. Ancient Acharyas mentioned about the best variety of metals and minerals based on the

physical appearances which are coined in ancient literature as Grahya lakshanas and synonyms. But in modern era due to continuous development and increasing demand of Ras aushadhies which contain suryakanta as a ingredient, it is very difficult to identify genuine raw drug, which will be used for therapeutic purpose as mentioned in the classical texts, hence it is intended to take up such project in the present study. Suryakanta mani has many therapeutic uses, it mainly has ushna gunas, so it is vata kapha nashak and indicated in rasayana, medhya, kushtha vyadhi.

KEYWORDS: Suryakanta Mani, Shodhana, Marana.**INTRODUCTION**

The gemstones, which are less attractive in comparison with ratna' (Precious stones), are grouped as 'uparatna' (Semiprecious stones). When compared with ratna', 'uparatna' possess

lesser lustre, transparency, hardness, attractiveness and durability; moreover, they have far lesser therapeutic efficacy.

These 'uparatna' are not so rare and costly in comparison with 'ratna'; and it is not always possible to afford a 'ratna' for pharmaceutical purposes. In such situations, these 'uparatna' are used as replacement for 'ratna'.

Though classical books have specified the number of precious stones (Ratna) as nine; they are uncertain about the number of semiprecious stones (Uparatna).

^[1]वैक्रान्तं सूर्यकान्तश्च चन्द्रकान्तो नृपोपलः । पेरोजकञ्च स्फटिक क्षुद्ररत्नगणो हययम् ॥

There are six uparatna: 1. Vaikrānta 2. Sūryakānta 3. Candrakānta 4. Rājā. varta 5. Pairojaka 6. Sphatika

CCIM has added many more drugs to the list of uparatna. They are;

1. Vaikrānta (Tormaline) (Mg, Mn, Fe, Ca, Na, K, Li, H, F, Al, B, SiO₂);
2. Sūryakānta (Sun stone) (Na, O Al₂O₃, 6SiO₂, + CaO, Al₂O₃, 250);
3. Candrakānta (Moon stone) (K Al Si, O / Na Al Si, O);
4. Rājāvarta (Lapis lazuli/Altra marine) ((Na,Ca),(AlSiO₃),(S.SiO₂,Cl₂);
5. Perojaka
6. Sphatika (Rock crystal (SiO₂))
7. Additional 'semiprecious stones' counted in new CCIM Syllabus;
8. Vyomāśma (Jade) (Na Al (SiO₂))
9. Trṇakānta (Amber; Succinum)
10. Palankam (Onyx; Caso, 2H, O)
11. Putika (Peridote)
12. Rudhiram (Carnelion)

Suryakanta mani synonym

^[2]सूर्यकान्तः सूर्यमणिस्तथा सूर्योपलाहवयः । दीप्तोपलो वह्निगर्भो तथैव ज्वलनोपलः ॥

Synonyms: Suryakanta, Surryomani, Suryophalala, Diptophala, Vahnigarbha, Jwalanopala, Arkophala, Jwalanasma, Tapanamani, and Vasuhu.

Names in different languages**Hindi** – Suryakant**Telugu:** Suryakantamani

Tamil, Malayalam - Suriyakantikāl,

English – Sunstone**Hardness** - 5.5 to 6, S.G. - 2.65**Mainore** - Oligoclase.**Occurrence**

It occurs in Burma, Russia, Norway and Madagascar.

History

Uparatna, Translucency have lower properties than gems. Their value is also less. Hence they are called Uparatna. There is a difference in the number of Uparatnas - Anandakandakara has considered 9 Uparatnas. While the Ayurveda illuminator has considered 15 akaratna. The Briha Yogataranginikar has considered 4 above. The rasataranginikar has considered the six uparns. Anandacandkar has also included Vimal, Sasayak, Kant and Tarakant in the Uparatna. The Brihadtrangadinikara also considered Mukta coral in the above category.

Suryakant is found in the oldest text of Indian medicine, "Charaka Samhita" (Ch. 9/13). More of this also in Sushruta Samhita use is mentioned. A detailed description of its virtues, Shodhana Maran is found in Rasagranthas after the eighth century. After the 8th century, its refinement in Rasastra has been detailed in Maran, Guna, Dharma. Since then, continuous use is seen till date.

Suryakanta mani in classical ayurvedic text

Gem stone are the precious stone, colourful which are being used since ancient immemorial day. Suryakanta mani also known as Sun stone is characterised under UPRATNA. Chemically it is identified as $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 6\text{SiO}_2 + \text{CaO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$. It is then mixture of sodium, aluminium, silicon, calcium and oxygen.

According to 'rasajalanidhi tritiya khanda' The quartzes which grow in the peaks of the Himalayas are very clear and bright like the moon's rays. Of these, the variety which emits fire on the sun's rays being reflected upon it, is called the Surya-kanta (or sun's favourite). It

is the best of all the gems. There is another variety of this quartz, called the Chandra-kanta (or Moon's favourite), This is also a very precious gem, and is very rare. On moon's rays being reflected upon it, drops of water of nectar-like potency are shed by it.

Suryakanta mani guna

Sun stone is warm, clear, and rasayanam (preventer and curer of senility and disease). It pacifies an excess of vayu and kapha (phlegm) and increases memory. The planet sun (its presiding diety) is propitiated, if this stone is kept carefully.

According to modern view- It is made by cutting a mineral stone called "oligoclase" from mines. It is made as an advanced rhythm. Nowadays, thick plus lenses are also called artificial arcoals. Because keeping this lens in sunlight for some time catches fire in light things like cotton, paper etc.

Grahya lakshan

According to Ayurved prakash the 'suryakānta', which is crystal clear, which does not possess whitish lines within (nistuṣa), which is soft to touch and shines when rubbed on an even surface, which is lustrous and aberration free.

[5] शुद्धः स्निग्धो निव्रणो निस्तुषोऽन्तर्यो निघृष्टोऽत्यन्तनैर्मल्यमेति।

यः सूर्याशुस्पर्शनिष्ठयूतवह्निर्जात्यः सोऽयं कथ्यते सूर्यकान्तः॥

According to rasa tarangini It is clean, balsamic, non-bronchial, infirm, and when scrubbed on the test, it is special and pure and ignites fire with the touch of sun rays.'

Suryakanta pariksha

[3] यस्तुः सूर्याशुसंस्पृष्टः प्रसूते दहनप्रभाम्।

स एक जात्यः कथितः सूर्यकान्तः परीक्षकैः॥

The 'suryakanta', when held under hot sun, acts like 'magnifying glass and burns the paper, cotton or such soft material placed beneath it. This is the way to check the perfectness of 'suryakanta according to Ayurved praksh in chapter 13 shloka 18.

Ravi kanto bhaveduṣṇo nirmalasca rasāyanah. Vātaśleṣmaharo medhyo dhāraṇādravitustidah Sūryākānta is uṣṇa in vīrya, nirmala in appearance medhya and śasāyana in karmas and

destroys vāta and kapha doṣas. It is a favourite stone of sun planet.

Approval according to modern A good quality spinel is transparent, unctuous looking, spotless and slightly hard. As it emits fire, when sunrays reflect from its surface, hence the name 'Suryakanta'.

Suryakanta shodhana

Its description of refinement is not found in Rasastra. Acharya Dwivedi, considering it as a class of onyx, has spoken about its three-hour preparation using the Dola Yantra method in its alkali and acid liquids. There is no mention of its refinement elsewhere.

Suryakanta marana

^[4]सूर्यकान्तः सुसम्पिष्टः शिलाबलिसमन्वितः ।

सप्तधा पुटितो यत्नान्मियते नात्र संशयः ॥

The gemstone is first finely powdered and mixed with equal quantity of pure realgar and sulphur and sealed properly in saucers and subjected for heating for 7 times. The fine powder bhasma is formed. There is no mention of type of puta, but according to few, gajaputas should be the choice.

According to ayurved prakash, Shuddha Suryakanta' is taken in a clean khalva yantra. It is added with equal quantities of "suddha manahshila" and 'suddha gandhaka' and triturated to obtain a homogenous mixture. This mixture is enclosed in 'śarāva samputa' and subjected for gajaputa. This entire procedure is repeated for seven times to obtain properly prepared 'suryakanta bhasma'. Only rasatarangini and ayurved prakash has suryakanta mani marana In ayurvedic text which puta is to be given, is not mentioned.

Bhasma pareekshas

Vareetaratva: This test signifies the lightness of Bhasma. When prepared bhasma is sprinkled on water it floats on surface of water. This indicates fineness of bhasma.

Unama or uttama: This test is quite similar to varitara with little modification. Once Bhasma is floating over the water a small dhanya is placed carefully over the bhasma. If it continues to float then Bhasma is of best quality.

Rekhapurnatva: (Filling the creases of finger tips) when the bhasma is rubbed in between index finger and thumb, bhasma particles enter into the minute lines (grooves) of fingers, such a bhasma test is called rekhapurnatva. This indicated fineness of Bhasma.

Apunarbhava: This indicates the total conversion of metal mineral in bhasma form. Apunarbhavabhasma is that, from which the original metal cannot be re obtained even after intense heating in the fire, after mixing the bhasma with Guda, Gunja, tankana, Madhu, and Grutha.

Nirdhumata: If the prepared bhasma does not produce specific fumes on placing it on red hot coal or fire is called Nirdhumata A positive sign for good quality of bhasma.

Suryakanta mani bhasma properties

Suryakānta when used judiciously in appropriate dosage form acts as intellectpromote It possesses 'usna' guṇa and is a rejuvenator. It mitigates vitiated kapha and vāta dosa.

^[5]रविकान्तो भवेदुष्णो निर्मला रसायनः । वातश्लेष्महरो मेध्यः पूजनादवितुष्टिदः ॥

Rasa - Madhura,

Guna - Ushna,

Veerya - Ushna,

Karma - Rasayana, Medhya.

Doshaprabhava: Vata Slesmahara.

Suryakanta mani – Suya graha

Süryakānta-dose and Adjuvant

Quarter to one ratti (32 mgs to 125 mgs) is the general dose of 'süryakānta bhasma'. It may be administered along with honey.

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