

**ROLE OF PRATINIDHI DRAVYAS IN CHIKITSA: A REVIEW  
ARTICLE**

**Dr. Pratibha Shahi<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. Omprakash Sharma<sup>2</sup>, Dr. S. R. Shahi<sup>3</sup> and  
Dr. Nikita Panwar<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>PG Scholar Deptt. of Dravyaguna,

<sup>2</sup>Professor, H.O.D, Deptt. of Dravyaguna,

Sriganganagar College of Ayurvedic Science & Hospital, Sriganganagar (Raj.).

<sup>3</sup>Principal & Professor, H.O.D Department of Dravyaguna, Harmony Ayurvedic Medical  
College, Ferozpur.(pb.).

<sup>4</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Dravyaguna, Sriganganagar College of Ayurvedic  
Science & Hospital, Sriganganagar(Raj).

Article Received on  
27 July 2022,

Revised on 16 August 2022,  
Accepted on 05 Sept. 2022

DOI: 10. 20959/wjpr202213-25530

**\*Corresponding Author**

**Dr. Pratibha Shahi**

PG Scholar Deptt. of  
Dravyaguna, Sriganganagar  
College of Ayurvedic  
Science & Hospital,  
Sriganganagar (Raj.).

**ABSTRACT**

Ayurveda is based on plants, from them various drugs or compounds are made. But now a days Substitution of herbal drugs is a burning problem in the herbal drug industry, and it has caused major threat in the research on commercial products. Many Pratinidhi Dravyas (Substitute Drugs) are mentioned in Ayurvedic texts. This review article shows similar action regarding Pratinidhi Dravyas (Substitute Drugs) without any adverse effect. In the current situation endangered plant list is increasing gradually so that implementation of Pratinidhi Dravyas may be the right option. The drug should be assessed on the basic fundamentals of Dravyaguna like Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka etc. This article provides the concept of Substitution given by our preceptors. Our preceptors strictly warned that the main drug of the

compound should never be replaced with another.

**KEYWORDS:** Pratinidhi Dravyas, Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka, Substitute drugs.

**INTRODUCTION**

India is facing an increasingly distributing trend of depletion of its natural resources, medicinal plants are one among them. It is need of hour to do intensive research to find

alternatives for these resources. Plant resources especially medicinal plants are vanishing at level of threat. Most of time enough attention is being given to find alternate sources or substitutes for many of these plants. India is blessed with its richest floras in the world. Even though the medicinal species have disappeared or threatened or extincted from our country, there are still hundreds of species which have highly medicinal properties that can be used as substitutes to those getting extinct.

Demand of medicinal plants is ever increasing but fails to meet supply with authentic drug giving rise to irrational substitution affecting efficacy and safety of herbal medicines. Adulteration and substitution of herbal drugs is the burning problem faced by herbal industry at present. The degradation and destruction of habitats leading to extinction and deforestation of many species is a major cause of the loss of medicinal plant resources. Several plants in use today are substitutes for genuine ones. Most of the times substitutes are deliberately selected and rationally used to bring desired effect. The principles to select substitute drugs is based on similarity of properties (Rasa, Guna, Virya and Vipaka) but most important factor is therapeutic action. In terms of pharmacy, substitute is generally used when original drugs are not available or may be available in small quantity. In ancient time, Vaidya had to collect the drug by own. The drugs which were less available in local area were replaced by other drugs known as Substitute drugs (Pratinidhi Dravyas).

Ayurvedic classics like Charaka and Sushruta have not mentioned direct reference for Pratinidhi Dravyas, whereas Acharya Vagbhata have given references for preparation of Compound formulations. Pratinidhi Dravyas had been dealt in detail in the Mishraka varga prakarana of Bhavaprakasha Nighantu and Abhava varga of Yogaratnakara and Bhaishajya Ratnavali has also compiled valuable information regarding Pratinidhi Dravyas. There is need to analyse these concepts with the present trend of substitution so that we can adopt the drug in preparation for formulation and in treatment.

## CONCEPT OF PRATINIDHI DRAVYA

### “Pratinidheeyate Sadrusheekriyate iti”

According to Abhava varga of Yogaratnakara Pratinidhi Dravya or Substitutes means the substance having similar Pharmacological activities as like that of Genuine drug but may not have similar appearance.

## QUALITIES OF SUBSTITUTES

- Substitutes should have similar Guna,Karama like that of drugs.
- Availability and Quantity of Substitutes should be there.
- The formulations could be prepare easily with the Subsitutes.

## CRITERIA FOR SUBSTITUTIONS

1. If any drug is unavailable, another drug with same properties may be substituted.
2. A drug to be considered as substitute should fulfill following criteria;
  - Exhibit similarity in Rasapanchaka
  - Exhibit similar therapeutic effect
3. In formulations, the Pradhana Dravya should never be substituted. Eg: Trivrit in Avipattikar choornam can never be replaced with another drug.  
Haritaki in Agastya haritaki should never be substituted.

## NEED FOR SUBSTITUTION

### NON-AVAILABILITY OF THE DRUG

In case of non-availability of drugs;

Eg:Substitution of Ashtavarga Dravyas.

Ashtavarga Plants having their natural habitats in Himalayas is the important ingredient of various formulations such as Chyavanaprasha, Jeevaniya gana Kashaya etc. The major reason being unavailability and identity of Astavarga includes; Difficulty in finding natural habitat, Lack of knowledge about specific ecological conditions, Difficulty in access and scarcity, Deforestation, Lack of Developmental Programmes, Environmental changes, Geographical & Climatic changes etc. So Conservation and Sustainable utilization stratogies should be followed. Some species which are categorized as Endangered for the Globe deserves to be “Critically Endangered for the Globe”.

### UNCERTAINTY OF IDENTITY OF THE DRUG

Due to uncertainty different species such as *Aralia quinquefolia*(American ginseng), *Ipomea sepiaria*(Morning glory) etc are considered for the herb Lakshmana.

### COST OF THE DRUG

The cost of some drugs are very high,but they have to use in medicines, so despite usage of those costly drugs some cheaper drugs are substituted; e.g.

Kumkuma (*Crocus sativus*) being costly herb is substituted by Kusumbha (*Carthamus*

tinctorus). The main requirement for an appropriate Pratinidhi dravya is to possess similar guna and karma as of original drugs.

### **Shelf life of The Drug**

The shelflife of dravyas matter when they have to use single or compound or formulation form.

Dravyas like Ativisha (*Aconitum heterophyllum*), which gets easily infected by cankers and that time it might be toxic, thus may be substituted by drug like Musta (*Cyperus rotundus* Linn).

### **Preparation or Formulation of the Drug**

Substitution can be done in the formulation or preparation in case of unavailable prepared material and which can be used in emergency conditions.

E.g: In case of unavailability of Guduchi Sattva (aqueous extract of *Tinospora cordifolia*) Guduchi Swarasa (juice) can be used.

### **SEASONAL AVAILABILITY OF THE DRUG**

Some drugs are available in specific season, so other drugs having same action can be used. For example: *Trianthema portulacastrum*, which is a species of flowering plant, commonly known as giant pigweed; can be used in seasonal absences of *Boerhavia diffusa* (Punarnava).

### **TYPES OF SUBSTITUTION**

#### **Substitution of totally different drug**

Substitution of totally different drug which retains similarity in Rasapanchaka and Therapeutic effect. Here we can consider Bharangi (*Clerodendrum serratum*) and Kantakari. Bharangi has Tikta rasa and Laghu, Ruksha guna and has Kapha and Vatahara property. While Kantakari (*Solanum xanthocarpam*) has katu vipaka and ushna virya. It has Glycosides –Verbascoside and Solasoninie, solamargin, solasurine respectively. Both *C.indicum* and *S.xanthocarpam* have shown Anti-histaminic activity. Both *C. indicum* and *S.xanthocarpam* are commonly used in respiratory disorders which are commonly associated with release of Histamines and other Autacoids.

#### **Substitution of two different Species**

Here we can consider two types of species; Gokshura.-*Tribulus terrestris* (zygophyllaceae) and *Pedaliium murex* (Pedaliaceae). *T.terrestris* has the chemical constituents like

Chlorogenin, Diosgenin, Rutin, Rhamnose, and Alkaloid while *P.murex* has Sitosterol, Ursolic acid, Vanilin, Flavonoids and Alkaloids. Both the species are proved for Nephroprotective, Lithotriptic, Diuretic and Hepatoprotective activities. If we analyse the clinical conditions where Gokshura is indicated i.e. Mutrakricha, Mutraghata, Ashmari, Prameha etc. both *T.terrestris* and *P.murex* appear to be appropriate substitute.

### **Substitution of Species belonging to same family**

The *Datura metal* and *Datura stramonium* can be considered here. Chemical Constituents are Alkaloids, Scopolamine, Atropine, Hyocyanine, Lyoscine. The Alkaloids are proved as Bronchodilators and inhibitor of secretion of mucous membrane. The alcoholic extract of *D.metal* showed Antihelminthic activity. The Alkaloid present in both the species are well proven Bronchodilators and also they inhibit the secretion of mucous membrane of the respiratory tract. Thus both *D.metal* and *D.stramonium* are beneficial for Respiratory tract disorders, while *D.metal* would be a better choice for Krimihara as it is a proven Antihelminthic. Substitution of different parts of the plant the root of *Sida cordifolia* (bala) and the whole plant of *Sida cordifolia* can be considered. Root has the chemical constituents such as Sitoindoside, Acylsteryl glycoside. While the whole plant has Alkaloid, Hydrocarbons, Fatty acids, Ephedrine. Various extracts of the whole plant showed Anti-bacterial, Anti-oxidant, Hypoglycemic, Hepatoprotective and Cardio tonic activities. Though it is the root which is mentioned as officinal part of *S.cordifolia* in the classics as Balya, Brumhana, Shotahara etc. modern researches prove that even the aerial parts are also equally effective.

### **Role of Pratinidhi dravyas in chikitsa**

Most important criteria of Pratinidhi dravya is similar in indications and their therapeutic activities. To select a proper substitute, one has to not only seek overall similarities of Rasa panchaka but also test its therapeutic efficacy clinically. According to Ayurveda Sarasangraha, the formulations contain one main drug and others supportive drugs. The formulation cannot be formed without the main drug hence, main drug cannot be replaced by any other drug. So in the list of Abhava dravya is given for supportive drugs in the formulation, so that one cannot face any difficulty to prepare or use of that particular composition in the absence of any dravya.

### **DISCUSSION**

Substitution of the herbs is the need of the hour with many medicinal plants becoming red listed. The most essential criteria for substitution are the Pharmacological activity rather than

Morphology or Phyto constituents. Substitution of herbs achieved many goals, though basic idea was to provide similar therapeutic effect as that of original drug. It provided a greater scope for the physician to utilize herbs that are easily available, cost effective and most appropriate for the clinical condition. Substitution is generally done when original materials are not available or if available in insufficient quantity or the cost of material is out of reach. Substitute should have proven efficacy as near as original one. The drugs should be assessed on the basis of their Guna-karma and further they should be evaluated. Regional substitution is the need of hour on the basis of synonym, homonym and its local usage. On the basis of Ayurvedic tools and current scientific base, assessment of proper Pratinidhi Dravyas may be possible. Same action like that of main drug is most important, to find out Substitute drug and Systematic researches are needed before finding the Pratinidhi dravya. The concept of Abhava dravya may not be applicable for single drug therapy, it can be applied in compound drug formulations where substitute drug can be used in scarcity of genuine drug. Substitutes should ensure availability, similar pharmacological action as the total effect of the yoga (formulation) should not be changed.

## CONCLUSION

Substitution of the herbs is our need of the today. The most essential criteria for substitution are the pharmacological activity rather than morphology or phytoconstituents. Substitutes are of greater importance and efforts should be made for their systematic identification and evaluation by pharmacognostical and phytochemical studies. In the current scenario endangered plant list is increasing gradually, thus implementation of Pratinidhi dravya may be the right option.

## REFERENCES

1. Hegde P L, A.Harini. A Text book of Dravyaguna Vijnana. vol.1, ed. 1st, New Delhi: Chaukhambha publication, 2014.
2. Chunevara KC, Pandey G. editor. Bhavaprakash Nighantu of Bhavamishra. Varanasi: Chaukhambha Bharti Academy, 2010.
3. Shastri L. Yogaratnakara with vidhotini commentary in Hindi. Varanasi:Chaukambha Sanskrit Sansthan Prakasana, 2005.