

MASHI KALPANA - A REVIEW**Sharada N. Chikurte^{1*} and Krishna Bharat Jamdar²**

¹HOD, Professor, Department of Rasashastra and Bhaishajyakalpna, PDEA'S College of Ayurved and Research Centre, Nigdi.

²Final Year PG Scholar, Department of Rasashastra and Bhaishajya Kalpna, PDEA'S College of Ayurved and Research Centre, Nigdi.

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***Corresponding Author**

Dr. Sharada N. Chikurte

HOD, Professor,

Department of Rasashastra
and Bhaishajyakalpna,

PDEA'S College of

Ayurved and Research

Centre, Nigdi.

ABSTRACT

Rasashastra and Bhaishajya Kalpna branch deals with the preparation of medicine by using herbal, animal and metal origin. Metals and minerals are in frequent use in Indian system of medicine since long back without any untoward effect. Mashi Kalpna is the form of medicine which can be prepared by heating herbal or animal content upto transfer into carbonized form. Mashi Kalpna is used externally as well as internally. Mashi Kalpna is cost effective, less time consuming preparation and having quick result.

KEYWORDS: Mashi Kalpna, Carbon form.

INTRODUCTION

Masi Kalpna is a dosage form in Ayurveda Pharmaceutics where the drug is brought to a carbonized form by the process of employing heat to the dry ingredients of drug. The drugs selected for Masi preparation

can be plant or animal origin. It is used for both internal and external use. Its usage is more as local application.

Classification

According to origin: Jangama-ex. Horn, Nails, Hooves Audbhida-ex.

Triphala according to use: Bahya -ex. Hastidanta masi, Triphala masi Abhyantara -ex.

Vajeegandha, Svaavida masi According to process: Open method & Closed method

Method of preparation: Two methods are adopted for the preparation namely Open Method & Closed method.

Open method: The drug is heated in an iron pan till it turns black coloured. The end product is triturated to a fine powder form.

Example is triphala masi^[1]

Closed method: The drug is dried, coarsely powdered and kept in Sharava samputa (Earthen saucers sealed with mud smeared cloth) and then subjected to Puta (heated in a pit using cow dung cakes). The quantum of fuel employed is based on the hardness of the drug.

After swangasheeta (Self-cooling), the Sharava samputa is opened and the material is collected and preserved in air tight containers.

Example is Hasti Danta masi^[2] (Masi of ivory)

Masi Kalpanas in different text

1. **Hastidanta masi:** Small pieces of ivory are taken and burnt to black in closed method (Antardhooma vidhi). The masi thus collected is mixed with rasanjana and the mixture is then ground with goat's milk and applied in Indralupta (alopecia).
2. **Chatushpaada masi^[3]:** Masi prepared with skin, hair, hooves, horns and bones of cattle, mixed with oil, if applied over the affected part (with hair loss) will help to retain the growth of hair.
3. **Triphala masi:** Coarse powder of the drugs namely Haritaki (*Terminalia chebula*), Vibhitaki (*Terminalia bellirica*), Amalaki (*Phyllanthus emblica*) are taken and heated in an iron pan till it turns black. It is used in Upadamsha vrana (soft chancre) with madhu (Honey) for application.
4. **Svaavida masi^[4]:** The spines of porcupine, cut into small pieces and burnt to black in closed method. Dose: 250mg-1g with Trikatu churna and sugar in equal quantity with honey is effective in shwasa (Asthma), Kasa (Cough), Kshaya (Pthisis). Porcupine quills are said to possess antibiotic properties.^[5]
5. **Vajeegandha masi^[6]:** Masi prepared with the roots of Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) if taken along with honey is effective in Kaphadhika Shwasaroga.

6. **Krishna sarpa masi^[7]**: Closed method is employed here. The dead black Cobra excluding its head, tail and intestine is burnt in closed sharava samputa and the well burnt material is applied as a paste along with Bibhitaka taila. Use: Cures all types of Vitiligo.
7. **Masi yoga^[8]**: The rope used for suicidal hanging or the thread tied around the neck of children is taken and burnt to masi. This when taken with cold water relieves Apasmara (Epilepsy).
8. **Mayurapiccha masi**: Useful in morning sickness^[9] 125mg of Mayurapiccha bhasma with 125mg of Pippali churna (Piper longum) alongwith Honey is effective in asthma and Hiccups.^[10]
9. **Keshaanajana masi^[11]**: Masi prepared with Human hair by rubbing with Ghrita and subjecting to puta by closed method. Use: Sushkaaksipaka (Dry eye syndrome).
10. **Triphala Masi is also used as an ingredient in Dantapuyahara Manjana^[12]**: That is used for brushing of teeth and indicated in Dantapuya (Pyorrhea), teeth diseases and loss of teeth.

Closed method/Antardhoom method

In this method, the drug selected should be finely powdered & taken into sharava. Sandhibandhana with another sharava of same size has to be closed to prepared sharavasamputa. It is dried and subjected to puta. Puta is chosen as per the hardness and nature of the drug. After swaangasheeta (self-cool), the inner material from sharava samputa is carefully collected, taken in khalva yantra, triturated to homogenous mixture & preserved. In this method hard material such as animal, horn, hairs, bones are used for preparing mashi kalpana. E.g. Hastidanta mashi.

Open method/Bahirdhoom

In this method finely powdered raw material is taken in iron pan. Then it is roasted with frequent stirring until the material is transfer into black color carbonized form. The carbonized powder is taken into clean khalva yantra & triturated upto fine homogenous powder and later preserved into airtight container. In this method commonly herbal drugs are used. E.g. Triphala mashi.

DISCUSSION

Pharmacological aspect

Medicinal charcoal is prepared by carbonizing wood, cellulose residues or coconut shells out of contact of air. Carbonizing dense wood produces the most effective gas absorbing charcoals in particular log wood, lignum vitae & coconut shells. Charcoal made by burning wood, coconut shell or even in an atmosphere containing minimum oxygen acquired good adsorbent properties. Absorbents are used in medicine to remove gases, toxins & poisons.^[13]

Precautions

1. Puta (Antardhooma/Bahirdhooma) should be performed well.
2. In antardhooma method sharava-samputa should be closed properly
3. The mashi should be kept in airtight glass containers as they are in carbonized form of drugs chances of decomposition is less. Mashi kalpana is mentioned in sushruta samhita in some instances. Mashi kalpana is the product which is similar to calx or carbon & used in different diseases both internally and externally. The predominance of carbon particles in this preparation may attribute this kalpana the following benefits:
 - The absorptive properties of carbon are utilized in the treatment of ailment of stomach due to hyperacidity.
 - It removes toxic amines, organic acids of decomposed food & bacteria from the intestinal tract.
 - It has also got anti-poisonous activity. By the process of heat treatment (open/closed method) hidden chemical constituents becomes prominent and/or new chemical moieties are formed which are therapeutically active. The black color indicates higher percentage of carbon & oxides. Preliminary phyto-chemical screening of both triphala and triphala mashi indicates the presence of tannins & ascorbic acid. Antimicrobial activity of triphala mashi was checked by agar gel diffusion method. The aqueous & ethanolic extract of triphala & triphala mashi exhibited a broad spectrum antimicrobial activity against all the micro-organisms. It inhibited the growth of all gram+ve and gram-ve bacteria. No signs of toxicity were observed in short term study at the dose of 500mg/kg in toxicity study conducted.^[14] Keshanjana mashi was converted to ointment using petroleum & a pharmaceutical study was conducted. Petroleum was used as base as it is a widely used base in ophthalmic preparation.^[15]

CONCLUSION

Mashi Kalpana is the key medicine used externally as well as internally. Medicine prepared by using Mashi Kalpana is used in many more disease condition. Mashi Kalpana is less time consuming preparation and having quick result. Hence we can say that Mashi Kalpana is the good pharmaceutical product mentioned in Ayurveda Granthas.

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