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Review Article

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PRAJASTHAPANA MAHAKASHAYA: DRUGS REVIEW AS PER AYURVEDA

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda an ancient science that deals with curing diseased as well as upkeeping of health. Acharya Charak has mentioned fifty mahakashaya for elevation of human wellbeing. Prajasthapana Mahakashaya is one of them, it consists of ten drugs that mainly focus on process of conception and sustenance of pregnancy. These drugs work through their Rasa, Veerya, Vipaka and Prabhav, by eliminating doshas those are hinderance to fertility. Prajasthapan Mahakashaya¹ includes 10 herbs as- Brahmi, Aindri, Shatavari, Doorva, Patala, Guduchi, Haritaki, Kutaki, Bala, and Priyangu. This study will further describe drugs, as mentioned in different Nighantus and Samhita.

KEYWORDS: *Prajasthapan Mahakashaya*, *Charak Mahakashay*, Female infertility, Reproduction.

INTRODUCTION

In today's world sedentary lifestyle and many other external factors are affecting individuals. Their day to day life has become more hectic resulting in early age impotence, diabetes and many other hormonal disorders. Infertility is a major issue faced by many, according to NLM data prevalence of infertility among reproductive age group women was about 8.9% (51/570). WHO also states that one in every four couples in developing countries affected by infertility. Ayurveda provides holistic approach towards its treatment, by *shodana* procedure. Acharya charak has mentioned *prajasthapana mahakashaya* which predominately works on infertility.

In Ayurveda various *nighantus* has mentioned all ten drugs in different *vargas* according to their specific properties. There *rasa panchak* is described as follows-

Prajasthapana Mahakashay and their properties^[2] (table-1)

Sr. No.	Dravya	Latin name	Ras	Vipaka	Veerya	Doshaghnata
1	Brahmi	Bacopa monnieri	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	Katu	Sheet	Vatakaphashamak
2	Aindri	Centella asiatica	Kashaya, Tikta	Katu	Sheet	Kaphapittashamak
3	Shatavari	Asparagaus racemosus	Madhura, Tikta, Kashaya	Madhura	sheet	Vatapittashamaka
4	Doorva	Cynodon dactylon	Kashaya, Madhura	Katu	Sheet	Kaphapittashamak
5	Patala	Stereospermum suaveolens	Tikta, Katu Flower-Kashay, Madhura	Katu	Anusna	Tridoshaghna
6	Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Tikta, Katu,Kashaya	Madhura	Ushna	Tridoshaghna
7	Haritaki	Terminalis chebula	Lavanvarjit Panchras	Madhura	Ushna	Tridoshaghna
8	Kutaki	Picrorhiza kurroa	Tikta	Katu	Sheet	Kaphapittaghna
9	Bala	Sida cordifolia	Madhura	Madhura	Sheet	Tridoshaghna
10	Priyangu	Callicarpa macrophylla	Tikta, Kashaya, Madhura	Katu	Sheet	Vatapittaghna

Description in Nighantus

(table-2)

Sr.no.	Dravya	Bhavprakash ^[3]	Dhanwantri ^[4]	Shodhala ^[5]	<i>Raj</i> ^[6]	Kaiydev ^[7]	Madanpal ^[8]
1	Brahmi	Guduchyadi	Karaviradi	Guduchyadi	Parpatadi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
2	Aindri	-	Karaviradi	1	Moolakadi	Ausadhi	-
3	Shatavari	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Shatavhadi	Aushadhi	Abhayadi
4	Doorva	Guduchyadi	Karaviradi	Karaviradi	Shalmalyadi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
5	Patala	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Misharka	Guduchyadi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
6	Guduchi	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
7	Haritaki	Haritkyadi	Guduchyadi	Haritkyadi	Amradi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
8	Kutaki	Guduchyadi	Karaviradi	Kusthadi	Pippaladi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
9	Bala	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Aushadi	-	Aushadi	Abhayadi
10	Priyangu	Karpuradi	Chandanadi	Chandanadi	Dhanya	Dhanya	Karpuradi

Description in classics

Important *yogas* described in samhitas which were specifically used in infertility and maintenance of pregnancy.

1. Brahmi

(table-3)

Sr.no.	Dravya	Bhavprakash ^[3]	Dhanwantri ^[4]	Shodhala ^[5]	$Raj^{[6]}$	Kaiydev ^[7]	Madanpal ^[8]
1	Brahmi	Guduchyadi	Karaviradi	Guduchyadi	Parpatadi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
2	Aindri	-	Karaviradi	-	Moolakadi	Ausadhi	-
3	Shatavari	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Shatavhadi	Aushadhi	Abhayadi
4	Doorva	Guduchyadi	Karaviradi	Karaviradi	Shalmalyadi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
5	Patala	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Misharka	Guduchyadi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
6	Guduchi	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
7	Haritaki	Haritkyadi	Guduchyadi	Haritkyadi	Amradi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
8	Kutaki	Guduchyadi	Karaviradi	Kusthadi	Pippaladi	Aushadi	Abhayadi
9	Bala	Guduchyadi	Guduchyadi	Aushadi	-	Aushadi	Abhayadi
10	Priyangu	Karpuradi	Chandanadi	Chandanadi	Dhanya	Dhanya	Karpuradi

2. Aindri

(Table-4)

Sr. no.	Charak Samhita	Sushruta Samhita	
1	Balya mahakashay (sutra sthan 4/9)	Shatavari with Dugdha Masanumasik	
1	Baiya manakashay (suira sinan 4/9)	Dwitiya masa (Su. Sa. 10/63)	
2	Garbhasthapan dravy (ch. Sha.8/20)	Shatavari Ghrita Garbha Sraav	
2	Stanyadusti chikitsa (ch.sha.8/58)	Rasayana (Su. Chi. 28/2)	
3	Kashmaryadi ghrita in vataja yoni		
3	(ch.sa. chi.30/53)		

3. Shatavari

(Table-5)

Sr. no.	Charak Samhita	Vagbhata
1	Brahmya Rasayana Medhya	Brahmi Ghrita
1	Rasayana (Ch.Chi.1/41-57)	(A.H.U.6/23)

4. Doorva

(Table-6)

Sr. no.	Charak Samhita	Vagbhata
1	Sandnyasthapana mahakashay (sutra sthan 4/9)	Naagbaladi Ghrita (A.H.Chi.3/120-24)
2	Nagkesaradi Grit (cha.sa.chi.16/121) Vrana ropana svarasa siddha ghrita (cha.sa.chi.21/96)	

5. Patala

(Table-7)

Sr. no.	Charak Samhita	Sushruta Samhita	Vagbhata
1	Asthapana (sutra sthana 2/11)	Brihatpanchmula	Sahacharadi Taila (A.
1	Asmapana (suira sinana 2/11)	yusha (su.chi.4/13)	H. Chi21/67-69)
2	Shwayathuhara mahakashaya	Kalyanak lavana	Dadhita ghrita
2	(sutra sthana 4/9)	(Su. Chi. 4/32)	(A. H. Chi. 14/13-20)

6. Guduchi

(Table-8)

Sr. no.	Charak Samhita	Sushruta Samhita	Vagbhata
1	Asthapana (sutra sthana 2/12) Truptighna mahakashaya (sutra sthana 4/9) Stanyashodhana mahakashaya (sutra sthana 4/9)	Guduchyadi asthapana (Su. Chi 38/47)	Guduchi Kwatha (A. H. Sa. 2/7)
2	Kashmaryadi ghrita for vataja yoni (cha.sa.chi.30/53) Kaphaja pradara (cha.sa.chi.30/99) Amrutadhya taila (cha.sa.chi.29/103)		Guduchi Yoga (A. H. Sa. 2/56)

7. Haritaki

(Table-9)

Sr. no.	Charak Samhita	Sushruta Samhita	Vagbhata
1	Kalyanaka Ghrita	Triphaladi Taila (Su. Chi	Vashistha haritaki (A. H.
1	(Ch. Chi 9/36)	37/33)	Chi 3/136)
2	Triphaladi taila (Ch.	Pathadi Taila (Su. Chi	
2	Chi 10/44)	37/36)	
3	Kashmaryadi ghrita	Kushadi asthapana (Su.	
3	(Ch. Chi. 15/53)	Chi38/51)	

8. Kutaki

(**Table-10**)

Sr. no.	Charak Samhita	Sushruta Samhita	Vagbhata
1	Neelinyaadya ghrita Gulma	Madhukadi tailam (Su	Kasamardadi ghrita (A. H
1	Ch. Chi 5/107)	Chi. 37/2729)	Sa. 3/162)
2	Sarvaritu Trivrit yoga (kalpa		
2	sthana 7/59)		

9. Bala

(Table-11)

Sr. no.	Charak Samhita	Sushruta Samhita	Vagbhata
1	Bala mahakasahaya (sutra 4/9)	Bala taila (shu.chi 2/81)	Prishnapaniyadi yoga (Ah.sh.2/56)
2	Amalaka grita (cha. chi. 1/4) Apatyakari Shashtikadi gutika (cha.chi. 2/5)	Satapaka Bala Taila (shu.chi.15/40)	Rasnadi ghrita (Ah.ut.3/51)
3	Guduchyadi taila (cha.chi 30/59)	Badaradi Aasthapana Basti (shu.sh.10/5)	Bhutarva ghrita (Ah.ut.5/19)

10. Priyangu

(Table-12)

Sr.no.	Charak Samhita	Sushruta Samhita	Vagbhata
1	Kalyanaak Ghrita (Ch. Chi. 9/36)	Daridranashak yoga (Su. Chi. 29/14)	Sarvavatanashak taila (A. H. Chi. 21/73-81)
2	Bala taila (Chi. 15/149-154)	Shampakadi asthapana (Su. Chi. 38/28)	

DISCUSSION

Prajasthapana means offspring (Praja) and sthapan (to establish or maintain), thus this mahakashaya includes-

- Promoting conception and combating infertility
- Strengthening the reproductive system
- Sustaining pregnancy and preventing loss
- Providing nourishment
- **Balancing hormones**

For best results, the formulation is often recommended to be taken for two to three months prior to conception. Its therapeutic pathways include:

- Maintaining the health of conception- related organs like the uterus and cervix
- Improving the quality of blood.
- Addressing factors related to infertility, such as psychological stress, infections and gynaecological disorder.
- Providing strength to the uterine walls and counteracting weakness.

CONCLUSION

Early gynaecological problems can lead to infertility. Various disorders like yoni vyapad, Shwet pradar, rakta pradar, bandhya^[12] and others are detailed in ayurvedic samhitas. Prajasthapan mahakashaya is a group of ayurvedic herbs that supports reproductive health, enhances fertility, and promotes healthy pregnancy by nourishing the uterus, balancing hormones, and removing uterine obstructions. While promising for infertility and promoting successful conception, it should be used cautiously and under the guidance of a healthcare professional to ensure safety and effectiveness.

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