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Review Article

REVIEW OF HARITAKI (TERMINALIA CHEBULA Retz.) AS AN EKAL DRAVYA CHIKITSA IN BRIHATRAYEE

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda is a traditional system of Indian medicine which aims to promote health and wellness by maintaining equilibrium of all three Dosas of body. Natural medicinal herbs are an important component of this science which aims to protect the body from various ailments and offer user a variety of health benefits including physical as well as mental health. Haritaki has been placed in high esteem among all medicinal herbs due to its rich property to prevent and cure disease. It is always listed first in Ayurveda as it is called the king of medicines due to its large number of uses having extraordinary therapeutic benefits. Since ancient time, Haritaki has enjoyed a prime place among all medicinal plants. It is being found to be used in many of compound formulations due to its wide spectrum of pharmacological activities. *Haritaki* is one of three dried fruits that make up the Ayurvedic formula Triphala. It has been used among the large number of population to promote healing from variety of diseases ranging from use as Rasayan to the diseases related to indigestion and many more. Haritaki is being used as a best prescribed remedy for many of the common ailments in day today's life by large number of physician. It is being used easily in all diseases, either for its health promoting benefit or for its disease alleviating property. Nowadays, using *Haritaki* as a single *Dravya* with various *Anupaan* is a great trend giving optimum results. Ekaldravya concept of using single substances has been mentioned in our ancient Ayurvedic literature. Use of *Haritaki* as a single drug therapy has been evidenced at various instances in Brihatravee.

KEYWORDS: Haritaki, Ekal, Dravya, Chikitsa.

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants are the prime substances in the field of Ayurveda on which the physician rely for attaining a better health condition. An ancient practice of using plants as a source of medicine is an important component of the health care system. Most practitioners of the traditional systems of medicine prepare their own formulations whereas many use singe herb for managing disease conditions. The interest in traditional medicines is growing rapidly due to its less harmful side effect if used cautiously. Using single drug therapy is more reliable in this context as the pharmacological action of single Dravya is well known rather than that of multiherbal formulation where drug to drug interaction is unknown. Single drug therapy also ensures the quality of substance being used. Although many of physician uses Haritaki as a single Dravya for therapeutic purpose but it still needs more extensive research and evidence base. So here it has been reviewed in *Brihatrayee* to provide an evidence based data for the using Haritaki as an Ekal Dravya Chikitsa

in many ailments where it is single sufficient to break the pathogenesis.

EDC is being practiced nowadays by many of physicians who follow our basic literature for managing the diseased conditions. It has been evidenced that *Haritaki* is being used in single forms at various instances for its purgation activity in many diseases where *Virechan* is the basic line of treatment. Many a time a substance is not single enough to break the pathogenesis. So it is being used with another substance known as *Anupaan* or *Sahapaan* or in processed form to be single enough to cure any disease condition. So for practical use and need of time, *Anupaan* or *Sahapaan* or processed single *Dravya* are also considered to be taken into concept of *Ekal Dravya Chikitsa*.

In Ch.Chi. 1-1/ 30-37, *Haritaki* has been mentioned to have *Sarvarogaprashman* (alleviates all diseases), *Doshanuloman*, *Deepan*, *Paachan*, *Vayasthaapan* property, and indicated in many

disorders like- Kustha (leprosy), Gulma, Udaavata, Shosha, Paandu (anemia), Arsha (piles), Grahani, Vishamjwar (fever), Shiroroga, Atisaar (diarrhoea), Arochak, Kasa (cough), Prameha (diabetes), Pleeha (splenomegaly), Udar (ascites), Kamala (jaundice), Chhardi (vomiting) and many more. In most of the

diseases mentioned, *Virechan* (purgation) is the basic line of treatment, where *Haritaki* has been used in single form or with *Anupaan*. Some examples of *Haritaki* as single *Dravya* with different *Anupaan* has been listed below:

Table 1: Haritaki as single Dravya with different Anupaan

	Disease	Anupaan
1.	Paandu	Pathyaghrut (ch.chi.16/50);
		Gomutra + Haritaki (Kaphajpandu) - (ch.chi.16/58)
2.	Arsha	Guda (jaggery) + Haritaki – before food (ch.chi.14/65)
3.	Grahani	Haritakichoorna + Takra (ch.chi.15/98)
4.	Vishamjwar	Haritaki choorna (ch.chi.3/297-301)
5.	Atisaar	Haritaki choorna (ch.chi.19/17)
6.	Pleehodar	Guda + Haritaki (ch.chi.13/78)
7.	Udarroga	Haritaki choorna + Gomutra (ch.chi.13/150);
		1000 Haritaki + Dugdhaahar (ch.chi.13/152)
8.	Kamala	Haritaki choorna + Guda + Madhu (ch.chi.16/98)
9.	Shotha	Haritaki + Gomutra (ch.chi.12/21);
		Haritaki choorna + Guda (ch.chi.12/27)
10.	Chhardi	Haritaki choorna + Madhu (ch.chi.20/21)

If using *Haritaki* as a single *Dravya* is sufficient to give optimum results for any clinical condition, then why to use multiherbal formulation for same indication. Using this EDC, helps in reducing the load on biodiversity; ensures the quality of *Dravya*; minimizes the cost of medicine.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Charak Samhita, Sushrut Samhita, Ash<mark>tanghridaya with t</mark>heir commentaries and other relevant texts of Ayurveda and allied subjects.

Methods

Compilation of information relating to *Ekal* aspect of *Haritaki*.

Conceptual review of *Haritaki* as *Ekal Dravva Chikitsa*.

Compilation of various form of *Ekal Dravya* used in *Brihatrayee*.

OBSERVATIONS

After a complete review of *Brihatrayee*, it has been observed that *Haritaki* is the most important *Dravya* being mentioned in our ancient texts having many therapeutic benefits. It has been mentioned in all three *Samhitas* of *Brihatrayee* with its variety of use in various diseases in compound form as well as in *Ekal Dravya* form. Following observation has been compiled after a review of *Brihatrayee* for the use of *Haritaki* in *Ekal Dravya Chikitsa*.

Table 2: Haritaki as Ekal Dravya in Charak samhita

1.	Phalini dravya	Virechan	Ch.su.1
2.	Arshoghna; Kushtaghna; Virechanopag; Hikkanigrahan; Kasahar; Jwarahar; Prajasthapan; Vayasthaapan Mahakashaya		Ch.su.4
3.	Atisthultha chikitsa		Ch.su.21/22-24
4.	Haritaki powder with honey	Santarpanjanyaroga chikitsa	Ch.su.23/9
5.	Choorna	Santarpanrognaashak	Ch.su.23/17
6.	Haritaki pathyaanam		Ch.su.25
7.	Haritaki choorna	Vishamjwara	Ch.chi.3/297-301
8.	Haritaki with Madhu, sharkara	Urdhwarakta pitta- virechana	Ch.chi.4/5, 58
9.	Intake of <i>Haritaki</i> along with cows urine	Kaphajshotha (Kaphaj type of oedema)	Ch.chi.12/21

10.	Choorna with Guda	Sadoshabhinnavarcha (in constipation or passage of Ama, including Dosas with stool)	Ch.chi.12/27
11.	Haritaki mixed with Guda (jaggery)	Pleehodar (splenic enlargement)	Ch.chi.13/78
12.	<i>Haritaki</i> along with cows urine followed by milk as post prandrial drink	Udar Roga	Ch.chi.13/150
13.	1000 fruits of <i>Haritaki</i> with milk	UdarRoga	Ch.chi.13/152
14.	Lick <i>Abahaya</i> along with jaggery – before food	Arsha	Ch.chi.14/65
15.	<i>Haritaki</i> soaked overnight in cow urine, taken along with jaggery	Arsha	Ch.chi.14/67
16.	Haritaki along with buttermilk	Arsha	Ch.chi.14/67
17.	Haritaki with warm water -Aampaachan	Grahani	Ch.chi.15/98
18.	Pathyaghrita	Paandu	Ch.chi.16/50
19.	Haritaki with Gomutra	Kaphajpaandu	Ch.chi.16/58
20.	Lick Haritakichoorna with Guda and Madhu	Kamala	Ch.chi.16/98
21.	Haritaki used as a mild laxative	If diarrhoea is associated with griping pain, difficulty in voiding	Ch.chi.19/17
22.	In linctus form- <i>Abahaya</i> powder with honey (<i>Madhu</i>)— for purgation— this causes downward movement of the aggravated dosas having the tendency to move upwards	Chhardi	Ch.chi.20/21
23.	Paste of - <i>Haritaki</i> , sizzled with ghee and used as <i>Vidalaka</i>	Vatajnetrashool	Ch.chi.26/233
24.	Decoction of <i>Abhaya</i> sizzled with ghee	<u>Vatarakta</u>	Ch.chi.29/84

Table 3: Haritaki as Ekal Dravya in Sushrut Samhita

1.	Mushkaadi, Vachaadi, Parushakaadi, Nyaghrod Aamalkyaadigana, Laakshaadigana	Shu.su.38	
2.	Virechakadravya		Shu.su.39/4
3.	Fruit of <i>Haritaki</i>	Sreshtavirechana	Shu.su.44
4.	Rasayan Phala- Fruits of Haritaki devoid of seeds	Alleviates all disease, excellent <i>Rasayan</i> , intellect promoting, cleanses wounds with dirty interior	Shu.su.44/62,63
	Ushnatwa, Deepanatwa- Rogashaamak	Santarpanajanyaroga (disorders caused by saturation)	Shu.su.44/69
5.	Haritaki choorna- With Sunthi; With Guda (jaggery); With Saindhavlavan	Agnideepan (stimulates digestive fire), Vata Anulomana, Vrishya, Indriyaprasaadan, Santarpanrognaashak	Shu.su.44/68, 69
6.	व्रण्यमुष्णंसरंमेध्यंदोषघ्नंशोफकुष्ठनुत्। कषायंदीपनंचाम्लंचक्	पुष्यंचाभयाफलम् ॥१९९॥	Shu.su.46/199
7.	LA- fruits of <i>Rohini</i> kept in goats milk for a week and pounded finely with the same pigmentation of skin		Shu.chi.1/95
8.	Use <i>Haritaki</i> with jaggery	All types of Vatarakta	Shu.chi.5/12
9.	Palliative treatment- in morning, <i>Haritaki</i> mixed with jaggery	Arsha (Invisible piles)	Shu.chi.6/13

10.	100 fruits of <i>Haritaki</i> should be cooked in cows urine (1 <i>Drona</i>), take proper dose with honey according to strength every morning		Shu.chi.6/13
11.	Haritaki mixed with jaggery	Udar Roga	Shu.chi.14/10
12.	Powder of <i>Haritaki</i> with grapes <i>Swaras</i> ; Powder of <i>Haritaki</i> with sugarcane juice	Granthi (In Paittika cyst)	Shu.chi.18/9
13.	Haritakikalka with one of the urine	In <i>Kaphajshlipad</i> (type of elephantiasis)	Shu.chi.19/5
14.	After washing feet with sour gruel, paste it with <i>Lac Swaras</i> and <i>Haritaki</i>	Alasa	Shu.chi.20/21
15.	Haritaki with equal quantity of jaggery	Sawathu (Oedema)	Shu.chi.23/12
16.	Oils useful in gravels and calculus		Shu.chi.31/5
17.	Take powder of <i>Sharkara</i> and <i>Haritaki</i> with honey	In fever- after elimination of <i>Dosas</i> , if one suffers from giddiness	Shu.uttr.39/308
18.	Evacuation (Virechan) of accumulated Dosas with administration of Haritaki	If one passes stool frequently with pain, difficulty and retention	Shu.uttr.40/31
19.	Haritaki with jaggery	Gulma	Shu.uttr.42/62
20.	Haritaki powder mixed with plentiful honey and ghee	In Anemia- after evacuation (emesis and purgation therapy)	Shu.uttr.44/14
21.	Haritaki with sugar	Murchha (fainting)	Shu.uttr.46/17
22.	Ghee processed with decoction of <i>Haritaki</i>	Murchha (fainting)	Shu.uttr.46/19
23.	Take <i>Haritaki</i> with post drink of warm water	Hic <mark>co</mark> ugh	Shu.uttr.50/24

Table 4: *Haritak<mark>i as</mark> Eka<mark>l Dra</mark>vya* in Ashtang Hridaya

1.	Kashayaskand	B	As.hr.su.10
2.	Haritaki with honey	Atisthaulyanaashak	As.hr.su.14/22
3.	Virechanupyogidravya, Varunaadigana, Vachaadigana		As.hr.su.15
4.	Snehavyaapatchikitsa		As.hr.su.16/35
5.	Haritaki licked with milk	Fever- purgation	As.hr.Chi.1/100
6.	Haritaki licked with juice of Mridvika		
7.	Administration of <i>Haritaki</i>	In Vishamjwar	As.hr.Chi.1/154
8.	Powder of <i>Haritaki</i> licked with honey	Pittajchhardi	As.hr.chi.6/17
9.	Drink ghee prepared with the decoction of <i>Pathya</i>	Murchha	As.hr.chi.7/107
10.	Consume <i>Haritaki</i> soaked in cows urine with jaggery	Arsha (Piles)	As.hr.chi.8/54
11.	When the <i>Dosas</i> have given rise to flatulence, heaviness, pain and loss of movement of the abdomen, then the use of <i>Haritaki</i> , restores life, by clearing out the obstructed <i>Dosas</i> effectively.	In patient of <i>Amaatisaara</i> (diarrhoea when the <i>Dosas</i> are not cooked) <i>Sangrahan</i> (drug or therapies which stops the purgation) should not be administered at the commencement.	As.hr.chi.9/4
12.	Haritakikalka along with Saindhava taken with hot water	Aamajgrahani	As.hr.chi.10/8
13.	Medicated ghee prepared from <i>Haritaki</i>	Kaphajgrahani	As.hr.chi.10/62
14.	Drink milk boiled with seeds of <i>Haritaki</i>	Ashmari	As.hr.chi.11/33
15.	One Prastha powder of Haritaki is added to 1	<i>Udar</i> (enlargement of	As.hr.chi.15/28
	Aadhaka of ghee, melted by fire, churned well with a churner, put into pot and kept concealed in heap of	abdomen), <i>Garavish</i> (homicidal poisoning),	

	barley. After 1 month it is taken out, mixed with decoction of <i>Haritaki</i> and sour curd and boiled for some time. This ghee is then consumed	Asthila (prostatic enlargement), Aanaha (flatulence), Gulma (abdominal tumour), vidradhi (abscess), Kustha, Unmaad (insanity), Apasmaar (epilepsy)	
16.	Consume <i>Haritaki</i> - 1000 of which, is soaked and macerated with cows urine, followed by drinking of milk	Udar Roga	As.hr.chi.15/39
17.	Haritaki macerated with cows urine	Paandu	As.hr.chi/16/6
18.	The person should lick powder of <i>Haritaki</i> along with more of honey and ghee	After purification in both direction by <i>Vaman</i> and <i>Virechan</i>	As.hr.chi.16/10
19.	Medicated ghee prepared with decoction of 100 (by number) Pathya, paste of 50 <i>Pathyavrinta</i> (bark of Pathya fruit) and 1 <i>Prastha</i> of ghee	Gulma, kamala, Paandu	As.hr.chi.16/40
20.	Abhayaleha described in treatment of cough	Halimak	As.hr.chi.16/167
21.	In great increase of <i>dosas-</i> consume <i>Gomutraharitaki</i> for purgation	Shotha	As.hr.chi.17/3
22.	Consume <i>Haritaki</i> with jaggery followed by <i>Takra</i> as vehicle	One who has poor digestive fire, faeces having symptoms of <i>Ama</i> , being heavy, broken and constipating	As.hr.chi.17/5
23.	Abhayaghrita administered determining the stage of the disease	Shotha	As.hr.chi.17/14
24.	Intake of <i>Haritaki</i> with cows urine	<u>Ur</u> ustambha	As.hr.chi.21/49
25.	Decoction of <i>Haritaki</i> fried in ghee should be consumed followed by drinking of milk	Vatarakta (gout)	As.hr.chi.22/12
26.	Drink decoction of <i>Haritaki</i> mixed with honey	Kanthroga (disease of throat)	As.hr.uttr.22/55
27.	Use Abhaya with honey in daily increasing doses	Kaphajshlipad	As.hr.uttr.30/12
28.	Consume 2 <i>Abhaya</i> daily along with jaggery/ <i>Sunthi / Pippali/ Saindhavlavan</i>	To live a life span of 100 years	As.hr.uttr.39/14 6
29.	Agryadravya	Vata and Kaphajroga	As.hr.uttr.40

DISCUSSION

Among all the fruits used for purgation, *Haritaki* is considered to be the best by all *Aacharyas*. *Haritaki* is also mentioned as *Rasayandravya*, but mostly it is used for its laxative property as a *Virechandravya* where *Virechan* is the basic line of treatment either for symptomatic relief or for curing the disease. It is the only *Dravya* in Brihatrayee which is used abundantly in large number of disease in the form of *Ekaldravya*. All *Aachrayas* has indicated its use in *Ekal* form in around 9 diseases - *Jwar*, *Shoth*, *Udar*, *Arsha*, *Paandu*, *Atisaar*, *Vatarakta*, *Gulma*, *Malavibandha* (constipation). Excluding the basic principle part, Charak has mentioned around 22 references for 16 pathological conditions; Sushrut- 22 references for 18 pathological conditions; Vagbhatt- 29 references for 22 pathological conditions. *Haritaki* fruit is used in different forms, in different ailments with various *Anupaans* for obtaining optimum results. Commonly used *Anupaan* are- *Gomutra*, jaggery, honey etc.

Haritaki has been used in variety of form by all three *Aacharyas* in various diseases.

Table 5: With Warm Water

1.	Haritaki with warm water -Aampaachan	Grahani	Ch.chi.15/98
2.	Take <i>Haritaki</i> with post drink of warm water	Hiccough	Shu.uttr.50/24

Table 6: With Milk

1.	1000 fruits of <i>Haritaki</i> with milk	Udar Roga	Ch.chi.13/152
2.	<i>Haritaki</i> licked with milk	Fever- purgation	Chi.1/100

Table 7: With Gomutra (Cows Urine)

1.	Intake of <i>Haritaki</i> along with <i>Gomutra</i>	Kaphajshotha (Kaphaj type of oedema)	Ch.chi.12/21
2.	Haritaki along with Gomutra followed by milk as post prandrial drink	Udar Roga	Ch.chi.13/150
3.	Haritaki with Gomutra	Kaphajpaandu	Ch.chi.16/58
4.	Haritakikalka with one of the urine	In Kaphajshlipad (type of elephantiasis)	Shu.chi.19/5
5.	Intake of <i>Haritaki</i> with <i>Gomutra</i>	Urustambha	As.hr.chi.21/49

Table 8: Soaked In Gomutra

1.	Haritaki soaked overnight in cow urine, taken along with jaggery	Arsha	Ch.chi.14/67
2.	1000 <i>Haritaki</i> soaked and macerated with cows urine, followed by drinking of milk	Udar Roga	As.hr.chi.15/39
3.	Haritaki macerated with cows urine	Paandu	As.hr.chi/16/6
4.	Consume Gomutraharitaki- for purgation	Shotha	As.hr.chi.17/3
5.	100 fruits of <i>Haritaki</i> cooked in cows urine (1 <i>drona</i>), take proper dose with honey according to strength every morning	Arsha	Shu.chi.6/13

Table 9: In the Form of Processed Ghee

1.	Ghee processed with decoction of <i>Haritaki</i>	Murchha (fainting)	Shu.uttr.46/19
2.	Medicated ghee prepared with decoction of 100 (by number) Pathya, paste of 50 Pathyavrinta (bark of Pathya fruit) and 1 Prastha of ghee	Gulma, kamala, Paandu	As.hr.chi.16/40
3.	Abhayaghrita administered determining the stage of the disease	Shotha	As.hr.chi.17/14
4.	Pathyaghrita	Paandu	Ch.chi.16/50
5.	Medicated ghee prepared from <i>Haritaki</i>	Kaphajgrahani	As.hr.chi.10/62
6.	Drink ghee prepared with the decoction of <i>Pathya</i>	Murchha	As.hr.chi.7/107

Table 10: With Guda (jaggery)

1.	Pleehodar (splenic enlargement)	Ch.chi.13/78
2.	Sadoshabhinnavarcha (in constipation or passage of Ama, including Dosas with stool)	Ch.chi.12/27
3.	all types of <i>Vatarakta</i>	Shu.chi.5/12
4.	Udar Roga	Shu.chi.14/10
5.	Sawathu (Oedema)	Shu.chi.23/12
6.	Gulma	Shu.uttr.42/62
7.	Agnideepan (stimulates digestive fire), Vata anulomana, Vrishya, Indriyaprasaadan, Santarpanrognaashak	Shu.su.44/68, 69
8.	Palliative treatment- in morning, <i>Haritaki</i> mixed with jiggery- <i>Arsha</i> (Invisible piles)	Shu.chi.6/13

Table 11: With Guda and Madhu

1.	Lick Haritakichoorna with Guda and Madhu	Kamala	Ch.chi.16/98
2.	<i>Haritaki</i> powder mixed with plentiful honey and ghee	In Anemia- after evacuation (emesis and purgation therapy)	Shu.uttr.44/14
3.	The person should lick powder of <i>Haritaki</i> along with more of honey and ghee	After purification in both direction by <i>Vaman</i> and <i>Virechan</i>	As.hr.chi.16/10

Table 12: With Madhu and Sharkara

1. Haritaki with <i>Madhu, Sharkara</i>		Haritaki with Madhu, Sharkara	Urdhwarakta pitta- Virechana	Ch.chi.4/57,58
	2.	Take powder of <i>Haritaki</i> with	In fever- after elimination of <i>Dosas</i> , if one	Shu.uttr.39/308
	Sharkara and honey		suffers from giddiness	

Table 13: In Linctus Form

1.	In linctus form - <i>Abahaya</i> powder with honey (<i>Madhu</i>) – for purgation- this causes downward movement of the aggravated <i>Dosas</i> having the tendency to move upwards	Chhardi	Ch.chi.20/21
2.	Abhayaleha described in treatment of cough	Halimak	As.hr.chi.16/167

Table 14: Sizzled with Ghee

1.	Paste of - <i>Haritaki</i> , sizzled with ghee and used as <i>Vidalaka</i>	Vatajnetrashool	Ch.chi.26/233
2.	Decoction of Abhaya sizzled with ghee	Vatarakta	Ch.chi.29/84
4.	Decoction of <i>Haritaki</i> fried in ghee should be consumed followed by drinking of milk	Vatarakta (gout)	As.hr.chi.22/12

Table 15: According to Time

1.	Lick <i>Abahaya</i> along with jaggery – before food	Arsha	Ch.chi.14/65	
2.	Palliative treatment- in morning, <i>Haritaki</i> mixed with jaggery	Arsha	Shu.chi.6/13	
3.	100 fruits of <i>Haritaki</i> should be cooked in cows urine (1 <i>Drona</i>), take proper dose with honey according to strength every morning	(Invisible piles)	Shu.chi.6/13	

CONCLUSION

Ekal Dravya Chikitsa has been mentioned in our past Samhitas, and is also being practiced nowadays in present era. Using single Dravya is not as much as efficient, so it has been used with different Anupaans and in different form to give optimum results for a particular pathological condition. Here, Haritaki has been used as single Dravya by all three Aacharyas in many diseases either by altering its Anupaan or its form to be effective accordingly. These gives evidence based results that Haritaki is one of the prime medicine used in Ekal form.

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