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Review Article

DIFFERENT THERAPEUTIC ANGLES OF COMMONLY USED SWARNA KALPA

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ABSTRACT
Ayurveda being the science of life, primarily focuses on enhancing health of healthy
individuals and removal of disease causing entities in a diseased person. <i>Swarna</i> (gold)
has substantial therapeutic value, which has been indicated in different classics of
Ayurveda. <i>Swarna</i> (gold) is desired by every human for many centuries. The desire is not
only for its ornamental or commercial value but also because of its great medicinal value
by which it increases strength and immunity. Swarna is converted into suitable dosage
forms like <i>Parpati, Pottali, Vati</i> etc. <i>Swarna kalpas</i> are the unique blend of herbomineral
formulations where Gold is used as one of the main ingredient. <i>Swarna kalpas</i> are widely
used as therapeutic as well as life saving agents (in some emergencies). These
formulations are helpful in treating many chronic disease conditions but it also acts
miraculous when used for <i>Rasayana</i> purpose. In this review most commonly used <i>Swarna</i>
kalpas such as Yogendra ras, Rasraj Ras, Vasant Kusumakar ras, Swarna malini vasant are
discussed on the basis of different therapeutic angles.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is the science of life through which a prolonged and healthy living can be attained. It aims at disease free living by removing the root cause of the disease. *Swarna* (gold) has substantial therapeutic value, which has been indicated in different classics of Ayurveda^[1]. To achieve these therapeutic indications *Swarna* is converted into suitable dosage forms like *Parpati, pottali* or *Bhasma*. These medicinal forms of *Swarna*^[2] posses *Madhur, Tikta rasa, Madhur Vipaka, Guru, Snigdha Guna* and *Sheeta Virya* and acts as natural aphrodisiac, cardiac tonic, immunity booster, improves intelligence, memory and speaking capacity and is rejuvenating, anti-aging.^[3]

It is also known to have an excellent effect on nervous system. It is also known to be a potent antiinflammatory and cardioprotective. Recent studies have demonstrate that *Swarna* plays an important role in treatment of cancer by improving patients quality of

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life and also increasing the progression free survival and overall survival.^[4] Hence, we can say that *Swarna* has a broad range of therapeutic Indications and hence we can see various formulations mentioned in Ayurveda have of *Swarna* as a main component. *Swarna kalpa* are useful in all age groups from a new born baby to elderly people, for upkeep of well-being as well as treatment of diseases.

Thus because of such therapeutic value many formulations have *Swarna* as one of the main ingredients. Hence here in this article the commonly used formulations of *Swarna* and its therapeutic effect is taken into consideration.

AIM

To study the most commonly used *Swarna Kalpa* and its different therapeutic angles.

OBJECTIVE

- 1. To study *Swarna kalpa* with reference to its different therapeutic angles
- 2. To study other allied contents and properties of mentioned *Swarna kalpa*. (herbal^[5] and mineral ^[6] contents both)
- 3. To study *Karmukatva* of *Swarna kalpa* in the context of Ayurvedic and modern aspect.

MATERIALS

Classical textbooks of Ayurveda, modern literature, available research update, scientific information and papers available on internet etc were searched and analyzed.

Review of commonly used Swarna kalpa

- 1. Yogendra Ras (Bhaishajya Ratnavali)^[7]
- 2. Rasraj Ras (Bhaishajya Ratnavali)^[8]
- 3. Vasant Kusumakar Ras (Rasendra Saar Sangraha) [9]
- 4. Swarna Malini Vasant (Bhaishajya Ratnavali) [10]

METHODOLOGY

Table 1: Yogendra ras - B.R.- Vatavyadhi Chikitsa

Contents	Parts	Properties			
Rasasindoor	2	Saptadhatuposhak, Yogavahi, Rasayan, Vishdoshnashak, Dahashamak, Balya, Vatshamak			
Lauha bhasma	1	Guru, Lekhana, Raktabrudhikar, Balya, Rasayana, Aamvata, Pittashanmak, Apsmar, Kshayroga			
Swarna bhasma	1	Rajyakshma, Sanniipataj Jwar, Hrudaykampan, Murcha, Ojovardhak, Rasayana, Vishanashak, Hrudya, Vatashaman, Murcha			
Abhraka bhasma	1	Snighda, Jwar, Rajyakshma, Shwas, Kasa, Vatapitta Shamak, Mastishka Balya			
Mukta bhasma	1	Sheeta, Dahashamak, Bala and Budhivardhak, Pittaprakopshamak, Asthibalwardhak, Unmad, Mansik Aaghat, Jirna Jwarz Aayuvardhak, Vrushya, Raktpitta, Kshayhar			
Vanga bhasma	1	Tikta, Ushna, Ruksha, Meha, Kaphashamak, Medoghna, Kriminashak			
Bhavana Dravya – Kumari swarasa	Q.S.	Tikta, Sheeta, Netrya, Rasayana, Balya, Vrushya, Tridoshashamak, Yakrut- Pleeha vriddhi, Visha, Jwar, Twak Vikara			

This formulation is *Yogavahi* in nature and hence helps in curing many diseases. Thus this formulation is named as *Yogendra ras.*

Contents	Parts	Properties				
Rasasindoor	4	Saptadhatuposhak, Yogavahi, Rasayan, Vishdoshnashak, Dahashamak, Balya.Vatshamak				
Abhraka satva	1	Snighda, Jwar, Rajyakshma, Shwas, Kasa, Vatapitta Shamak, Mastishka Balya				
Swarna bhasma	1⁄2	Rajyakshma, Sanniipataj Jwar, Hrudaykampan, Murcha, Ojovardhak, Rasayana, Vishanashak, Hrudya, Vatashaman, Murcha				
Lauha bhasma	3⁄4	Guru, Lekhana, Raktabrudhikar, Balya, Rasayana, Aamvata, Pittashanmak, Apsmar, Kshayroga				
Raupya bhasma	3⁄4	Snigdh, Rasayan, Vata Putta Shamak, Jirnajwara, Rajyakshma, Apsmar				
Vanga bhasma	3⁄4	Tikta, Ushna, Ruksha, Meha, Kaphashamak, Medoghna, Kriminashak				
Vajigandha choorna	3/4	Tikta, Kashay, Vrushya, Balya, Rasayana, Shwitra, Shoth, Kshay, Vaat-Kapha shamak				
Lavanga choorna	3⁄4	Tikta, Laghu, Sheeta, Netrya, Kaas, Shwas, Hikka, Trishna, Chhardi, Shoolaghna				
Jatikosha	3⁄4	Tikta, Ushna, Laghu, Grahi, Rochak, Krumi, Kaas, Shwas, Peenas, Mukhavairasya, Kapha-vaat shamak				
Ksheerkakoli	3⁄4	Madhur, Sheeta, Guru, Shukrala, Daha, Raktapitta, Jwar, Vaatshamak				
Bhavana dravya Kakmachi Swarasa	Q.S	Tikta, Snigdha, Tridoshaghna, Rasayana, Netrya, Swarya, Shukrala, Hikka, Hrudrog, Kushtha, Arsha. Tikta, Sheeta, Netrya, Rasayana, Balya, Vrushya, Tridoshashamak, Yakrut-Pleeha				
Kumari Swarasa		vriddhi, Visha, Jwar, Twak Vikara.				

Table 2: Rasraj ras - B.R.- Vatavyadhi Chikitsa

This formulation acts like *Raja* (king) in treating chronic diseases which are otherwise difficult to treat. Hence this formulation is named as *Rasraj ras*.

Table 3: Vasant kusumakar ras - R.SA.S- <i>Rasayana- Vajikaran Prayog</i>					
Contents	Parts	Properties			
Abhraka satva	4	Snighda, Jwar, Rajyakshma, Shwas, Kasa,Vatapitta Shamak, Mastishka Balya			
Praval bhasma	4	Laghu, Pittashamak, Rasadhatuposhak, Dipana Pachana Tridoshprakop Shamak			
Mukta bhasma	4	Sheeta, Dahashamak, Bala and Budhivardhak, Pittaprakopshamak, Asthibalwardhak, Unmad, Mansik Aaghat, Jirna Jwarz Aayuvardhak, Vrushya, Raktpitta, Kshayhar			
Vanga bhasma	3	Tikta, Ushna, Ruksha, Meha, Kaphashamak, Medoghna, Kriminashak			
Nag bhasma	3	Agnideepak, Prameha, Kandu, Shoth, Bhagandar			
Lauha bhasma	3	Guru, Lekhana, Raktabrudhikar, Balya, Rasayana, Aamvata, Pittashanmak, Apsmar, Kshayroga			
Raupya bhasma	2	Snigdh, Rasayan, Vata Putta Shamak, Jirnajwara, Rajyakshma, Apsmar			
Swarna bhasma	2	Rajyakshma, Sanniipataj Jwar, Hrudaykampan, Murcha, Ojovardhak, Rasayana, Vishanashak, Hrudya, Vatashaman, Murcha			
Bhavana dravya – Cow milk	Q.S.	Madhur, Sheeta, Snigdha, Vaat-pitta shamak, Jara			
Vasa Swarasa		Tikta, Kashay, Hrudya, Laghu, Sheeta, Kaas, Shwas, Trishna, Chhardi, Jwar, Prameha, Kushtha			
Haridra Swaras		Katu, Tikta, Ruksha, Ushna, Varnya, Shoth, Twak-Dosha, Prameha, Dushta Asra, Vrana, KaphaPitta Shamak			
Ikshu Swaras		Madhur, Snigdha, Sheeta, Mutral, Balya, Vrushya, Raktapitta, Kapha Vardhak			
Shatavari Swaras		Tikta, Guru <mark>, S</mark> heet <mark>a, Ba</mark> lya, <mark>Vru</mark> shya, Rasayana, Medhya			
Laksha Swaras		Sheeta, Snigdha, Balya, Varnya, Vrana, Visarpa, Ura-kshata, Vyanga, Hikka, Kaas, Jwar			
Usheer Swaras		Tikta, Sheeta, Laghu,Pachan,Jwar, Hrudrog, Trushna,Visarpa, Kapha-pitta shamak			
Kadali kanda and Pushpa Swaras		Madhur, Sheeta, Snigdha, Vrushya, Brunhan, Ruchikar, Manmsa Krut, Kshut- Trut, Netraamaya			
Shweta kamal Swaras		Sheeta, Madhur, Trushna, Daaha, Visha, Vaat shamak			
Malati pushpa Swaras		Tikta, Laghu, Danta Shiro Akshi Mukha rog, Visha, Vaat			
Kesar Kasturi	Q.S.	Tikta, Katu, Snigdha, Shirorook, Vami, Varnya, Vyanga Katu, Tikta, Ushna, Guru, Vrushya, Visha, Chhardi, Daurgandhya, Kapha- vaat shamak			

As the *Vasant* season arrives, different beautiful flowers bloom and there is exquisite beauty, freshness in the whole nature. Energized atmosphere is present everywhere. The same effect on our body is achieved with this formulation. Hence the formulation is named as *Vasant Kusumakar Ras*.

Contents	Parts	Properties	
Swarna bhasma	1	Rajyakshma, Sanniipataj Jwar, Hrudaykampan, Murcha, Ojovardhak, Rasayana, Vishanashak, Hrudya, Vatashaman, Murcha	
Mauktik bhasma	2	Sheeta, Dahashamak, Bala and Budhivardhak, Pittaprakopshamak, Asthibalwardhak, Unmad, Mansik Aaghat, Jirna Jwarz Aayuvardhak, Vrushya, Raktpitta, Kshayhar	
Hingul	3	Rasayana, Balya, Yogavahi, Krumihara	
Maricha	4	Katu, Ushna, Deepak, Pachak, Strotoshodhaka	
Kharpar	8	Katu, Tikta Rasa, Deepak, Rasashodhak, Balya	
Bhavana Dravya- Navaneeta	Q.S.	Vaat-pitta shamak, Vrushya, Varnya, Balya, Arsha, Ardit, Kasa	
Nimbu Swaras		Amla, Laghu, Deepan-Pachan, Krumi, Arochak, Agnimandya, Vaatroga	

Table 4: Swarna malini vasant - b.r. Jwar Chikitsa

The word Vasanta evokes the image of sprouting of new foliage, flowering and fruit bearing of trees and a very pleasant ambient weather, neither hot nor cold. The terms *Malati* and /or *Malini* indicate the use of scented and sheeta virya flowers and it has *Swarna bhasma* in it as one of the main ingredient. Hence the formulation is named as Swarna Malini Vasant.

Suvarna kalpa	Matra	Anupana	Kalava	dhi	Gunadharma	Rogaghnata
Yogendra Ras	½-2 ratti	Triphala Ras Sita Godugdh	Max days	40	Yogwahi Vaatpittaghna Sarvarog- Kulantak	Prameha, Bahumutrata, Mutraghata, Apsmar, Murchha, Unmad, Yakshma Gudagata roga, Pakshaghat, Shoola, Amlapitta, Timir, Bhaskar, Karshya
Rasraj Ras	¼-1 gunja	Ksheer, SharkaraJaal	Max days	40	Balya Vajikara Bhogya	Sarva-Vaatvikara, Pakshaghat, Ardit, Hanustambha, Aaptantrak, Bhrama Dhanustambh, Aaptanak, Badhirya
Vasant Kusumakar Ras	½- 2 gunja	Sita Madhu Ghrita	Max days	40	Balya, Ayuvardhak Kamad Kantikar Pushtikar	Putraprasavkarak, All types of Prameha and Kshaya, Vali-Palita, Smrutibhransha, Somaroga
Swarna Malini Vasant	¼-1 gunja	Pipalli Madhu, Dugdh,Ghrut, Ashawagandha Ghrut	Max days	40	Sarva Roge Vasant ^[12] Rasayan Balya Tridoshaghna	Jeerna jwar, Visham jwar, Manodaurbalya, Kaas, Shwas, Hikka, Dhatugat daurbalya, Garbhavastha, Yakrut-pleeha vikar

Table 5: Properties of Swarna Kalpas

Swarna kalpa	Modern point of view
1.Yogendra Ras	1. It acts as a catalyst (<i>Yogavahi</i>) when administered with other medicines. Thus used in wide variety of conditions.
	2. It is used to treat diabetes, diseases related to urinary tract, frequent urination.
	3. It is also used to treat fistula, piles, epilepsy, psychotic conditions, paralysis.
	4. It relieves abdominal colic, gastritis, eye diseases.
	5. It helps to strengthen nerves and muscles.
	6. It is also a natural aphrodisiac and rejuvenative medicine.
2.Rasraj Ras	1. Used in the treatment of neuro-muscular conditions such as paralysis, hemiplegia, locked jaw, facial palsy, hearing defects, dizziness, seizures, arthritis, shoulder dislocation pain, trigeminal neuralgia, headache, migraine, vascular headache, multiple sclerosis and such other diseases caused due to <i>Vata</i> imbalance.
	2. It helps to strengthen nerves and muscles and acts as a rejuvenative medicine.
	3. Also used in the treatment of Rheumatoid arthritis, osteo arthritis. Post viral fever, when the patient complains of body, muscle and joint pains, Bursitis.
3.Vasant	1. It is an excellent rejuvenative and anti aging medicine.
Kusumakar Ras	2. It is used in the treatment of memory loss, diabetes and diseases related to urinary tract and also widely used to treat polyurea.
	3. It improves memory, concentration, skin complexion, strength and immunity.
	4. It is indicated in cough, cardiac disorders, liver and kidney disorders.
	5. Also used for the treatment of psoriasis.
4.Swarna Malini	1. It is used to treat chronic fever.
Vasant ^[12]	2. It is an excellent rejuvenative and anti aging medicine.
	3. It is also used to treat cough, cold, bronchitis, tuberculosis and chronic Asthma.

DISCUSSION

Swarna i.e., gold is desired by every human for many centuries. The desire is not only for its ornamental or commercial value but also because of its great medicinal value by which it increases strength and immunity. It also helps nourish brain cells, improves memory and rids the body of toxins. Most of the Swarna kalpa contains Rasasindoor as an ingredient. It is Shadrasa yukta, Ushana in Veerya, Madhura in Vipaka and has got Guru, Snigdha, Vajeekara and Sarvarogahara properties^[13]. Bhavana of Kumari has mentioned for many Kupipakwarasayan, Khalvirasavana. Pottalirasavan After & Bhasmaprakriva, Amrutikaran Samskara is done to Apakwadosha remove its (incomplete burnt impurities).^[14] Drug delivery of *Swarna bhasma* is done in a specific way in which *Bhasma* particles are mixed with media like honey, ghee, etc. The hierarchical nano-structured gold Bhasma particles have high surface area and when mixed with honey or ghee, presumably release their agglomeration and get uniform dispersal and separation of particles, resulting in larger surface area.

Swarnabhasma is a Rasashastriva medicine which is in use since ancient times for medicinal purposes. Swarnabhasma is reported to promote longevity, combat aging process, enhance strength and potency. It has been used as a tonic, hepatotonic, cardiostimulant, nervine tonic, detoxifier, and an antiinfective drug. It is also used for treating anemia, dyspepsia, epilepsy, neurasthenia, memory loss, bronchitis, asthma, tuberculosis, and rheumatic arthritis. This indicates the diverse target action of the drug. Gold *Bhasma* has been investigated in a preliminary study for cancer management. Various studies conducted globally, have focused on the use of gold nanoparticles in the management of cancer. Nanostructuring of gold enhances the surface area as well as activity. The present investigation shows that the entire process from Rasashastra confers the unique nanostructure to gold and same is responsible for its medicinal potential. This nanomedicine is highly stable.^[15]

Ayurveda describes different combination of herbomineral compounds in order to cure diseases. These formulations play critical role in facilitating absorption of other nutrient and correcting the disease process. It is observed that herbomineral compounds are more stable and interactive as compared to plain mixtures as they show faster therapeutic results and also has longer shelf life. *Swarna kalpa* are such kind of herbomineral compounds which does not only cure the specific disease but also provides many health benefits. *Swarna* (gold) has been used to enhance strength and potency, promote longevity and combat the aging process in humans. It is used as pure metal, *Bhasma*

other dosages form by ancient to the and contemporary sciences for therapeutic purposes. In Brihatrayi, it was mainly used externally for the formation of Yantra etc., and after development of Shodhan, Maran (Rasa Shastra procedure) process, internal use became possible in wide range of disorders like Jwara (fever), Yakshma (tuberculosis), Prameha (diabetes), *Vata Vyadhi* (neurological disorders) and diseases of gastrointestinal tracts with varying percentage. It also shows Rasayana effect as Swarna itself possess properties of Rasayana. The word Rasayana (Rasa + Ayana) refers to nutrition and its transportation in the body^[16]. It is nutrition at microcellular level. It brings about the normalcy of Rasa dhatu and thereby maintains other Dhatus in equilibrium for a longer period. Thus helps in preventing ageing (Jaranashan) and provides longevity and also enhances individual resistance power against diseases.

Swarna kalpas taken after proper medical prescription also help in strengthening Vyadhikshamatva (immunity) which is right now like the utmost important thing to every single human being. Swarna kalpas have much deeper strength of action. It enhances Dhatvagni which in turn helps in Dhatu poshan karma as well as Ojovardhan and thus shows the Rasayana effect and cures many chronic diseases. Other herbal or mineral drug contents boost the action specificity of that particular drug.

CONCLUSION

Swarna and its different formulations form point of attraction to mankind. Swarna kalpas are indicated in many disorders i.e., they are acting as broad spectrum drugs in current era. Thus even at present Swarna kalpas are used for its miraculous effect. Newer diseases, newer pathophysiologies, newer pandemics are arising rapidly on this current era; hence to fight back or to maintain health Swarna kalpas can prove beneficial along with the other needful treatment. Looking at the current scenario, treatment of any disease would not be complete without using Rasayana. Hence taking clue from this literary review new and more potential applications of Swarna kalpas can be searched out.

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