



Review Article

MADHUKADI AGADA IN LUTHA VISHA CIKITSA

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ABSTRACT

Agadatantra is a specialised branch of Ayurveda that deals with study of poisons, their effects on human body and their management. The principles of Agadatantra provide a framework for understanding and managing venomous bites in general. In Ayurveda, Visha is classified as Sthavara and Jangama visha. Lutha visha is one among the Jangama Visha. Identification and treatment of Lutha visha is an important task as improper handling of the cases may worsen the condition. Madhukadi Agada is a formulation mentioned in the context of Lutha visha, explained in Caraka Samhitha, Visha Cikitsa Adhyaya. The formulation comprises eight ingredients and can be administered as Panam (internal administration) with honey. This paper attempts to review the formulation Madhukadi Agada and to analyse its usefulness in similar conditions.

INTRODUCTION

Agadatantra, one of the eight main branches of Ayurveda, deals with animate and inanimate poisons and their remedial measures. According to Ayurveda, the substance which pervades the whole body immediately is known as Visha. Based on origin, Visha is divided into Sthavara (plant poison) and Jangama visha (animal poison) [1]. Lutha visha (spider poison) is one among the Jangama visha, which requires proper management. Spiders are carnivorous arthropods that coexist with humans and ambush their prey. Presently, 1952 species belonging to 503 genera in 62 families are known.[2] A spider bite, also known as arachnidism, results from the bite of a spider. Approximately 200 species from 20 genera of spiders worldwide can cause severe human envenoming, with dermonecrosis, systemic toxicity, and death. Luthavisha is very common in Kerala especially in lower socio-economic groups. [3]

Ayurvedic texts outline a scientific method for managing Lutha visha, which includes numerous formulations for internal and external administration.

Madhukadi Agada is specifically recommended for lutha visha in the Visha Chikitsa chapter of Caraka Samhitha. It comprises eight herbal ingredients. This review discusses the ingredients, method of preparation, uses, and the effectiveness of Madhukadi Agada.[4]

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This paper attempts to review the formulation Madhukadi Agada based on Rasa Panchaka in the management of Lutha visha cikitsa.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Review of Literature

Name of Yoga: Madhukadi agada

The classical reference of this Yoga is mentioned in Charaka Samhitha, Visha Cikitsa Adhyaya, in the context of Lutha visha chikitsa. The yoga consists of 8 herbs: Madhuka, Yashtimadhu, Kushta, Shireesha, Udichya, Patala, Nimba, and Sariva. It is administered as Pana (internal administration) along with Madhu (honey).

Spider Poison: Spiders are air breathing arthropods with eight limbs, and two claws like fangs called celicera protrude from the head and are connected to venom glands. The venom contains several neurotoxins and vasculo toxins and several necrolytic enzymes.[5]

Lutha visha exhibits properties of all the three Doshas with predominance of Pitha and Kapha dosha[6]. There are eight Visha adhistanas for Lutha swasa,

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Damshtra, Sakrit, Mutra, Sukra, Lala, Nakha, Artava [7]. Acharya Vagbhata classifies *Lutha* as *Vathika, Paithika, Kaphaja* and *Sannipathika* [8]. Signs and symptoms of the bite of *Luthas* include *Dadrumandala* (circular patches), *Bahurvedana* (pain), *Swayathu* (oedema), discoloration, *Kandu* (itching), vesicles, *Vikleda*

(exudation) and causes wound if this exudation gets touched to the other healthy parts.[9]

Highly potent poison of spider proves fatal in a course of week, while bite by mild poisonous brings death within a fortnight.[10]

Table 1: Ingredients of Madhukadi Agada and Botanical name

Drug	Botanical name	Family
<i>Madhuka</i> ^[11]	<i>Bassia latifolia Roxb.</i>	<i>Sapotaceae</i>
<i>Yashtimadhu</i> [12]	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra Linn.</i>	<i>Fabaceae</i>
<i>Kushta</i> [13]	<i>Saussuria lappa</i>	<i>Asteraceae</i>
<i>Sirisha</i> [14]	<i>Albizzia lebbek Benth</i>	<i>Mimosoideae</i>
<i>Udichya</i> [15]	<i>Pavonia odorata willd</i>	<i>Malvaceae</i>
<i>Patala</i> [16]	<i>Sterospermum suaveolens</i>	<i>Bignoniaceae</i>
<i>Nimba</i> [17]	<i>Azadirachta indica A. Jus</i>	<i>Meliaceae</i>
<i>Sariva</i> [18]	<i>Hemidesmus indicus R.Br.</i>	<i>Asclepiadaceae</i>
<i>Madhu</i> (honey) ^[19]		

Table 2: Ingredients of Madhukadi Agada and its properties

Drug	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Karma
<i>Madhuka</i> [11]	<i>Madhura, Kasaya</i>	<i>Guru, Snigdha</i>	<i>Sita</i>	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Vatapitha hara, Balya</i>
<i>Yashtimadhu</i> [12]	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Guru, Snigdha</i>	<i>Sita</i>	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Tridosahara, Rasayana, Vrsya, Vishaghna, Vrana ropana</i>
<i>Kushta</i> [13]	<i>Tiktha, Katu</i>	<i>Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna</i>	<i>Usna</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Vata kaphahara, Lekhaniya, Vrsya</i>
<i>Sirisha</i> [14]	<i>Kasaya, Tiktha</i>	<i>Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna</i>	<i>Usna</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Tridosahara, Visaghna, Sothahara, Vedanasthapana, Vranaropana</i>
<i>Udichya</i> [15]	<i>Tiktha</i>	<i>Laghu, Ruksha</i>	<i>Sita</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Rakthapithaghna, Deepana</i>
<i>Patala</i> [16]	<i>Tiktha, Kasaya</i>	<i>Laghu, Ruksha</i>	<i>Anusha</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Tridosahara, Hridya, Kanthya</i>
<i>Nimba</i> [17]	<i>Tiktha, Kasaya</i>	<i>Laghu, Ruksha</i>	<i>Sita</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Kaphapithahara, Dipana, Grahi, Krimighna, Vrana sodhana</i>
<i>Sariva</i> [18]	<i>Tiktha, Madhura</i>	<i>Guru, Snigdha</i>	<i>Sita</i>	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Tridosahara, Grahi, Jwaraghna, Varnya</i>
<i>Madhu</i> [19]	<i>Madhura, Kashaya</i>	<i>Sara, Sukshma, Ruksha, Yogavahi, Pichila</i>	<i>Sita</i>	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Tridosahara, Vishahara Vranashodhana, Vrana ropana</i>

Method of Preparation

Acharya Caraka has not specified the method of preparation for *Madhukadi agada*. As it is indicated for internal administration, clinically, it can be administered in various forms such as *Kashaya, Kalka, Phanta* etc. Since the dosage is not specified, a standard dosage of the formulation can be adopted.

Anupanam: *Madhu* (honey)

Analysis

Diagram 1: Analysis of rasa of ingredients of *Madhukadi Agada*

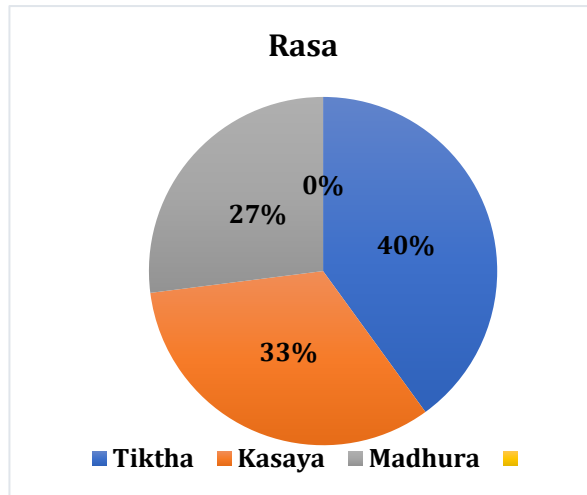


Diagram 2: Analysis of *Guna* of ingredients of *Madhukadi Agada*

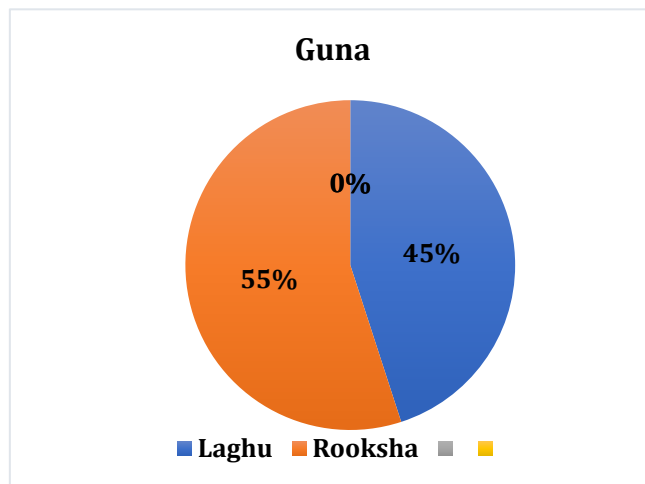


Diagram 3: Analysis of *Virya* of Ingredients of *Madhukadi Agada*

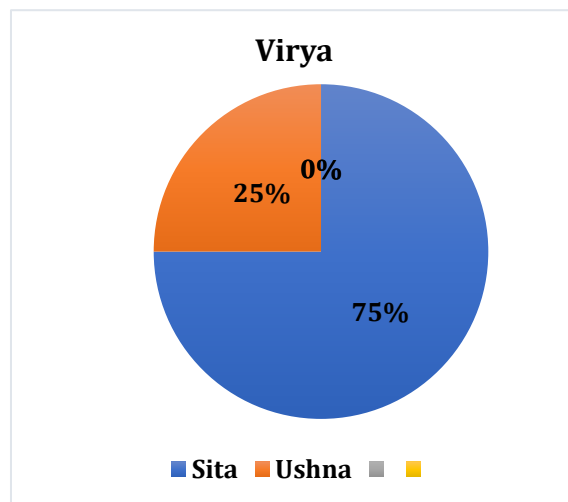
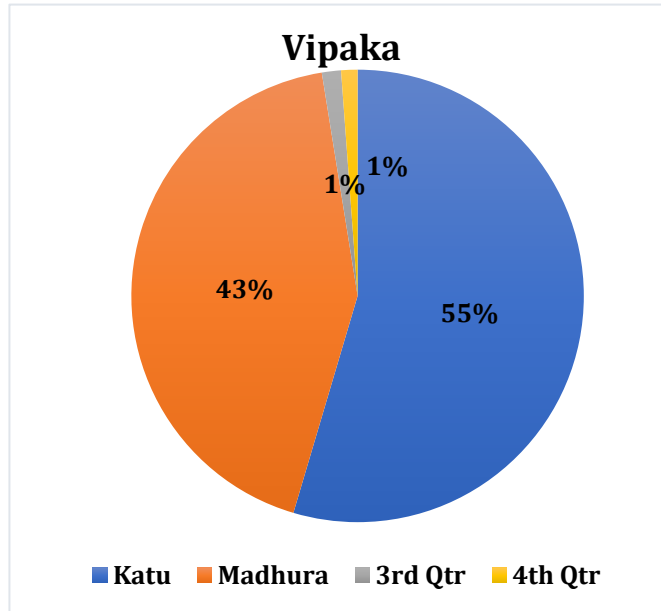


Diagram 4: Analysis of Vipaka of Ingredients of Madhukadi Agada



DISCUSSION

Madhukadi agada is a formulation mentioned in the context of *Lutha Visha*. Generally, the poison of all *Luthas* possesses properties of all three *Doshas*, with a predominance of *Pitta* and *Kapha doshas*. Therefore, *Agadas* used for treating *Lutha visha* should have *Pitha-Kaphahara* and *Vishahara* properties.

Mode of action of a formulation depends upon the *Rasa, Guna, Veerya, Vipaka, Karma* etc of drugs. On analysing the pharmacological properties of the formulation, 40% drugs possess *Tiktha rasa*, 33% possess *Kasaya rasa* and 27% possess *Madhura rasa*, which pacifies *Pitha* and *Kapha dosha*. The *Kledasoshana* property of *Tiktha* and *Kashaya rasa* helps in reducing oedema, while the *Kustahara* property of *Tiktha* aids in reducing *Dadrumanadala*.^[20,21] 55% of drugs possess *Rooksha guna*, 45% possess *Laghu Guna* which helps in easy penetration of drugs. 56% of the drugs possess *Katu Vipaka*, which pacifies *Kapha dosha*. Furthermore, 44% possess *Madhura vipaka*, which pacifies *Vata* and *Pitha Dosha*. 75% of the drugs possess *Sita virya*, which pacifies the predominant *Pitha dosha* in *Lutha Visha*, while 25% possess *Usna virya*. 55.5% of the drugs are *Tridoshahara* in nature, which is beneficial as *Lutha Visha* typically involves all *Doshas*. The *Anupana* honey is having properties like *Sita virya, Yogavahi, Deepana, Vishghna, Kustahara, Vrana sodhana* and *Vrana ropana*. The *Yogavahi* property of honey enhances action of other drugs. *Nimba* is *Vrana Sodhana* in nature and *Yashtimadhu* is *Vrana Ropana*, which is useful for healing property in initial stage. *Sireesha, Nimba, Yashtimadhu* have *Vishaghna* property. *Shirisha* is considered as the *Agrya aushadha* in *Visha* also.^[22] These drugs aid in mitigating the harmful effects caused by the *Visha*. So *Madhukadi Yogam* possess *Pitha Kaphaghna Guna* and *Vishahara* property and can

be used mostly in *Paithika* and *Kapahja lutha dashta Lakshanas*. Additionally, it suggests that treatment for *Lutha visha* can also be applied similarly in conditions such as herpes zoster, pemphigus, pemphigoid.

CONCLUSION

Lutha visha (spider poisoning) is very commonly observed in day today practice of *Agadatantra*. *Madhukadi Agada* is mentioned in *Caraka Samhita, Chikitsa Sthana, Visha Chikitsa Adhyayam*, in the context of *Lutha Visha Chikitsa*. *Lutha visha* is *Tridoshaja* with predominance of *Pitha* and *Kapha Dosha*. *Madhukadi Yoga* is *Tiktha* and *Kasaya rasa pradhana, Laghu Rooksha guna pradhana, Sita virya*, and *Katu vipaka*. Most of the drugs are *Tridoshaghna* and *Sirisha, Yashtimadhu* and *Nimba* possess *Vishghna* property. Therefore, *Madhukadi Agada* is effective in relieving signs and symptoms of *Lutha visha*.

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