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Review Article

ARSHOGHNA (ANTI-HEMORRHOIDAL) HERBAL DRUGS OF RAJNIGHANTU: A LITERARY REVIEW Anshuman Biswal^{1*}, Deepika Thakur¹, Varsha Prabala¹

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda plays vital role in curing *Arsha* (Hemorrhoids) without surgical intervention there are so many herbal drug having *Arshoghna* property. Many treatment modalities have been explained in *Brihatrayi* (*Charak, Sushruta, Vagbhata*) and *Laghutrayi* (*Sharangdhara, Bhavaprakash* and *Madhav Nidan*). In *Rajnighantu pandit Narahari* mentions numerous drugs acting on hemorrhoids. The present study is designed to screen the drugs with *Arshoghna, Visheshat, Gudajapaham, Raktarshara, Gudaraktahruta, Gudankurnash, Gudartinash, Vatarshahara* properties. Out of 789 herbal drugs 38 were described in for the treatment of hemorrhoids throughout the text of *Rajnighantu*.

In Arshas management the systemic medicines act by improving appetite, regularize bowl habits, astringent action on blood vessels and maintaining Agni and Srotas in equilibrium. Among all the Arshoghna drugs are described in Rajnighantu, maximum drug are Tikta or Katu or Kasaya rasa Pradhana and most of the drug is Usna in Virya. It can also be said that the drugs having Katu, Tikta, Kashaya rasa, Guru, Tikshna and Ksharaguna, Ushnavirya and Katuvipaka play major role in the treatment of Arsha.

KEYWORDS: Arshoghna dravya, Anti-hemorrhoidal Herbs, Rajnighantu, Pandit Narahari.

INTRODUCTION

Many drugs have been mentioned in Ayurveda classics. Rajnighantu is one important lexicon of plant drugs. It is one of the latest Nighantus belonging to 17th century A.D and contains most of the newly added drugs and their properties. It is considered as "king of all the Nighantus". This book is known with the names "Abhidana Chudamani" and "Nighantu raja" The author was the first to give importance to Dravyaguna and included Dravyaguna in Astanga Ayurved showing the prime importance of plant drugs in Ayurvedic treatments. Another important aspect is it deals with name of the plants in various languages. This is the first lexicon which recognized the importance of nomenclature of plants. He introduced many new plants. Being a learned physician and grammarian the material is well discussed and arranged. Hence Rajnighantu was selected for the study to note the drugs mentioned for the treatment of Arsha.

Lifestyle diseases refer to diseases that result because of choices people make in their life. They are mostly common in developed nations where people are inclined towards eating unhealthy foods, having a sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy habits like smoking and drinking alcohol.1

Haemorrhoids are considered as Arshas in Ayurveda. There are six types of Arshas mentioned in the texts - those caused by Vata, Pitta, Kapha, Rakta and Sannipata and the congenital one told by Acharya Sushruta. In unrestrained persons, by aforesaid exciting factors particularly Viruddha (incompatible food), Adhyashana (eating before previous food is digested), Striprasanga (sexual intercourse), Utkatukasana (squatting position), Prusthayana (riding), Vegavidharana (suppression of natural urges) etc., Doshas-singly, dually, all or associated with blood are aggravated and spreads to chief passages, move downwards, reach anal folds and after vitiating them produce fleshy growths particularly in those having deficient digestive power; these tuber- like growth by rubbing with grass, wood, stone, clod, cloth etc. or by the excessive contact of cold water develop further which are known as hemorrhoids.² Premonitory symptoms of piles include Anne-ashraddha (aversion to food), Krucchatpakti (digestion with difficulty), Amlika (hyperacidity), Paridaha (generalized burning

sensation), Vishtambha (wind formation), Pipasa (thirst), Sakthisadana (weakness in legs), Atopa (flatulence), Karshya (emaciation), Udgarabahulya (belching), Akshnokshavathu (swelling in eyes), Antrakujana (gurgling sound in bowels), Gudaparikartana (cutting pain in anus), Pandurogaashanka (doubt of anemia), Grahaniroga, Kasa (cough), Shwasa (dyspnoea), Balahani (debility), Bhrama (giddiness), Tandra (drowsiness), Nidra (excessive sleep) and Indriyadourbalya (weakness of sense organs).³

The disease piles, complicated with thirst (*Trushna*), anorexia (*Arochaka*), colic (*Shula*), severe haemorrhage (*Atiprasrutashonita*), edema (*Shopha*) and diarrhea (*Atisara*) brings end to the patient.⁴

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To collect the information regarding the drugs mentioned as *Arshoghna* in Rajanighantu.

To analyze their properties mentioned.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Rajnighantu original text was searched for the drugs, having the property of *Arshoghna*, and was tabulated to analyze the properties of those drugs.

Method

The Arshoghna property was used with various synonyms also like Arshoghna, Visheshat Gudajapaham, Raktarshara, Gudaraktahruta, Gudankurnash, Gudartinash, Vatarshahara etc. So all the drugs mentioned have these properties were identified and tabulated to know their source identify and the properties.

After obtaining the list of the drugs the properties of the drugs will be analysed for *Rasa panchaka* and analyzed systematically.

S.No	Name of the drug	Botanical name/family	Gunas	Karma	Reference
1	Jimutak	<i>Luffa echinata</i> Roxb. Cucurbitaceae	Tikta, Katurasa Ushnavirya	Pandu, Kaphapaha, Durnama, swasha, Kashaghni, Kamala, Mutranasini	Guduchyadivarga 60
2	Saliparni	Desmodium gangeticum DC. Fabaceae	Tiktarasa Guru Ushnavirya	Vatadosanut, Visamajwra, Prameha, Arsha, Sopha, Santapanasana	Satahwadivarga 20
3	Apamarga	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Linn. Amaranthaceae	Tikta, Katurasa Ushnavirya	Kaphanasana, Arsha, Kandu, Udara, Amaghna, Raktaroga, Hrudroga, Grahi, Vantikrut	Satahwadivarga 91
4	Mahabala	Sida rhombifolia Linn. Malvaceae		Hrudroga, Vatarsha, Sophanasini, Sukrabrudhikari, Balya, Visamajwaraharani	Satahwadivarga 100
5	Hapusa	<i>Juniperus communis</i> Linn. Coniferae	Katu, Kasayarasa, Guru Ushnavirya	Slesmabalasajit, Pradara, Udara, Vidvandha, Sula, Gulma, Arshahara	Satahwadivarga 115
6	Kakamaci	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> Linn. Solanaceae	Katu, Tiktarasa Ushnavirya	Kaphansani, Sula, Arsha, Sophadosaghni, Kusta, Kanduharini	Satahwadivarga 135
7	Chunchu	<i>Corchorus fascicularis</i> Lam. Tiliaceae	Madhura, Kasayarasa Usnavirya	Malasosaka, Guma, Vibandha, Udara, Arsha, Grahanirogaharini	Satahwadivarga 145
8	Brihatchunchu	<i>Corchorus litorius</i> L. Tiliaceae	Katu, Kasayarasa	Malarodhni, Gulma, Sula, Udara, Arsha, Arati, Visaghni, Rasayani	Satahwadivarga 147
9	Kshudracha chanchu	Corchorus depressus Stocks	Madhra, Katu, Kasaya,	Dipani, Sula, Gulma, Arshasamani,	Satahwadivarga 149

Table 1: List of Arshoghna mentioned in Rajanighantu

		Tiliaceae	Usnavirya	Vibandhakrit	
10	Prasarini	<i>Merremia</i> <i>tridentate</i> Hall.F	Tiktarasa Guru	Arsha, soyathuhanti, malavistambaharini	Parpatadivarga 38
11	Kshudramlika	Convolvulaceae Oxalis corniculata Linn. Oxalidaceae	Usnavirya Amlarasa, Usnavirya	Varhnivardhani, Ruchikrud, Grahanidosa, Durnamaghni, Kaphapaha	Parpatadivarga 102
12	Yavani	<i>Trachyspermum ammi</i> Sprague Linn. Apiaceae	Katu, Tiktarasa, Usnavirya	Vatarsha, Slesmanasini, Sula, Adhamana, Krimi, Chardimardani, Dipani	Pipalyadivarga 40
13	Chitraka	<i>Plumbago</i> <i>zeylenica</i> Linn. Plumbaginaceae	Usnavirya, Katuvipaka	Sotha, Kaphapaha, Vata, Udara, Arsha, Grahani, Krimi, Kandunasana	Pipalyadivarga 45
14	Gadlavan	Himalayan black salt	Esadamlaras, Usnavirya	Malapaham, Dipana, Kapha, Vataghna, Arshaghna, Kostasodhana	Pipalyadivarga 99
15	Vrukshamla	<i>Garcinia indica</i> Chois. Clusiaceae	Amla, Kasayarasa, Usnavirya, Katuvipaka	Kapha, Arshaghna, Truna, Vata, Udara, Hrudroga, Gulma, Atisara, Vranadosanasini	Pipalyadivarga 124
16	Amlavetas	<i>Gracinia pedunculata</i> Roxb. Clusiaceae	Amla, Kasayarasa, Usnavirya	Vatajit, Kapha, Arsha, Srama, Gulmaghna, Arochakahara	Pipalyadivarga 128
17	Danti	Baliospermum montanum Muell Arg. Euphorbiaceae	Katurasa, Usnavirya	Sula, Ama, Twagdoshasamani, Arshavrana, Asmari, Salyasodhini, Dipani	Pipalyadivarga 160
18	Sarvakshar	Alkaline substances	Kshriyaguna	Chakshusa, Vastisodani, Gudavarti, Krimighna, Mala Visodhini, Mukhavisodhini	Pipalyadivarga 258
19	Mulaka	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> Linn. Cruciferae	Katurasa, Tikshna, Usnavirya	Grahi, Dipana, Durnama, Gulma, Hrudroga, Vataghna, Ruchida	Mulakadivarga 16
20	Balamulaka	Raphanus sativus Linn. Cruciferae	Tiktarasa, Tikshna, Usnavirya, Madhura/Katu vipaka	Mutradosahara, Swasa, Arsha, Kasa, Gulma, Kshya, Nayanaruja,	Mulakadivarga 22
21	Bansa	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> Willd. Poaceae	Amla, kasaya, Kincittiktarasa, Sitavirya	Mutrakrichra, Prameha, Arsha, Pitavikara, Daha, Raktavikara	Mulakadivarga 36
22	Raktarasona	<i>Allium sativam</i> Linn. Liliaceae		Hitroga, Jirnajwara, Kukshisula, Vibandha, Gulma, Aruchi, Mutrakrichra, Sotha, Arsha, Kusta, Vatavikara, Krimiroga, Kapkavikara	Mulakadivarga 54
23	Surana	<i>Amorphophallus campanulatus</i> Blumi. Areceae	Katurasa	Ruchya, Dipana, Pachana, Krimi, Kaphavatapaha, Swasa, Kasa, Vamana, Arsahara, Sula,	Mulakadivarga 64

				Gulmasamana,	
				Raktadosakrut	
24	Vastuka	Chenopodium	Madhurarasa,	Tridosajit,	Mulakadivarga
		<i>album</i> Linn.	Sitavirya,	Rochanajwarahara,	123
		Chenopodiaceae	Kshriya,	Mahaarshanasaka, Mala,	
			Esatamla	Mutrasodhaka	
25	Changeri	Oxalis corniculata	Katurasa,	Rocana, Pachana, Dipana,	Mulakadivarga
		Linn. Oxalidaceae	Usnavirya	Kaphavatarsha, Sangrahi,	148
				Atisarajit	
26	Kuduhunchi	Momordica	Tiktarasa,	Ruchikara, Dipna, Pathya,	Mulakadivarga
		tuberose Cogn.	Usnavirya	Raktaaniladosakara,	221, 222
		Cucurbitaceae		Arshaghna,	
				Malarodhavisodhana,	
				Yonidosaghna,	
				Garvhashrava, Visapaha	
27	Agnimantha	Premna	Katu,	Vatakaphapaha, Sopha,	Prabhadhradivarga
		<i>mucronata</i> Roxb.	Tiktarasa,	Slesma, Agnimandya,	23
		Verbenaceae	Usnavirya	Arsha, Vidvibandha,	
				Adhmana	
28	Ajasrungi	Dolichandrone	Katu,	Kaphajarsha, Sula,	Prabhadhradivarga
		<i>falcata</i> Seem	Tiktarasa	Sophajit, Cakshusa,	33, 34
		Bignoniaceae		Swasa, Hridroga, Visa,	
				Kasa, Kustajit	
29	Kutaja	Holarrhena	Katu, tikta,	Atisarajit, Raktapitaghna,	Prabhadhradivarga
		antidysenterica	Kasayarasa,	Twagdosa, Arshanasana	54
		Wall. Apocynaceae	U snavirya	6	
30	Karaskara	Strychnos 🥄 🔗	Katu,	Kustavinasana,	Prabhadhradivarga
		nuxvomica Linn. 📷	Tiktarasa,	<mark>Va</mark> tavikara, Raktavikara,	143
		Loganiaceae 🧔	U snavirya	Kandu, Kaphavikara,	
				Arsha, Vranapaha	
31	Bhalataka	Semecarpus	Katu, Tikta,	Krimi, Kapkavatahara,	Amradivarga 68
		anacardium	Kasayarasa	Udara, Anaha, Prameha,	
		Linn.F.	Usnavirya	Durnamanasana	
		Anacardiaceae			
32	Pilu	Salvadora persica	Katu, Kasaya,	Gulma, Arshasamaka,	Amradivarga 84
		Linn.	Madhura,	Dipan	
		Salvadoraceae	Amlarasa		
			Sara		
33	Aruk	Prunus persica	Madhurarasa	Arsha, Prameha, Gulma,	Amradivarga 99
		Batsch. Rosaceae	Sitavirya	Raktavikaranasaka	
34	Bijapura	Citrus medica	Tiktarasa	Kapharsha, Sothasamaka,	Amradivarga 150
<u> </u>	(seed)	Linn. Rutaceae		Pathya	
35	Sallaki	Boswellia serrata	Tikta,	Grahi, Kusta,	Amradivarga 195
		Roxb. Burseraceae	Madhura,	Raktavikara,	
			Kasayarasa	Kaphavikara, Vatavikara,	
				Arsha, Vranadosa,	
0.1				Aratinasana	
36	Devadaru	Cedrus deodara	Tiktarasa,	Kaphavatajit, Amadosa,	Chandanadivarga
		Roxb.Loud.	Snigdha	Bivandha, Arsha,	29
~-		Pinaceae	Usnavirya	Prameha, Jwaranasana	
37	Guggulu	Commiphora	Katu,	Kaphavatajit, Kasa, Krimi,	Chandanadivarga
		<i>mukul</i> Engl.	Tiktarasa,	Vatavikara, Udararoga,	105
		Burseraceae	Usnavirya	Pliharoga, Sotha,	
0.0	AT 1/1	.		Arshaghna	
38	Nalika	Ipomoea aquatic	Tikta,	Krimi, Vatajaudara,	Chandanadivarga

Forsk. Convolvulaceae	Katurasa, Tikshna,	Arsha, Sulaghni, Malasodhni	156
	Sitavirya, Mahunguingka		
	Mahuravipaka		

RESULTS

The above identified drugs were analyzed for the *Rasapanchaka* (*Rasa, Guna, Virya* and *Vipaka*) and the following are noted:

Table 2: Herbs according to Rasapanchaka

Rasa	Number of drugs
Madhura	6
Amla	7
Lavana	0
Katu	18
Tikta	19
Kashaya	13

It is observed that, of the total drugs mentioned as *Arshoghnatikta* rasa *dravya* are maximum in number (19) followed by *Katu* rasa *dravya* (18) and *Kashaya* rasa *dravya* (13). *Madhura* (6), *Amla* (7) and *Lavana* (0) in number. This is indicating that the drugs with *Tikta, Katu* and *Kashaya* rasa play major role in the treatment of *Arshas*. Table 3: Herbs according to the Virya

Virya	Number of drugs
Ushna	26
Sita	4

Most of the drugs mentioned are *Ushnavirya* in nature (26) and only a few are *Sheetavirya* (4).

Table 4: Herbs according to the Vipaka

Vipaka	Number of drugs
Katuvipaka	1
Madhuravipak	2

Madhura (2) and *Katuvipaka* (1) *dravyas* are mentioned to have the property of *Arshoghna*.

Table 5: Herbs according to the Guna

Guna	Number of drugs
Sara	1
Snigdha	1
Kshariya	3
Guru	3
Tikshna	3

Kshara (3), *Guru* (3) and *Tikshna* (3) *Gunadravya* are mentioned to be mostly acting on the *Arshas*.



Figure 1: Indicating the number of drugs in each element of Rasapanchaka

DISCUSSION

Rajanighantu has given unique consideration to the disease *Arsha* (haemorrhoids) and used various drugs to treat this disease. Present study deals with extensive variety of drugs from *Rajanighantu*. Author has determined on herbal drugs rather than other diversity of group. *Pandit Narahari* directly mentions the *Karma* or action of these following drugs as *Arshoghna*.

Drugs from whole *Rajnighantu* were screened for the action *Arshoghna* (antihemorrhoid). Obtained data were presented as per anti-hemorrhoid action with respect to herbal origin drugs which belongs to different *Vargas* (chapter wise) classification with corresponding reference.

Out of 789 herbal drugs 38 were described in for the treatment of hemorrhoids. only 1 belongs to Guduchyadivarga, 8 of drugs from Satahwadivarga, 2 belona to Pipalvadivarga Parpatadivarga, has 7. Mulakadivarga 8 are stated, Salmalvadivarga and Karaviradivarga 0, Prabhadhradivarga 4, 8 in Amradivaraa, and Chandanadivaraa 3 were used for the treatment of Arsha.

It is observed that, of the total drugs mentioned as Arshoghna tikta rasa dravya are maximum in number (19) followed by Katu rasa dravya (18) and Kashaya rasa Dravya (13). Madhura (6), Amla (7) and Lavana (0) in number. Katu rasa are Agnidipana, Soyathunasana and Rochayatiasanam⁵. Tikta rasa are Arochakaghna, Dipana and Pachana⁶. Kasaya rasa are Ropana, Sosana and Stambhana⁷. This is indicating that the drugs with *Tikta*, *Katu* and Kashaya rasa play major role in the As treatment of Arshas. Arshas is a Raktadoshajavyadhi and Mamsajavyadhi it requires Tikta and Kashava rasa dravva to reduce the Raktadosha and Katu rasa helps to reduce the Mamsajadoshas. They also are *Laghu* and help for treating the indigestion caused in the Arshas.

Most of the drugs mentioned are *Ushnavirya* in nature (26) and only a few are *Sheetavirya* (4). *Ushnavirya* destroys constipation and expels the stools freely and also helps to reduce the haemorrhoids especially if the haemorrhoids are dry. *Shitaviryadravyas* help in the bleeding piles for stopping the excessive blood flow.

Madhura (2) and Katuvipaka (1) Dravyas are mentioned to have the property of Arshoghna. Madhura and Katuvipaka can be considered to reduce bleeding piles and dry piles respectively. Amlavipaka increases Pitta and Raktadosha there by worsening the disease hence Amla rasa dravyas may not have been mentioned.

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Kshara (3), *Guru* (3) and *Tikshna* (3) *Gunadravya* are mentioned to be mostly acting on the *Arshas. Ksharaguna* helps to burn the extra mass formed in the pile mass and reduce burn the pile mass. *Guru* and *Tikshnaguna* help to expel the faeces properly.

In management of *Arshas*: The systemic medicines act by improving appetite, regularize bowl habits, astringent action on blood vessels and maintaining *Agni* and *Srotas* in equilibrium.

CONCLUSION

From the present study it can be concluded that 38 drugs were mentioned in *Rajanighantu* acting on *Arshas*. It can also be said that the drugs having *Katu, Tikta, Kashaya rasa, Guru, Tikshna* and *Ksharaguna, Ushnavirya* and *Katuvipaka* play major role in the treatment of *Arsha*. As the study is purely theoretical, it requires clinical correlation of the mentioned drugs.

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