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# REVIEW ON ARBUDAHARA YOGAS MENTIONED IN AYURVEDIC LITERATURE

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Cancer has been one of the major causes for death worldwide. It is defined as the abnormal growth of cells in the body either benign or malignant. Various causative factors like genetics, environmental factors, stress are attributed for occurrence of the disease. The etiopathogenesis of cancer mainly involves uncontrolled apoptosis in the cellular level and depleting immunity in the body. Cancer has been treated by different medical systems with different modalities. Conventional system mainly focuses on immune-suppressant medications, chemotherapy and radiation therapies. There are novel therapies which have come-up for the treatment in modern medicines, which are under screening for their effectiveness in managing cancer. Ayurveda has got promising answers for treating cancer as primary or complimentary therapy with different modalities at various stages. In Ayurveda, it is considered as *Arbuda* and also known with other terminologies like *Granthi* and *Apachi*, which means extra growth. Ayurvedic yogas mentioned for *Arbuda* aims at maintaining the immunity of patient and does *lekhana* and *karshana* action necessary for managing *Arbuda*.

KEYWORDS: Cancer, Arbuda, Granthi, Apachi, immune-suppressant

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cancer is defined as an enormously grown mass, encroaching and destroying the normal structure and functional status of an organ. In long run, it spreads to other parts of the body affecting the entire human systems. The study of tumors is known as oncology. Cancer/ carcinoma are the common term for all malignant tumors. It is probably derived from Latin for the word 'crab'. Cancer- presumably because a cancer "adheres to any part of that, it seizes upon in

an obstinate manner like a crab"1

Etiology:<sup>2</sup>

Exact cause of cancer is unknown. All available evidences indicate that malignant transformation of cells may result from complex interaction factors like genetic predisposition, chemical and physical carcinogens, viruses, radiation, immune depletion, rapid tissue proliferation, hormone changes, diet, emotion etc. Cancer is the end product of multistep

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process. For those working in the genetics are convinced that genetic mutations are the primary factors in cancer etiology.

The pathophysiology of cancer involves several stages. The first stage is initiation, where a mutation occurs in a cell's DNA, leading to the activation of oncogenes (genes that promote cell growth) or the inactivation of tumor suppressor genes (genes that inhibit cell growth). The second is promotion, stage where mutated cells are stimulated to divide and grow rapidly, forming a small cluster of abnormal cells. The third stage progression, where the abnormal cell continue to divide and grow, forming a tumor that can invade surrounding tissues and spread to other parts of the body through the bloodstream or lymphatic system<sup>3</sup>.

In Ayurveda the normal functioning in body is attributed to proper functioning of *dosha*, *dooshya* and *mala*. Any abnormality in its functioning, leads to disease. There is no clear explanation about the disease cancer in Ayurveda but references are available about *Arbuda*, *Granthi* etc. *Acharya Sushruta* defines *Arbuda* as the *Doshas* having vitiated in any part of the body and afflicting the mamsa producing a swelling which is circular, fixed, slightly painful, big or widespread, deep-seated, slowly growing

and non-supportive<sup>4</sup>. The *Paribhasha* Arbuda represents that, Arbuda is enormously growing mass, encroaching and destroying the normal structures functional status of an organ and in a long run it spreads to other part of the body (dooraanupravishtam), affecting the entire human system. All these features resemble with the nature of cancer or malignant condition described in modern medical science. Arbuda can be used synonymously with *Granthi*, *Apachi*<sup>5</sup>. There are differences of opinion in classisfication of Arbuda. Vataja, Pittaja, Kaphaja, Medaja, Mamsaja, and *Raktaja* has been told by *Bhrihatrayee*<sup>6</sup> and Laghu trayee. And Acharya Charaka mentions Siraja instead of Raktaja Arbuda <sup>7</sup> Agni or pitta is considered as prime factor for digestion and metabolism in the body. In Arbuda, decreased state of dhatwagni is resulting in the excessive growth of *dhatus* like *rakta*, *mamsa* and *meda*.<sup>8</sup>

Vitiation of *dosha* along with decreased immunity in a patient is responsible for occurrence of disease. *Vata dosa* is responsible for "*Vayur Vibhajati*" ie proliferation or growth of abnormal cells with respect to *Arbuda*. The *agni* is responsible for *pachana* i.e. "*Tejonamam pachati*". So, *agni* of proliferating cells must be curbed and *vatahara* and *ojo vardhakara* line of treatment may be employed as line of

treatment in Arbuda<sup>9</sup>. In Ayurveda, Chikitsa depends upon vyadhi bala and rogi bala. The vyadhikshamatva or resistance to disease is one to be preserved to arrest the progress of the disease <sup>10</sup>.Concept of vyadhi kshamatva include vyadhi utpadaka pratibandhakatwa i.e capability to prevent onset of disease; and vyadhi bala virodhitwa which fight against developing diseases<sup>11</sup>. Ojas also plays main role in imparting strength to the patient. One could enhance vyadhikshamatva and ojas to fight effectively against the disease by taking appropriate medicines. The approach to a patient varies according to prakriti, vyadhi avastha, bala of rogi etc. Hence, Ayurveda enumerate multiple formulations to be chosen according to the condition. The patients agni and bala is hampered in Arbuda. Functioning of Agni is the prime factor to be ensured prior to any treatment. General line of treatment for Arbuda is shodhana chikita, dhatwagni chikitsa, prayoga, vyadhipratyaneeka rasayana chikitsa , lakshanika chikitsa and shastra chikitsa<sup>12</sup>. According to bala of the patient kshara, agni or shastrakarma prayoga is done<sup>13</sup>.

Further Acharya Sushruta have mentioned swedana, upanaha, raktamokshana and virechana with vatahara dravya sidda ghrita, in vataj Arbuda; mrudu swedana,

upanaha, virechana, gharshana and lepa in pittajArbuda; shodhana, raktamokshana, upanaha, krimi chikitsa and vranopachara in kaphaj Arbuda; swedana, vidarana and vrana chikitsa in medaj Arbuda<sup>14</sup>

Various Ayurvedic texts have quoted multiple formulations for management of *Arbuda*. They possess properties of *tridoshaghna*, *karshana* of *Arbuda* and *rasayana*. The *Arbuda*hara *yogas* told in classics are enlisted as below.

Classical *Yogas* which are indicated in *Arbuda*.

- Khadirarishta<sup>15</sup>
- Chandraprabha vati<sup>16</sup>
- Kanchanara guggulu<sup>17</sup>
- Triphala ghrutha<sup>18</sup>
- Panchatikta guggulu ghritha<sup>19</sup>
- Madhusnuhi rasayana<sup>20</sup>
- Shivagutika<sup>21</sup>

#### Khadirarishta

The ingredients present are Khadira, Devadaru, Bakuchi, Triphala, Makshika, Sharkara, Dhataki, Kankola, Jatiphala, Chaturjata, Lavanga, Pippali. Many among these are having anticancerous activities like Khadira<sup>22</sup>(catechins), (vasicine)<sup>23</sup>, Vasa (Psoralen)<sup>24</sup>, Devadaru. Bakuchi Daruharidra (berberine), Jatiphala (myristicin), Lavanga (eugenol)<sup>25</sup>, and Pippali (piperine) <sup>26</sup>by inducing apoptosis and inhibit cancer cell growth.

# Chandraprabha Vati

The composition of *Shilajithu*, *Guggulu*, *Sita*, *Loha bhasma*, *Danti*, *Trivrut*, *Trijata*, *Vamshalochana*, *Shadushana*, *Triphala*, *Gajapippali*, *Makshikadhatu bhasma* etc. *Shilajitu* (Fulvic acid) <sup>27</sup> have anti-oxidant propterties, *guggulu* <sup>28</sup> (guggulusterone) *danti*(diterpenes), <sup>29</sup> *trivrut* (turpethum), <sup>30</sup> also have also shown anti cancerous activities.

# Kanchanara gugulu

The composition of *Kanchanara guggulu* are *Kanchanara*, *Guggulu*, *Trikatu*, *Triphala*, *Varuna* etc. Among these *kanchanara* is supportive to lymphatic health and has influence on cell growth and immune function. *Triphala* and *varuna* <sup>31</sup> has shown is anticancerous effect.

### Triphala ghrutha

Main ingredients are *Triphala*, *ghrita*, *ksheera*, *haridra* etc. *Triphala*<sup>32</sup> and *haridra* <sup>33</sup> have shown anti-cancerous activity in many researches.

### Panchatikta guggulu ghrita

Major components are *Tikta panchaka* kashaya, ghritha, guggulu etc.

# Madhusnuhi rasayana

Major ingredients are *Madhusnuhi*, *Guggulu*, *Gandhaka*, *ghrita*, *sharkara*, *Madhu* etc. *Madhusnuhi* is known to have anti-cancerous activity. Researches show that *madhusnuhi* i. e chopachini inhibits cancer cell growth.

### Shivagutika

It comprises of Shilajithu, sharkara, Madhu, Ghrita, talisapatra, Chaturjata, trikatu, Karkatashringi, Amla, Dashamula kashaya, guduchi kashaya, patola kashaya, bala kashaya, Kashaya of yashimadhu, gomutra, kakolidwaya, shalaparni, prishna parni, meda, maha meda, musta, chitrakamula, rasna, vidari, ksheeravidari, danti, patha etc.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Cancer is a challenging medical condition which is prevailing with less cost effective treatments and deteriorating quality of life. Though many methodologies have been adopted for treating it, yet the prevalence and sufferings remain same. So, integrated approach of Ayurveda therapy with existing conventional mode of treatment will be a boon to mankind.

In Ayurveda the treatment is adopted according to the *doshic* vitiation in a patient and *vyadhihara chikitsa* is prescribed accordingly. Similarly in *Arbuda* along with *vydhihara chikitsa*, *dosahara chikitsa* should be adopted according to the *vyadi ayastha*.

In *Khadirarishta*, main ingredient used is *khadira* and *devadaru*. It is mentioned as best *kushtaghna dravya* in *agryaoushadha* by Acharya Charaka<sup>34</sup> The yoga being *Kashaya*, *Tikta rasa pradhana*, *sheeta veerya and katu vipaka* is *vata kapha hara*. Clinically it is used in skin ailments and

respiratory issues. There are many clinical trials which have proven its effects for many skin ailments but few researches regarding its efficacy with other formulations in *Arbuda*. Monga et al. (2011) have conducted a series of studies clearly demonstrating the chemoprotective and cancer- preventive activities of the *Acacia catechu* heartwood extract, and providing much information on the antioxidant activity associated therewith. *Acacia catechu* extracts have been shown to exhibit antineoplastic and antiproliferative activities (Nadumane, 2011).<sup>35</sup>

Chandrprabha vati mainly contains Shilajithu and Guggulu. Other ingredients used are predominantly katu and tikta in rasa, laghu and ruksha guna, ushna in virya, katu in vipaka and Vatakaphapradhana and tridoshashamaka.36 It is explained under Granthi and Arbuda adhikara in Baishajya ratnavali. It is also used as rasayana in other systemic disorders. Studies show that Fibroadenomas which are the non-cancerous tumor, most commonly benign in nature, can be treated by Kanchanara guggulu<sup>37</sup> and  $Vati^{38}$ . Chandraprabha which significant result in the regression of the tumor. Thus, both can be combindly used in Fibroadenoma of breast. Research articles have revealed that most of the ingredients in this preparation have antioxidant and anticancer activity.

as mentioned in Kanchanara guggulu, Sharangdhara Samhita, Madhyam Khand<sup>39</sup> important therapeutically management of Gulma(Abdominal lump), Apacahi (Chronic lymphadenopathy scrofula), Granthi (Cyst), Vrana (Ulcer). By virtue of its Lekhaneeya karma & antiinflammatory property helps in reducing the size and arrest the further growth of existing cyst. In addition to that it contains kaempferol flavonoids chemical as ingredient. Kaempferol inhibited **PSA** secretion and activation of estrogenic receptor. In vivo study against Dalton's ascitic lymphoma in Swiss albino mice, after 14 days of inoculation, extract of Bauhinia variegate was found able to reverse the changes in the hematological parameters, protein and PCV consequent to tumour inoculation<sup>40.</sup> Hydroalcoholic extract (50%) of kanchanara guggulu exhibited a cytotoxic effect by inhibiting cell division (antimitotic) and reducing cell proliferation in Allium cepa assay substantiating its potential for the treatment of cancer and support its traditional use in the treatment of cancer<sup>41</sup>.

In *triphala ghritha*, the main ingredient is *triphala*. It is having *kashaya*, *tikta rasa*, *katu vipaka*, *sheeta veerya and tridosha shamaka* property. *Triphala* is proven to have immunomodulator activity, anticancerous activity through various

researches. Contemplates have also depicted that *Triphala* is an anticipating powerful anticancer drug which spares normal cells but kills the tumour cells. *Triphala* wields an anti-neoplastic effect on breast, prostate, colon, and pancreas cancer cell lines. It is also evoked that apoptosis induction may have mediated reduced tumour growth in the excised tumour tissue from *Triphala*-fed mice when compared with that of the controls.<sup>42</sup>

Panchatikta guggulu ghritha contains mainly tikta panchaka namely vasa, nimba, guduchi etc. Tikta rasa is known for pachana and srotoshodhana. Animal study was conducted to elicit the efficacy of PTG ghrutha in skin carcinogenesis in swiss albino mice. The tumor appearance which is repeated in carcinoma was observed in other groups but not in test group A where PTG was given as a preventive treatment. So it is an established fact that PTG plays an important role in restricting development of skin cancer<sup>43</sup>.

In *Madhusnuhi rasayana*, *madhusnuhi* refers to *chopachini*, botanically identified as *Smilax chinensis*. The *yoga* is predominantly *katu*, *tikta*, *kashaya rasa pradhana*, *ushna veerya* and *kapha pitta shamaka* indicated in *Arbuda* and other *twak vikaras*. One of the studies showed that Ethanolic Extract inhibited cancer cell growth by inducing apoptotic cell death

through G0/G1 phase arrest in YD10B Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma cells.<sup>44</sup>

In Shivagutika the main ingredients are shilajithu, triphala kashaya,dashamula kashaya So, it and gomutra. is predominantly katu,tikta rasa pradhana, ushna veerya, vata kapha medo hara and is rasayana incase of medoroga. Some studies show that, the DCM extract of shivagutika when subjected to anti-proliferation assay and anti-cancer assay increased the activity of Caspase 3, pro-apoptotic protein. Sciadopitysin was identified as a potent molecule among all phytochemicals as it interacted with Caspase 3 with a binding energy of -7.2 kcal/mol. Shivagutika could be used as a potent anti-breast cancer agent (specifically DCM extract of Shivagutika) which could decrease the cases of breast cancer in future<sup>45</sup>.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Though some of the cancers are curable at an early stage, the unavoidable etiology like genetics, environmental factors, lifestyle changes; rapid growth of disease by nature, deteriorating immunity of the patient, post therapeutic effects and social stigma are still the issues of concern. Detecting early, inhibiting the rapid growth of cancer cells in body and maintaining the quality of life are the protocols to look for. Formulations mentioned in this article have ingredients,

which either prevent onset of cancer or inhibit growth of cell mass due to their anti-oxidant and cyto-toxic nature respectively. Present article may pave way for understanding mode of action of important anti-cancerous formulations mentioned in Ayurveda.

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