Efficacy of Dhava (Anogeissus Latifolia Wall.) in the Management of Kustha

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ABSTRACT

Skin, being the biggest organ of the body and covers the total body, plays major role in the beauty of the person. Any disease to this part may affect the beauty of the person and may become the cause for inferiority complex in sociaty. As the skin diseases are affecting both physical and mental health of the person, it is considered as "Psychosomatic and psycho cutaneous disease"

According to ayurveda all the skin diseases are put under the name of Kustha.

The various factors like diet, cosmetics and stress, vitiate the Dosha (major element) and Dushya (tissue)produce the disease kustha. Ayurveda divides the skin diseases majaorly into maha kusthas (Chronic & deeperooted) & Kshudra kustha(simple cause & symptoms).

As modern medical system is using many steroids in the cure of skin diseases which are immune suppressants, the contemporary world is looking forward for alternative therapies. Ayurveda is providing many references for the usage of medicinal plants in treating skin disease. Dhava is one among them mentioned in Bhavaprakasha Nighantu, Priya Nighantu. It is easily available & cost effective.

This article show the potential role of Dhava in the management of different types of skin diseases. The review includes in-depth analysis of its phytochemical composition, pharmacological properties& mechanism of action focusing on its samprapti vighatana.

KEYWORDS: Skin disease, Kustha, Dhava (Anogeissus latifolia) Phytochemical composition, Pharmacological properties, Mechanism of action

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INTRODUCTION

Skin is the largest organ of the body and covers the entire external surface of the body and plays major role in the beauty of the person. It creates an individual identity in the society. Skin is prone to various external invasions & disease or injury because of its visibility. Skin also reflects emotions and it is the index of normal physiology. Any disease to this part may affect the beauty of the person and may become the cause for inferiority complex in sociaty. As the skin diseases are affecting both physical & mental health of the person, it is considered as "Psycho-somatic & psycho cutaneous disease"

According to Ayurveda the word twacha or charma is used for skin. Twacha is derived from the dhatu "twach samvarne" means covering of the body. It is the seat of sparshaneindriya, which is one among seats of vata and it is very extensive among all five indriyas. In Ayurveda all the skin disease has been discussed (under the word kusthalit is considered as one of the Mahagada and also one of the disease due to papakarma.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To evalute the pharmacological activity and efficacy of Dhava in the management of kustha (Skin disease).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Pathogenesis of kustha is vyadhi is mentioned in Bruhattrayies is review. Analysis of Dhava is carried out from Ayurvedic pharmacological perspective.

DESCRIPTION OF DISEASE AND DRUG

The description of kustha is mentioned since Vedas and Puranas kala. In Mahabharata maharshi Vedavyash mentioned that Devapi suffered from kustha. Rigveda & Kaushika sutra mentioned Synonyms and management of kustha. In Garuda purana mentioned about the diagnosis and treatment of kustha.

Samhita period is the golden era of Ayurveda. In all Samhita mentioned about the causative factor, sign and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of kustha.

The various factors like viruddha ahara (unwholesome) diet, cosmetics, stress etcaggravates the dosha and dhatu. The provoked dosha reaches to the tiryaga siras and then vitiates twak, rakta, mamsa and lasika and by making them weak, they pass to the external surface of the body, causing discoloration of the skin and produce the disease kustha.

Ayurveda divides the skin diseases majaorly into maha kusthas (Chronic & deep rooted) suchas-Kapala, udumbara, mandala, rishyajivha, pundarika, sidhma, kakanaka & Kshudra kustha (simple cause & simple) such as Ek-kustha, charma kustha, kitibha, arvipadika etc.

As modern medical system is using many steroids in the cure of skin diseases which are immune suppresents, the contemporary world is looking forward for alternative therapies. Ayurveda is providing many references for the usage of medicinal plants in treating skin disease. Dhava is one among such plants being easily available & cost effective.

The Dhava (Anogeissus latifolia) belongs to combretaceae family. It is extremely useful drug since ancient times.





The morphological appearance of Dhava is a large tree growing in the plains and dry mountains of south India up to a height of 20-25m. Bark is mostly 4-6 cm long, 1.5 to 1.75 cm wide and 1-2 mm thick, hard, recurved, externally pale, fairly smooth having small ridges, greenish or greyish white smooth and exfoliating in irregular thin scales. Leaves are opposite or sub opposite, elliptic-obtuse with red petiole, obtuse at the apex, rounded or sometimes cordate at base, glabrous when fully grown, Midrib prominent, pink, main nerves 6-10 pairs arching, prominent on the lower side, leaves turning red before falling. Flowers are sessile in small dense head, greenish-yellow colour, globose heads on an axillary or terminal peduncle,5-merous, small, sepals connate in a stalk-like tube, expanded at the apex into a 5lobed cup. Fruits are small, many in globular head, yellowish-brown or reddish-brown, winged, compressed and shining. Seed are wedge shaped.

Rasa Panchaka-

Rasa - Madhura, Kashaya Guna- Laghu, Ruksha

Veerya – Sheeta Vipaka - Katu

Parts used-Stem bark, leaves

Mode of administration- Decoction

Dosage - Decoction-40-80ml

The phytochemical present in Dhava is gallotannin, quinic acid and shikimic acids.

12-18% tannins, Gallic acid, ellagic acid, quercetin, myricetin.

The pharmacological action of dhava is Antioxident, Antimicrobial, Wound healing activity, Antihelmentic activity, Antihelmentic activity, Antihelmentic activity.

DISCUSSION

Mode of action- The action of drug is to break the samprapti ghatakas of the disease which is called as samprapti vighatana which is the main motto of chikitsa. Dhava will perform its action based on Rasa, guna, veerya, vipaka or as whole.

Dhava possess Madhura, Kashaya rasa: Laghu, Ruksha guna; Sheeta virya; katu vipaka. Kustha is a tridosha vikara. By virtue of Madhura rasa, it corrects vata, Kashaya rasa it corrects kapha& pitta, sheeta virya it corrects pitta dosha.

The cause of kustha is Agnimandya by virtue of katu vipaka it corrects agnimandya (katu vipaka is the predominant of agni mahabhuta)

Srotas involved in kustha are rasavaha & raktavaha. Rasavaha sratas is blocked due to formation of ama. kashaya rasa having Akasha mahabhuta property due to its Sukshma guna it pervades even to the minute channels so srothasanga is relieved.

Quinic acid has antioxidant, antimicrobial, protective activity so it corrects skin disease.

The Dadru kustha is a contagenious fungal infection caused by parasites that live on the cells in the outer layer of the skin. Dhava have Shikimic acid act as antifunal, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial activity, hair-growth stimulating, so it corrects Dadru kustha.

In psoriasis the skin became red, itching and painful patches are present. Dhava have tannins it act on immunomodulatory action which acts against free radicles reduce itching & patches present in psoriasis.

The cause of skin disease is free radicles include UV radiation, pollution, unhealthy diet it damage the skin layer. Dhava have gallic acid act on antioxidant activity to reduce the damage caused by free radicles & UV damage.

CONCLUSION:

Kustha is one of the oldest known disease to mankind. It is described as one of the most chronic disease in Ayurvedic system of medicine. Ayurveda described a wide range of skin disease including its classification, etiopathogenesis, clinical feature, prevention and management. Skin is an important organ of communication with external relationship with person. In present era, stress are the major factor responsible for manifestation of skin disease or kustha. The Dhava(Anogeissus latifolia) have kusthahara properties mentioned by various Nighantu like priya nighantu, Bhavaprakasha Nighantu etc.it holds promise as a potential therapeutic agent in the management of kustha. Its Antioxident, Antimicrobial, Wound healing activity, Antidiabetic activity, Antihelmenthic activity, Antiinflammatory activity make it valuable for preventing for kustha or skin disease.

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