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# Pharmacokinetics of Vayasthapan Mahakashay from Charak Samhita

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ABSTRACT: Charak has categorized important medicinal herbs into different classes, according to their pharmacokinetics, which are well-known as 50 Mahakashay. This work is committed for the study of the Vayasthapan Mahakashay, one of the Mahakashayfrom this classification. The herb, which sustains the youth stage andprevents the aging process, is termed as Vayasthapan. All the 10 ingredients from Vayasthapan Mahakashay are of herbal origin and were screened for their different properties, uses, actions according to different Ayurvedic lexicons, textbooks and scholarly research articles. Ageing process is enhanced due to increased metabolism in body, which is due to vitiated Pitta dosha. We have concluded thatVayasthapan Mahakashyay include 70% medicinal herbs in possession of *Madhura-tikta* rasaand 50% of the herbs are in possession of *Kashaya rasa*, which help in alleviating pitta dosha, resulting in decreased metabolism in the body. Out of 10 herbs 50% of herbs are effective in keeping good mental health, while 50% herbs are effective in keeping good physical health. We also found that allthese herbs are having antioxidant property which neutralizes the free reactive oxygen species responsible for the early rapid aging.

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Keywords: Anti-aging herbs, Kashay rasa, Vayasthapan Mahakashay, Anti-oxidant action

# 1. Introduction

The aging (jara) is a natural phenomenon. It is a Svabhavabalapravrita vyadhi like Hunger (kshudha), Thirst (pipasa),sleep (nidra) and Death (mrityu)[1, 2].The aging is of two types: -

1)Natural Aging (kalaja) - occurs at 60 years of age or after that.

2) Premature Aging (akalaja) - occurs before 60 years of age and due to disturbed life style.

According to modern science Ageing is the process of deterioration of function of various organares after attainment of adulthood. Today's lifestyle is very much responsible for the early ageing, In India last few decades have seen the influence of westernization on its new generation, like consumption of alcohol, cigarette smoking, eating junk food like pizza, sandwich, packed food, drinking aerated drinks like thumps-up and coke, exposure to ultra-violet radiation consumption of vegetables contaminated with pesticides and fertilizers. Now a day the fruits are ripped before theirmaturation by treating them with harmful chemical agents which give rise to free reactive oxygen species in the body triggers the process of oxidation. Due to this modern India is facing early signs of ageing like wrinkles over face(vali), graying of hairs(palitya), baldness(khalitya),attack of cough (kasa), dyspnoea (swasa)diminished mental(smaran) as well as physical abilities(bala)[3,4], low immunity, development of allergies,major health problem. According to Sushruta, Rasayanais Vayasthapan(maintainingyouth), provide long

\* **Corresponding author e-mail:** dvkulkarni13@gmail.com Tel.: +91 000000000 Journal access: www.adpublication.org © 2017 A D Publication. All rights reserved life, intellect and strength and also eliminates the disease[5]. The 10 herbs mentioned in Vayasthapan Mahakashay are proved to inhibit tissue degeneration and their cell regeneration capacity.

#### Aim

Literary study of medicinal plants from Charakokta Vayasthapan Mahakashyay To study Vayasthapan Mahakashyay with special reference to anti-aging activity

#### Objectives

To study the chemical composition of medicinal herbs from Vayasthapan Mahakashyay. To study the Pharmacological action of medicinal herbs from Vayasthapan Mahakashyay with respect to Ayurvedic and modern aspect.

## 2. Material and methods

Through review of Vayasthapan Mahakashyay from Charak sutrasthanwas undertaken. Study of herbs done from various Nighantu (lexicons) as well as related work done by research scholars was referred. Vayasthapan are the drugs which remove derangement of vitiated dosha in body& bring back it to the normal state i.e. Tridoshsamya, also inhibit tissue degeneration & stop the further damage.

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i ne medicinal nerr	os mentioned in v	vavastnanan Manai	kashyay are listed below.
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Nar	ne of herb	Latin name
1.	Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Miers ex Hook. f. & Jhoms.
2.	Haritiki	Terminalia chebulaRetz
3.	Amalki	EmblicaofficinaleLinn
4.	Mukta (Rasna)	PluchealanceolataOliver &Hiern
5.	Shweta (shwetaparajita)	ClitoriaternateaLinn.
6.	Jeewanti	Leptadeniareticulata(Retz.) Wight & Arn
7.	Atirasa	Asperagusracemosus(Willd)
8.	Mandukparni	Centellaasiatica(Linn) Urban
9.	Sthira(sarivan)	Desmodiumgangeticum (Linn)D C
10	. Punarnava	Boerhavia diffusaLinn

**Definition of Vayasthapan-**the drug which sustains the youth stage and prevents the aging process is called as Vayasthapan. According to Acharya Sushruta, *Rasayana*is *Vayasthapan* (maintainingYouth) provides long life, intellect and strength[5].

#### 1. Guduchi (Tinospora cordifoliaWilld.Miers ex Hook. f. & Jhoms.)

Description of Guduchi–It is a large deciduous climbing shrub found throughout India.

Chemical composition[6]-Guduchi contains a variety of constituents likealkaloids, diterpenoid, steroids, glycosides lactones, polysaccharides and tinosporic acid, cordifolisides A to E, tinosporone, syringen, giloin, gilenin, crude giloininand, berberine, arabinogalactan polysaccharide, picrotene, bergenin, gilosterol, tinosporol, tinosporidineetc.

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu)- Katu, tikta and kashay in taste, Laghu Guna, Ushna Veerya,Madhura Vipaka, ameliorates tridoshas, and saptadhatuposhak[7].Due to Guruand Snigdhaguna it is nutritive in nature and also balances Vata dosha, it shows quality similar to Rasadhatuhence strengthens Rasadhatuand nourishes the remainingsixdhatu.Being tiktaRasait pacifiesPittadosha;due tokashayaas a secondary rasa it also balances kapha. Due to Ushna veerya it promotes Jatharagni and helps in digestion of Aamadosha. Mathew S and Kuttan G (1997) established the antioxidant property of *Tinospora cordifolia*[6].Kapil A&Sharma S (1997) revealed that Guduchi possesses immunomodulatory properties[8].Dose forKwath- 5-100 ml,Churna- 3 -6 gm,Satva- 1– 2 gm. Some preparations of Guduchi are sanshamnivati,amrutadyarishta, guduchyadimodak, amrutashtakkwath, amrutaghrut etc.



Fig.1 Guduchi (*Tinospora cordifolia*Willd.Miers ex Hook. f. &Jhoms.)

## 2. Haritaki (*Terminalia chebula*Retz)

Description of Haritaki – Itis a medium sized deciduous tree with a height of upto 30 m. wide spreading branches and broad roundish crown.

Chemical composition- *T. chebula*contains 32% of tannin. With the geological variation the tannin content varies. Triterpenoids, Flavonol, glycosides, coumarin conjugated with gallic acid called chebulin, as well as phenolic compounds were also isolated[9].

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu) -Haritaki is pancharasatmakwith predominance of Kashay rasa and exception of Lavan rasa. It ameliorates tridoshas. Though it is Laghu and Ruksha in Guna but due to its Ushna veerya and Madhuravipak it is found to pacify Vata dosha and used extensivelyin disorders of Vata. Hamada SI, Kataoka I& et.al (1997) prove that Haritaki is cytoprotective in action. [10] Naik GH, Priyadarsini KI& et.al (2004) revealed its Anti-oxidant activity. [11]



Fig.2 Haritaki (Terminalia chebulaRetz.)

# 1. Amalki (*Emblicaofficinale*Linn)

Description of Amalki –A small to medium sized deciduous tree, 8-18 meters height with thinlight grey bark exfoliating in small thin irregular flakes.

Chemical composition-Fruits of *Emblicaofficinalis*contain 28% of the total tannins. Fruit contains two hydrolysable tannins viz. Emblicanin A and B, which have antioxidant properties. The fruit also contains Phyllemblin, Ellagic acid Gallic acid, Phyllemblic acid, Emblicol and other minerals.100gms of Amla contains about 700mg of vitamin C, which is 30 times the amount found in orange.[12]

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Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu)-Aamalakiis said to be theShresthavayahsthapanIn all the 10 herbs. [13]Amalaki is pancharasatmakwith predominance of Amla rasa with exception of Lavan rasa. It pacifyall the doshasi.e. Tridoshshamak, it alleviate Vata dosha by Amla rasa, Pitta by Madhura rasa and Sheet veerya, and Kapha dosha by Kashay rasa and Rukshyaguna[14].El-Mekkawy S, Meselhy MR& et.al (1995)establishedthat Amalaki is having the Immunomodulatory[15]property. And Bhattacharya A, Chatterjee A & et.al (1999) provesantioxidant[16] property in Amalki.Dose- Choorna- 3 to 10 gm. various preparations of Amalaki are TriphalaChoorna, Chyawanprash, Dhatriloha, etc.



Fig.3 Amalaki (EmblicaofficinaleLinn.)

#### 4. Mukta (Rasna) (*Pluchealanceolata*Oliver & Hiern)

Description of Rasna- It is a hoary pubescent under shrub. In India it thrives in cultivated fields as well as in uncultivated areas.

Chemical composition- It contains flavonoids, triterpenoids, monoterpenes, lignan glycosides, and eudesmane-type sesquiterpenoids. The flavonoids include quercetin, hesperidin, isorhamnetin, and one isoflavonoidformononetin.Surendra Kr Sharmaand Naveen Goyal (2011)showed presence of antioxidants &immunoregulatory action[17].

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu) – Acharya Chakrapani commentedMukta as Rasna.Yogindranathasen saidRasnaas Shresthavataharadrug. It is Guru inGuna TiktaRasa, Katu in Vipaka, and Ushna in veerya.Kapha&VataShamak in action. Because of itsUshna veeryaand Guru Guna it pacifies Vata dosha, and pacifieskapha doshaby its Tikta rasa, katuvipakandUshna veeryaproperties.

Dose – Choorna 1gm, some preparations of Rasna are Maharasnadi kwatha, Rasnasaptak kwatha, etc.



Fig. 4 Mukta (Rasna) (PluchealanceolataC.B. Clarke)

#### 5. Shweta (Shweta Aparajita) (ClitoriaternateaLinn.)

Description of Aparajita- itis a perennial twining shrub, found throughout tropical areas of India.

Chemical composition-The phytochemical screening of the roots of Aparajitarevealed the presence of flavonoids, glycosides, alkaloids, triterpenes, resins, saponins, phenols, proteins and carbohydrates<sup>[18, 19]</sup>.

Jain NN, Ohal CC & et.al (2003) established the nootropic, anxiolytic, anticonvulsant [20] action. Taranalli AD, Cheeramkuzhy TC(2000) proved enhancing effect on memory [21].Prof Dr Ali Esmail Al-Snafi (2016) reported that

Methanol extract of ShwetaAparajita showed significant antioxidant activity as compared to Neel Aparajita variety of *Clitoriaternatea*[22].

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu) – Acharya Chakrapanihas mentioned Shweta as aparajita.

Aparajita is Medhya in action due to Prabhavawhich counteract stress induced aging. It is tikta in rasa, Katu in vipak, Sheet in veerya. It pacifies all the three doshas in the body. Acharya Bhavprakash explained that due to Vishghna property Aparajitait removes the poisonoussubstances from the body. This can be considered responsible for the process of anti-aging.Being Tridoshashamakait maintainshealthy state of the body. Dose, choorna of roots-1.5-3gm & that of seed- 1-2gm.



Fig.5 Shweta (Shwetaparajita) (*Clitoriaternatea*Linn.)

## 6. Jivanti(Leptadeniareticulata(Retz.) Wight & Arn)

Description of Jivanti- It is a climber having stem with cork like deeply cracked bark with numerous branches. Found mostly near thorny trees. Distributed in tropical &subtropical parts of India.

Chemical composition- Flavonoids,  $\beta$  –sitosterol, stigma sterol, steroids, triterpenes,glycosides and proteins. Aerial partscontain tocopherol which shows anti-inflammatory activity.Deependra Singh, Vandana Jain & et.al. (2003)demonstrated antioxidant property[23].Anjaria JV, Varia MR & et.al(1975) discovered its Estrogenomimetic action[24].

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu) – Laghu&Snigdha in Guna,Madhura in Rasa,Madhura inVipak,Shita inVeerya,it is Tridoshshamak. Due to snigdha guna,madhurarasa, Shita veerya&madhuravipaka,The Madhura vipakanourishesRasadhatuwhich ultimately nourishes successive dhatus which leads to formation of Ojas. Which improves health and immunity,it build and strengthen the body and support kapha doshain maintaining stability of the tissues. The catabolic effect of vataand metabolic effect ofpitta is countered bypredominance ofSnigdhaGuna.Dose-Churna-3-6 gm,Kwath -50-100 ml

Various preparation-Jivantadyaghrut, Jivaniyadi tail etc.



Fig. 6 Jivanti (Leptadeniareticulata(Retz.) Wight & Arn)

#### 7. Atirasa (Shatavari) (Asperagusracemosus(Willd))

Description of Shatavari – It is perennial climbing herbs, consisting of tuberous roots.

Chemical composition[25]- Flavonoids, tannins, phenols, alkaloids, steroids, saponins, terpenes, and polysaccharides.Root contains highest amount of vitamin-C, polyphenols, flavonoidswhichexhibitshighest

antioxidant activity.Bhattacharya A, Murugandam AV (2004)investigated its Adaptogenic[26]activity. And Gautam M, Diwanay S et.al (2004) revealed its Immunomodulatory[27] activity.

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu) – Shatavari is Shrestha Rasayan.It is Guru, Snigdha in Guna, Madhura, Tikta in Rasa which balances Pitta dosha, Madhura in Vipaka which pacify Vata dosha. It has nourishing effect onRasadhatu due to Guru & Snigdha Guna, Madhura Rasa and Madhura Vipakit nourishes itsUpadhatu i.e.stanya (breast milk). Also nourishes the successive dhatus& increase the Bala (strength) of body.Dose-Choorna- 10 to 20 gm, Anupan- Milk. Different preparations are Shatavari kalpa, Narayana taila, Shatavaryadighrita, Garbhachintamani rasa, Vishnu taila, Shatavari modaka, Shatamoolyadilauha,etc.



Fig. 7Atirasa (Shatavari) (AsperagusracemosusWilld)

# 8. Mandukparni (Centellaasiatica(Linn) Urban)

Description of Mandukparni- It is a small stonoliferous perennial creeping aromatic herb.

Chemical composition[28] - In Phytoconstituents it shows polyphenol, tannin,flavonoid, β-carotene,vitamin C, and vitamin E.Chatterjee TK, Chakraborty A& et.al (1992) established that there is increase in brain GABA Level[29],which causes significant improvement in concentration, attention,memory, and social improvement in mentally –challenged children.Gnanapragasam A, Ebenezar KK & et.al (2004)demonstrated its Antioxidant [30]property.

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu) – Acharya Charak has mentionedMandukparni infour Medhya Rasayanain Rasayanadhyay. And Acharya Sushruta used it as to increaseintellect,strength, digestivefire and fair complexion[31].Mandukparni is Tikta and kashaya in rasa,Madhura in vipakaand

Shita in Veeryahence pacify pitta dosha, it also pacifies kaphadosha by laghuguna& tiktakashayrasa

Mandukparniimprove circulation of the peripheral tissues & brain. Due to this action it can prevent degenerative diseases of the blood vessels like varicose vein, arteriosclerosis and dementia in old age.Doses- Swaras- 7 to 15ml, Moolchurna- 360 to 900mg, Panchang choorna 3 to 5gm.

Various preparations are Brahmi panak, Bhrami tail, Saraswatarishta, Saraswatghrit



Fig. 8 Mandukparni (Centellaasiatica(Linn) Urban)

# 9. Sthira (sarivan) (Desmodiumgangeticum(Linn) D C)

Description of Sthira-It is a small plant of height of 2 to 4 feet. Leaves are ovate in shape that is 3 to 6 inch in length. The stem is angular. Flowering & fruiting occurs whole year especially in early summers.

Chemical composition- Aerial parts contains flavonoids and alkaloids. Ethyl acetate which helps in revascularization of injuryR Govindarajan, M Vijayakumar& et.al proved its antioxidant[32] property.

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu) – It is Guru, snigdha in Guna, Madhura & Tikta in Rasa, Madhura in Vipak, Ushna in Veerya. It is Tridoshshamak because it pacifies Vata dosha byGuru, SnigdhaGuna, Madhura rasa and Ushna veerya. Pacify Pitta by Madhura, TiktaRasa&Kapha, by the tikta rasa and Ushna veerya.R Govindarajan M Vijayakumar& et.al proved its cardio protective[33]and Anti-oxidants activities. Dosefor kwath- 50 - 100 ml. Its preparation is Shalparnyadikwath.



Fig.9 Sthira (sarivan) (Desmodiumgangeticum(Linn) D C)

# 10. Punarnava (Boerhavia diffusaLinn)

Description of Punarnava - Itis a diffusely branched, pubescent and prostrate herb.

Chemical composition –it shows presence of flavonoids, β-Sitosterol, α-2-sitosterol,steroids,alkaloids, triterpenoids, lignin, lipids,carbohydrates, proteins, and glycoproteins. Punarnavine. Boeravinone have been isolated by Verma H.N., Awasthi L.P. and Saxena K.C. (1979) studied in detail for their biological activity [34].Desai SK,Sanaye MM. DesaiSM. (2009)demonstratedAnti-stress and Antioxidant [35]activity.

Properties as per lexicons (Nighantu) –Laghu, Ruksha inGuna, Madhura, Tikta,Kashaya in Rasa, Madhurain Vipak, Ushna in veerya, &Tridoshashamak, because of Madhurarasa,Ushna veerya and Madhuravipaka it pacify Vata dosha. Due to Madhura, Tikta,Kashaya Rasa it ameliorates Pitta dosha&Ushnaveerya pacify Kapha dosha.Guru, SnigdhagunaofAamadosha is pacified by Its Laghuguna& Ushna veerya.



Fig.10 Punarnava (Boerhavia diffusaLinn)

# Discussion

Afterreviewing these 10 herbs we found that there are two categories in which we can divide these 10 herbs. 5 herbs as Medhya Rasayan (mental health), e.g. **Guduchi,Mandukparni,Aparajita,Haritaki& Shatavari.** 5 herbs as Balya Rasayan (physical health), e.g. **Amalaki, Rasna,Jivanti, Sthira & Punarnava.** Guduchi [6], Haritaki[11], Amalki[16], Rasna[17], Aparajita[22], Jivanti[23], Shatavari [25], Mandukparni[30], Sthira [32], Punarnava [35]are proven to have excellent anti-oxidant activity.

Jivantihave Estrogenomimetic activity [24]. Amalki[15] have Immunomodulatory action and Shatavari [26] possesses Adaptogenic activity. Abhayais reported toprevent DNA breaking [36] and Rasna prevent Chromatid breaks induced by cadmium chloride[37]. 7 herbs out of 10 are Tridoshshamak action Being *Tridoshashamaka*it maintains healthy

state of the body. Being Saptadhatuposhak it nourishes all the dhatu which helps in Ojas formation, result is delayed aging.

**Role of anti-oxidant-** Antioxidant compounds like phenolic acids, polyphenols, tannins, alkaloids and flavonoids scavenge free radicals such as peroxide, hydroperoxide or lipidperoxyl and thus inhibit the oxidative mechanisms that lead to degeneration of cell [38].

The ayurvedic plants mentioned in Vayasthapan Mahakashaycontains tannin, flavonoids, vitamin C and vitamin E, phenolic acids, Triterpenoids, glycosides, alkaloids, steroids, etc.

#### Anti-oxidant action of Flavonoids-[39]

They suppress the formation of ROS (reactive oxygen species) by inhibition of enzymes&free radical scavenging action.

Anti-oxidant action of Tannins-[40] they stimulate superoxide dismutase inhibitors of radical formation and they are free radical quenching agents.

Anti-oxidant action of Phenolic acid-[41] they possess free radical scavenging properties and metal chelating property, they effect on cell signaling pathways and gene expression.

**Anti-oxidant action of Tri-terpenoids-[42]** they suppress the ROS formation by quenching of singlet oxygen, they help in hydrogen transfer and electron transfer.

## Conclusion

The sole meaning of Vayasthapan that issustaining the youth stage and preventing the aging process is achieved by not only Tridoshashamak, Rasayan, Saptadhatuposhak action of these 10 herbs but also by their anti-oxidant, Adaptogenic, Immunomodulatory, anxiolytic,Estrogenomimetic activity proven by researchers on modern parameters.

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