

CONCEPT OF ANTIDOTES V/S PRATIVISHA IN AYURVEDA - A REVIEW ARTICLESunil Kumar¹, Swatika²¹Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agad Tantra, National College of Ayurveda, Barwala, Haryana, India²M.D. Scholar, Dept. of Dravya Guna

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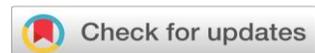
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**ABSTRACT**

Ayurveda is a traditional system of medicine with historical roots in the Indian subcontinent. It is one of the most technical medical systems in the world with an extended record of scientific experience. Ayurveda tells the way of life and how to live healthily and stay happy. It has eight prime branches of medicine. *Agada tantra* is one of the specialized divisions of Ayurveda that offer scrupulously thorough information about animate and non-animated poisons and methods of removal of these poisons from the body. It chiefly advocates different antidotes for equipment that are poisonous to the human body. There are various ancient books which have relation regarding the Toxicology *Agada tantra* in which we can get references regarding the above mentioned and treated as such with Antidotes. Antidotes are the substances used to counteract or deactivate the effects of poison. Poison may be by plant, or through animal bites like snake bites etc., agricultural poisons, poisonous metals and minerals etc. There are mainly two types of poison mentioned in *Ayurveda*, are *Sthavar visha* and *Jangham visha*., Common antidote in *Ayurveda* is *Swarna, Ghrita, Godudha and Madhu etc.* antidote plays important role in the treatment of poisoning which we can see in the current paper, the main moto of doctor is to save the patient's life. In Ayurveda, our *Achar-yas* mentioned the different types of poisonous substances and their antidote under *Visha Chikitsa* references. The concept of *Prativisha* which is existed since ancient time needs to be supplemented, explained, refurbish and narrate for proper treatment. So, this article aims to collect the references of curative and preventive measures of poisoning.

Keywords: *Visha, Antidotes, Vagbhatta, Vishavaidya jyotsnika*

INTRODUCTION

If we see the eight branches of *Astaang Ayurveda*, *Agada tantra* is a branch of Ayurveda that deals with the treatment of various poisons. If we see the modern part Toxicology deal with a variety of poisons- plant, animal origin poisons, etc. and its management. In ancient times it has been a tradition of *vishachikitsa* that it is to be taught only through guru *shishyasampradaya*. Hence very extraordinary books were available during that time. *Vishavaidyajyotsnika* reconfirms its relevance as it narrates about the old tradition of *vishavaidya sampradaya* along with *Mantra chikitsa* which was handwritten in the local language *Malayalam* in Kerala and now also In Kerala folklore practitioners are practising *Mantra Chikitsa* with efficient results, but it is not validated in the world because of lack of documentation and research. if someone tries to do so then no practitioner come forward to accept that. The word meaning of *vishavaidyajyotsnika* is the moonlight that gives eternal happiness from heart¹. If we see the more concept of antidote according to *Ayurveda in Vagbhatta* it is explained in detail about the use of *Prativisha* in almost all types of *Visha* and indicate if the *vishavega* is in between 5th and 7th vega that we can see according to the symptom of patients. *Prativisha* possesses *Vyavayi Guna*, so that act enthusiastically on an existing symptom of the patient and have an affinity for the same system on which *visha* has suffered.

Various poisons have been described and for their management, different antidotes have been mentioned in texts of *vishajyotsnika*.

If we see what a toxin is then the answer, we got is a toxin is a substance which when introduced into or applied to the body is capable of injuring health or destroying life. It causes damage to tissues, disease or demise to the organism. “*Vishad jannatwama visham*” which means the substance that causes *vishad* (sadness) to the World is called *Visha*. As humanity becomes despaired at the sight of it, it was called *visha*². *visha* are classified according to different *Acharya's* as *Sthavar* (Plant) and *Jangam* (Animal) as main classified form. There are various vega's mentioned by acharya's sthava as 7 *vega's* by Acharya sushruta and 8 by Acharya Charak and *Jangam* as *Darvikar mandala rajimant* vega's. If we see the treatment according to *vega* of *sthavara* and *jangam visha* then we can see they destroy each other, hence patients bitten by *Jangama Visha* should be administered, *Sthavara visha* and for *sthavara visha* (plant poison), *janagam visha* (animal poison) is to be administered. They can be used in the form of internal and external applications. *Prativisha* has action opposite to that poison how it acts will be discussed in the Discussion part.

Aim and Objective

To review the effect of antidote in *Visha* told in *Ayurveda* texts

Here are some *Ayurveda* antidotes mentions in *Visha jyotsnika* are-

Table 1: Poison and its antidote ³

S.N.	Poison	Antidotes
1.	<i>Kannampatty</i>	<i>Puzhaparui (Hibiscus tiliaceus)</i>
2.	<i>Panasa</i>	<i>Telkada (Heliotrapium indicum), shunti (Zingiber officinale)</i>
3.	Alcohol	Lemon (<i>Citrus limon</i>)
4.	<i>Bhanga (Cannabis sativa)</i>	<i>Bimbi (Coccinia indica)</i>
5.	<i>Aveen (Papaver somniferum)</i>	Root and leaves of <i>mathigni (Datura metel)</i>
6.	<i>Langali (Gloriosa superba)</i>	Root of <i>neeli (Indigofera tintoria)</i>
7.	<i>Nirvisha (Delphinium denudatum)</i>	<i>Maricha (Piper nigrum)</i>

8.	<i>Pashana- sarshapa (Brasica nigra)</i>	<i>Root of neeli (Indigofera tinctoria), mrinalam (Nelumbo nucifera)</i>
9.	<i>Aaval (Chirivilwa- Holoptelea integrifolia) and Chitraka (Plumbago zeylanica)</i>	<i>Eranda (Ricinus communis), navaneeta (butter) and shatavari (Asparagus recemoso)</i>
10.	Oral intake of <i>Kupilu (Strychnus nuxvomica)</i>	<i>Kalka of tender leaves of Gunja (Abrus precatoris)</i>
11.	<i>Dhooma patra</i>	<i>Coconut milk</i>
12.	<i>Vatsanabha (Aconitum ferox)</i>	<i>Nirvisha (Delphinium denudatum)</i>
13.	Removing poison from buttermilk and curd	<i>Old unripe mango brine and cotyledon</i>
14.	<i>Taila veerya</i>	<i>Saline water</i>
15.	<i>Parada (Mercury)</i>	<i>Kushmanda (Benincasa hispida)</i>

Definition of Prativisha

Prativisha means which act against *visha*. It is made up of two words.

Prati + *Visha* (Means against) (means those destroy body) *Prativisha* means the medicine which is used for the purpose of pacifying *Visha Utpanna Lakashana*. Antidotes are a substance that acts specifically to prevent, inhibit, inactivate, counteract, reverse or relieve the achievement or poisonous effect of a toxic agent.

Need of antidote to being used^[4-7]

1. If the poison may not have been completely removed by emesis or gastric lavage.

2. If we see the CI, where these procedures are contraindicated like corrosive, strychnine, coma, volatile poisons (petroleum distillates) etc.

3. The poison is already absorbed.

4. The poison/toxin has been administered by a route other than ingestion.

Universal antidote^[8]

The universal antidote is defined as that is used in those cases where the nature of the ingested poisons is unknown or where it is suspected that a combination of two or more poisons has been taken. It consists of a mixture of readily available substances, as follows

Table 2:

Ingredients	Quantity	Type of antidote	Action
Powdered charcoal	2 Parts	Physical	Adsorbs alkaloids
Magnesium oxide (milk of magnesia)	1 Part	Chemical	Neutralize acid
Tannic acid	1Part	Chemical	Precipitate alkaloids, Glycosides and metals

Indications of Prativisha^[9-10]

1. When the effect of the poison is not subsided by Mantra-Tantra measures and other *Aushada Upakarma* and drug management.

2. When *Visha-Pidita* has crossed 5th Vega but has yet not completed 7th Vega. I.e., either in 6th or 7th *Visha Vega*.

3. the Emergency condition or when all methods of treatment fail, the *Prativisha* should be administered.

Contra-indication of Prativisha^[11,12]

1. In case of doubt whether a person is having poison or not.

2. *Agada* administer following the lapse of 7th *Visha Vega*.

3. When poison is limited to a small area in blood, *prativisha* should not be administered.

4. In a person who consumes *Ruksha Aahar* (dry food), the use of *prativisha* produces disorder of vision, pain in the ear and *vatavyadi*.

5. *Prativisha* must not be administered during the rainy period and on cloudy days.

6. Who are in anger, suffering from diseases of *Pitta*.

7. Who is concerned very much from hunger, thirst, exertion, sun, light, long walk or disease, the pregnant woman, children, the aged person?

8. Those are dry (emaciated greatly) and those anguish from illness of vital organ.

Dose of Prativisha in different poisoned condition^s^[11]

1. For the patient of snakebite (*Jangham visha*)- Vegetable poisons (*Sthaver visha*) should be used in the different doses-

- a) *Heena Matra* (minium dose) - 4 *Yava* (1 *Ratti*=125mg)
 b) *Madhyama Matra* (moderate dose) -6 *Yava* (187.5mg)
 c) *Uttama Matra* (maximum dose)- 8 *Yava* (250mg)
 2. For the patients of insect bite (*keeta dansha*)- 2 *Yava Matra* (62.5mg)

3. For scorpion bite- 1 *Tila Matra*
 4. In case of a spider bite- In case of *sthavara visha* (Plant-based) should not be consumed orally; it should be applied to the skin after *Pracchana karma* (Incision).

If we see the modern antidote, these are shown as follows-

Specific poisoning	Specific antidote
Acetaminophen/Paracetamol	NAC
Aspirin	Sodium bicarbonate
Arsenic	BAL
Anticholinergic poisoning	Physostigmine
Beta-blockers	Glucagon, Insulin
Benzodiazepines	Flumazenil
Botulism	Guanidine
Calcium channel blockers	Atropine, insulin, calcium, lipid emulsion
Copper	Penicillamine
Chloroquine	Desferrioxamine mesylate
Lead	Calcium disodium EDTA
Mercury	N-Acetyl Penicillamine
Methanol	Ethanol
Tricyclic Antidepressant	Sodium bicarbonate
Snakebite	Anti-snake venom
Scorpion sting	Anti-Scorpion venom
Insulin	Glucose/dextrose
() Calcium channel blockers	Atropine, insulin, calcium, lipid emulsion

DISCUSSION

We had seen the definition of *visha*(poison), types of *visha* and how it acts and the only key for *visha* treatment is giving *amrita* in form of Antidot. Let's discuss what are the properties of an antidote. These are the properties of Antidotes-

1. A substance known as Antidotes exert effects by a variety of mechanisms, including forming an inert complex with the toxin, accelerating detoxification of the poison, reducing the rate of conversion of the poison to a more toxic compound, opposite with the poison for essential receptor sites, blocking essential receptors through which the toxic effects are mediated, and bypassing the effect of the poison

2. The use of antidotes depends upon its indications and availability of drugs. Most of the antidotes explained in this text are of plant origin.

If we want to see the exact mode of action of each antidote, we can see do research work during our PG Studies. This is a very good research area for PG scholars. The probable mode of action of each antidote can work with the concept of incompatible action for each other as we have already seen like in day-to-day practice, we can see the alcoholic patients if take excessive alcohol than using lemon juice we can reduce the toxicity of Liquor. Likewise, Neeri Root for Langali poisoning. Ethanol for methanol poisoning etc. we can take each antidote for different poisoning for the research work. Hence an attempt has been made to combine all in one paper.

CONCLUSION

Ayurveda knows the importance of *Prativisha* (Antidote) in counteracting poison belongings. *Visha* is having like *Laghu*, *Aashu*, *Sukshma*, *Vyavayi*, *Vikashi* and so on merits which will penetrate *Sukshmatikushma srotas* and act very quickly *Sthavarvishas* are the types of *visha*, they have many types, by this article we can identify the *sthavarvisha* and its stages. We can treat stage-wise and *vishadravya* wise. In the case of *Sthavarvisha* poisoning. *Prativisha* is used by *dravyas* which will counteract the effect of poison. These *prativisha* should be used in the form of internal and external applications.

Hence this article had explained some specific antidotes for *Stavara* and *Jangama visha*. Classical *prativisha* (antidote) is to be evaluated systematically with special reference to their effect, dosage, safety and applicability. If we do more research, then it can be validated globally.

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