



Research Article

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**PHARMACEUTICAL MODIFICATION OF VICHARCHIKARI TAILA TO
VICAHARCHIKARI MALAHARA: A QUICK APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

Vicharchikari tailam is a poly-herb mineral oil described in Bhaishajya Ratnavali in Kushthaadhikaaara. First this taila (medicated oil) was prepared classically and then converted into malahara (semisolid form) and evaluated clinically and then compared their clinical results in disease Vicharchika (Disease correlating eczema). The aim of conversion of taila (medicated oil) into malahara (semisolid form) was to decrease the inconvenience of application while use, good portability and moreover to increase contact time with skin which make this dosage form more reliable clinically as well as became patient-friendly. Malahara form was designed by using Vicharchikari taila and sikhthaka (bee wax) on the principle of Sikhtha taila formation given in Ras-tarangini. The pharmaceutical aspect of Vicharchikari tailam and its modification as Vicharchikari malahara are discussed in this article. Till date no pharmaceutical aspect of this Ayurvedic formulation was established. Hence it can make standard for further future studies.

Key Words: Vicharchikari tailam, Vicharchikari malahar, Sikhtha taila

INTRODUCTION

It is utmost need to understand medicines or systems those were existing in use before emergence of current “synthetic era” and visualize the future of medicine and health care in the “technology era”. The linkage between “the past” and “the future” of medicine is much more important and can give us “new directions” for better understanding health, disease and possible solutions. Looking into this background it is desirable to understand the Ayurvedic properties of many formulations. This approach would assist in evolving innovative combinations, investigate new uses and conduct clinical trials with appropriate targets. Most Ayurvedic drugs/herbs are in use since times immemorial and experience of thousands of physicians is available to vindicate their safety and efficacy. An understanding of the transport behaviour of drugs is vital for designing an effective topical product, as well as reasonably predicting and comparing drug behaviour in various formulations. The latter is of practical importance for Ayurveda pharmaceuticals to suggest one or more effective drug products out of the many commercial formulations available or to counsel

patients on proper use and handling of topical and transdermal products. It is challenging one to remain aware of these products and provide suitable suggestions to the patient. Compared with liquid dosage forms, semisolid form offer not only improved patient compliance, but also superior uniformity of drug concentrations in plasma throughout their duration of use. This is especially advantageous for prophylactic treatment or maintenance therapy in chronic conditions where the patient is otherwise required to carry around it and remember to take them several times a day. Hence this study was performed. Here, pharmaceutical aspects of Vicharchikari tailam (by Bhaishajya Ratnavali) formulation and its pharmaceutical modification as Vicharchikari malahara are discussed.

Aims and objectives

- Pharmaceutical development of Vicharchikari Tailam.
- Pharmaceutical modification of Vicharchikari tailam as Vicharchikari malahara.
- To develop the Physico-chemical profile of both.

Table 1: Ingredients of Vicharchikari Tailam¹

Kalka dravyas (bolus of drugs) - each 6 gm	Drava dravya (liquids) each approximately 375 ml	Sneha (base oil) - 375 ml
Nisha (<i>Curcuma longa</i>)	Jaati patra swarasa (<i>Jasminum officinale</i> Linn)	
Shuddha Vatsanabhi (<i>Aconitum chasmanthum</i>)	Nimba patra swarasa (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>)	
Maricha (<i>Piper nigrum</i>)	Kutaj kwath (<i>Holarrhena antidysentrica</i>)	
Shunthi (<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roxb)	Dronpushpi Swarasa (<i>Leucas cephalotes</i>)	Sharshap taila (Mustard oil)
Shuddha kupeelu (<i>Strychnos nuxvomica</i>)	Arka patra swarasa (<i>Calotropis procera</i>)	
Kalingaka (<i>Holarrhena antidysentrica</i>)		
Ashwamara (<i>Nerium indicum</i>)		
Shuddha Manashila (Realgar)		
Shuddha Haritala (Orpiment)		
Shuddha Kaseesa (Green vitriol)		
Nagar (<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roxb).		
Pippali (<i>Piper longum</i>)		

Table 2: Ingredients of Vicharchikari Malahara (Pharmaceutical Modification as Semisolid Form) ²

Vicharchikari tailam	5 parts
Siktha (Bees-wax)	1 part

MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Procurement of Raw materials.
2. Shodhana (Purification) of Rasa dravyas (mineral drugs) and toxic herbals.
3. Preparation of Vicharchikari tailam by Sneha-paaka vidhi.
4. Preparation of Vicharchikari malahara by Siktha taila preparation method.

Procurement of Raw Materials

Raw sample of Haritala (Orpiment), Manahshila (Realgar), Kaseesa (Green vitriol) were purchased from the authentic sources according to grahya- agrahya lakshanas. Rest other kalka dravyas and drava-dravyas were collected from authentic palaces. For drava dravyas fresh herbs were collected.

Shodhana (Purification) of Rasa Dravyas (Mineral Drugs) and Toxic Herbals

Table 3: Shodhana (Purification) of Rasa Dravyas (Mineral Drugs) And Toxic Herbals

Shodhaniya Dravya (material for purification)	Process adopted
Haritala (Orpiment)	Svedana (Distillation) with Dola-yantra in Kushmanda swarasa ³ .
Manashila (Realgar)	Bhavana (Trituration) in Ardraka swarasa ⁴
Kaseesa (Green Vitriol)	Svedana with Bhringraj swarasa ⁵
Vatsanabhi	Soaking in Gomutra for 3 days ⁶
Kuchala seeds	Frying in Ghrita ⁷

Preparation of Vicharchikaari Taila⁸

Vicharchikari tailam was prepared as per the general rule of taila-paaka using Kalka, Sneha, Drava-dravya as given ratio given in Bhaishajya Ratnavali. The Changes observed during Taila-paaka was noted with caution. Precaution while taila-paaka was maintained.

Procedure

All the ingredients of kalka were processed as required and then grinded into a bolus using drava dravya, swarasa, kwatha. It was mixed with swarasa, kwatha thoroughly first and then put into sharshapa taila (mustard oil) which was heated and cooled in advance. The mixture of kalka, drava dravya and mustard oil were blended thoroughly to make it homogenous. The heating was started and was completed in 3 days by adjusting the period of heating. On reaching Khara paaka the taila was filtered using a clean cloth and allowed to cool. It was then preserved in air

tight coloured bottles. Precaution was maintained during taila-paaka with gentle heating, avoid sticking to bottom of the vessel.

Preparation of Vicharchikaari Malahara⁹:

The pharmaceutical methodology of Vicharchikari malahara comprises procedure of Siktha taila formation as given in Ras-tarangini.

Procedure

Vicharchikari tailam was taken in a vessel and heated in low flame. Then Sikhthaka (Bees-wax) which was collected before from an authentic dealer was added to that taila. After proper mixing, it was removed from the fire and stirred continuously and gently until homogenous mixture and equally mixed with cooling. This prepared semisolid Vicharchikari malahara was kept in dry wide mouthed bottle.



Figure 1: Vicharchikari tailam



Figure 2: Vicharchikari malahara



Figure 3: Packed Vicharchikari taila and Vicharchikari malahara

DISCUSSION

Skin absorption is a route by which substances can enter the body through the skin. Along with inhalation, ingestion and injection, dermal absorption is a route of exposure for toxic substances and route of administration for medication. Absorption of substances through the skin depends on a number of factors, the most important of which are concentration,

duration of contact, solubility of medication, and physical condition of the skin and part of the body exposed.

In the present study two types of topical application Taila and Malahara (a pharmaceutical modification of same taila) was given for assessing its comparative efficacy along with internal medication in Vicharchika. The idea behind Malahara chosen for topical application was that it will have a more contact time with the skin as compared to taila, and added effect of base of

malahara. If more contact time will be there, more will be the absorption through skin and hence will show more therapeutic effect. Semisolid dosage forms constitute a significant pharmaceutical form. The semisolid forms are unique to its composition.

Semisolid applications can adhere to application surface for sufficiently long periods before they can be washed off. This property helps prolong drug delivery at the application site. As Vicharchika disease is very chronic in nature, that's why we have selected two modes of external medication as taila and malahara along with internal medication, to avoid the progressiveness of the disease and then we compared its efficacy.

Sneha siddha (fat soluble) drugs have better pharmacokinetic action in comparison to other dosage forms because of the lipid nature of the bio membranes, as lipid soluble substances readily permeate into the cells. Aim of this arrangement is mass transfer of the aqueous and lipid-soluble active principles of all treated herbal drugs and material of animal and mineral origin.

Now-a-days the prime importance of any pharmaceutical preparation lies in its cost-effectiveness, easy method of preparation, portability and patient friendliness. Vicharchikari malahara is such a formulation which involves the process of malahara kalpana. The main aim of this pharmaceutical study is to establish an easy and appropriate method for the preparation of Vicharchikari malahara. Here we adapted a very easy method of preparation for Vicharchikari malahara which is based on Siktha taila preparation in Rasa-tarangini.

RESULTS

Table 4: Physico-Chemical Parameters of Vicharchikari Taila

SL No.	Parameters	Vicharchikari taila (Fresh)	Vicharchikari taila (6 months)
1.	Color	Greenish	Greenish
2.	Consistency	Oily	Oily
3.	Smell	Typical	Typical
4.	Specific gravity ¹⁰	0.9352	0.9352
5.	Refractive index ¹¹	0.9540	0.9542
6.	Saponification value ¹²	168.8	170.0
7.	Acid value ¹³	1.226	1.3
8.	Iodine value ¹⁴	101.0	103.0
9.	Arsenic ¹⁵	0.446 ppm	0.500 ppm
10.	Ester value	167.574	168.7
11.	Rancidity test ¹⁶	Negative	Negative

Table 5: Physico-Chemical Parameters of Vicharchikari Malahara

SL No.	Parameters	Vicharchikari malahara (Fresh)	Vicharchikari malahara (6 months)
1.	Colour	Greenish	Greenish
2.	Consistency	Semisolid	Semisolid
3.	Smell	Typical	Typical
4.	Refractive index ¹¹	0.9542	0.9542
5.	Saponification value ¹²	170.0	173.0
6.	Acid value ¹³	1.0	1.1
7.	Iodine value ¹⁴	101.0	102.0
8.	Arsenic ¹⁵	0.260 ppm	0.265ppm
9.	Peroxide value	4.01	4.05
10.	Rancidity test ¹⁶	Negative	Negative

CONCLUSION

Present study was focused on evolvement of an easy method of preparation of Vicharchikari malahara, which is quick, easy, and cost-effective. Hence, this procedure of preparation of Vicharchikari malahara can be applied on other tailas too. The therapeutic potential can be encouraging for market values and better adaptability by the patients.

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