



## Review Article

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## A REVIEW ON ANTIDOTE AS PER AYURVEDIC PERSPECTIVE

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## ABSTRACT

Agad tantra is a branch of Ayurveda that deals with study of poisons (animal, plant and mineral origin) and their management. Poison is a substance that destroys life and impairs the body functions. Ayurveda defines poison as Visha, the substance which causes sadness to the world is called Visha. If one attains immediate treatment, it may relieve the condition otherwise it may be fatal. Prativisha is the poison to be used as a treatment against another poison. In modern, Prativisha is comparable to an antidote. Antidotes can be defined as substances that counteract the effects of poison. The term antidote was ultimately derived from the Greek term pharmakon antidoton (medicine) given as a remedy. Many poisons and their antidotes are described in the Agad Tantra text. Common antidotes in Ayurveda are Swarna, Ghrita, Godudha and Madhu. A vaidya's primary goal is to save life of patients so the concept of antidotes is explained. In this review article, we will discuss antidotes as per Ayurvedic science.

**Keywords:** Antidotes, Poison, Toxicology, Prativisha

## INTRODUCTION

According to Indian Pharmacopoeia any substance (mineral/ herbal/ animal) taken internally/ inhaled/ applied topically/ administered through rectum or parentally leads to toxic effect or death, is called poison<sup>1-2</sup>.

In 2021, the National Poisoning Data System (NPDS) of the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) reported 8884 single exposures to heavy metals. Of those exposures, 2787 were in children younger than 6 years, and 4014 were in patients older than 19 years<sup>3</sup>. 307 Deaths due to Rabies were reported in 2022<sup>4</sup>. 2.78 crore cases of dog bites reported in six years between 2018 and 2023<sup>4</sup>.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 5 million snakebites occur each year, resulting in up to 2.7 million envenomings. Published reports suggest that between 81,000 and 138,000 deaths occur each year. Snakebite envenoming causes as many as 400,000 amputations and other permanent disabilities<sup>5</sup>.

In Atharvaveda, two types of visha are found one is sthavara and other is jangama and their management through mantrachikitsa is recited.

Over the centuries, the development of knowledge about poisons and antidotes depended on their conceptualization, however, a range of poisons and the concept of antidotes evolved.

## Need of Prativisha

By emesis or gastric lavage, the poison might not have been entirely eliminated. The poison has already been absorbed. The poison/toxin was introduced by means other than ingestion.<sup>6</sup>

## Dose

For Jangma Visha: The dosage of Sthavara Visha should be used.<sup>7</sup>  
 4 Yava for Heena Matra (Minimal Dose)  
 6 Yava for Madhyama matra (Moderate dose)  
 8 Yava for Uttam Matra (Maximum dose)  
 For Keeta damsha - 2 Yava  
 For Vruschika damsha - 1Tila  
 For Luta damsha - External application after Pracchana karma<sup>8</sup>

Table 1: Sthavar Visha and their Antidotes

Sthavar Visha	Antidotes
Vatsnabha	1)Meghdnadh Patra swarasa <sup>9</sup> 2)Patvn vraksha Rasa <sup>10</sup>
Bhallataka	1)Kapikachchu <sup>9</sup> 2)Palash pushpa <sup>9</sup> 3)Meghanadh Cholai with Navneet (Lepa) <sup>10</sup> 4)Navneet+Daru haridra+sharshap+Mustak <sup>10</sup>
Dhatura	1)Nimbu swarasa, Jiraka <sup>9</sup> 2)Godhugdha+sharkara <sup>10</sup> 3)Vrantaka phala beej Ras <sup>10</sup>

	4)Karpas Asthi+Karpas pushp kuwatha <sup>9</sup>
Ahiphena	1)Aadhraka <sup>9</sup> 2)Shunthi <sup>9</sup> 3)Brahatshudra Rasa with Milk <sup>10</sup>
Snuhi ksheera	1)Avartaki <sup>9</sup> 2)Suwarna-gairika with water <sup>10</sup>
Gunja	1)Medhnada Rasa with Sharkara <sup>10</sup> 2)godugdha <sup>10</sup>
Kuchala	1)Jambu <sup>9</sup> 2)Ketki <sup>9</sup> 3)Madhu+Sharkara+Ghrita <sup>10</sup>
Bhanga	1)Shunti with Godahi <sup>10</sup>
Karveera	1)Haritaki <sup>9</sup> 2)Mahish Dadhi with Sharkara <sup>10</sup> 3)Arka Twaka Churna with water <sup>10</sup>
Langali	1)Shunthi <sup>9</sup>
Arka ksheera	1)Nili Swarasa <sup>10</sup> 2)Suwarna gairika with water <sup>10</sup> 3)Chincha Patra (Tamarind) with water <sup>10</sup>
Trivrit	1)Babul Twak <sup>9</sup>
Unmad due to Dhatura	1)Kamal Churan <sup>9</sup> 2)Tandulodak <sup>9</sup>
Danti Beej	1)Dhanyak with Sita <sup>10</sup>
Karpur	1)Bhringraj <sup>9</sup>

Table 2: Jangam Visha and their Antidotes

Jangam Visha	Antidotes
Snake bite	1.Ghrahadhoom+haridra+daruharidra+Tanduliyak smoola – Anupan madhu, ghrit <sup>11</sup> 2. Langhali Moola pishta in water- Nasya <sup>12</sup> 3. Arka Moola+ tankana – pishta in water <sup>13</sup> 4. Shobhanjana beeja – Bhavna dravya(shirish swarasa) –Nasya <sup>14</sup> 5. Vakra+ kushtha + Shodra ghrita <sup>15</sup> 6. Kulikmool- Nasya <sup>16</sup> 7. Haridra+Panchshirish kwath <sup>10</sup> 8. Mrich+changeri swaras+ghrit <sup>17</sup> 9. Triphala+kushtha+Chandan <sup>10</sup> 10. Saindhav+Mrich+Neem with madhughrita <sup>17</sup>
Rabies	1. Sharpunkha Moola + Dhatura (with Tandulodak) <sup>18</sup> 2. Dhatura patra kalka with Tandulodaka <sup>19</sup> 3. Purana ghrita <sup>19</sup> 4. Shirisha beeja + Snuhi ksheera -Lepa <sup>19</sup> 5. Shatavarimool swaras+godugdha <sup>20</sup> 6. Bheemrudra Vati <sup>18</sup> 8. Apamargmool Kalka+ Madhu <sup>8</sup>
Scorpion bite	1. Jiraka kalka+ghrit +Sendhav +madhu – Lepa <sup>21</sup> 2. Rock salt powder + warm cow ghee – Lepa <sup>22</sup> 3. Navsadar+Hartal- Lepa <sup>23</sup> 4.Sankhiya+neem-Lepa <sup>23</sup> 5.Saindhav+Ghrit <sup>23</sup> 6. Palashbeej+Arka ksheera-Lepa <sup>16</sup>
Loota	1.Pipali +Sleshmatak +vibhitaka – lepa <sup>24</sup> 2. Snuhi ksheer+Arka ksheer-Lepa <sup>25</sup> 3. Madhuyashti+Shunthi+Gomutra-Lepa <sup>15</sup> 4. Haridra+Tulsi swaras-Lepa <sup>15</sup>
Shatpadi	1.Kumkumadi Agada <sup>26</sup>
Keeta Visha	1. Dashang Agada <sup>27</sup> 2. Champaka Agada <sup>28</sup> 3. Padhamka Agada <sup>29</sup> 4.Shirish panchang kwath+Trivrit+madhu+lavana <sup>30</sup> 5. Gomaya Ras with madhughrit <sup>31</sup> 6. Mrityupashchedi Ghrit <sup>32</sup>
Galgolika	1.Rajanyaadi Agad <sup>33</sup>
Makshika	1.Krashn Valmiki mratika pishti with gomutra – Lepa <sup>34</sup> 2.Triphala+.Krashn Valmiki mratika pishti with gomutra-Lepa <sup>11</sup>
Mandoka	1. Meshsharangi Agada <sup>35</sup> 2. Shirisha +Snuhi sheera –lepa <sup>36</sup>
Piplika	1.Krashn Valmiki mratika pishti with gomutra – Lepa <sup>34</sup>
Jaloka Visha	Breast milk+Haridra <sup>11</sup>
Matsaya Visha	Aprajita+trikatu+ghrit-Lepa <sup>36</sup>

**Table 3: Dhatu Visha and their Antidotes**

Dhatu Visha	Antidotes
Loha	1. Durva Rasa with madhu <sup>9</sup> 2. Saindhav+Trivrit with warm water <sup>9</sup>
Tambra	1. Sonfa with sharkara (early morning) <sup>9</sup>
Abharaka	1.Aamlaki fruit pishti in water <sup>9</sup>
Makshika	1.Kulatha kasaya <sup>9</sup> 2.Dadima tvaka <sup>9</sup>
Suvarna	1. Haritaki with sharkara <sup>9</sup>
Parada	1.Nagvalli Rasa+ bharangraj + Tulsi Rasa take one of these in Prastha Matra only and Mardhana with goat milk <sup>9</sup>
Ras karpooora	1.Dhaniya with sharkara <sup>9</sup>
Hartal <sup>9</sup>	1.Jiraka with sharkara 2.Kushmanda Rasa 3.Durlabha Rasa 4.Rajhansi rasa
Vanga	1.Meshsharangi +sita <sup>9</sup>
Naga	1.Hema haritki +sita mishri <sup>9</sup>
Manahashila <sup>9</sup>	1.Jiraka + makshika 2.Dugdha+madhu
Yashada	1.Ela + madhu+sharkara <sup>9</sup>
Gandhak <sup>9</sup>	1.Lavang+Vacha 2.Cow milk+Ghrit
Malla (Arsenic) <sup>9</sup>	1.Nimbu Swaras 2.Khadirsara+sharkara

**Table 4: List of poison and its specific antidotes in Basavarajeeyam**

Poison	Antidote
Ankola, Karveera	Haritaki
Langali	Shunthi
Bhallatak	Palash Pushpa
Snuhi ksheera	Avartaki
Vishamushti	Jambu
Karpura	Bhringraj
Jambu phala	Godugdha
Sarshapa	Amalaki
Honey, Ghee	Water
Tambula	Imli
Araganikudu	Mustard Oil
Vatsnabha	Meghanada
Kanaka beeja	Nimbu swaras
Hayanaka	Chandan
Buttermilk	Katak
Arka ksheera	Neeli
Karpasa beeja	Pashana
Panasa	Shunthi
Trivrit	Babul Twak
Sesame seed	Ketaki
Neem	Khajur
Balurakkasi	Varuna
Mudga	Jaggery
Narikela	Tandula

## CONCLUSION

This article has discussed various specific antidotes that are widely available. Prativisha is used in any cases where the impact of the poison persists despite the application of Mantra-Tantra techniques, medicinal remedies, and drug administration. It may be used when the individual affected by poison has surpassed the 5th stage of Vega but has not yet reached the 7th stage, specifically in either the 6th or 7th stage of poison. In situations of emergency or when all treatment approaches prove ineffective, the administration of Prativisha becomes necessary. Hence this article had explained some specific antidotes for Sthavara and Jangama visha. Classical prativisha (antidote) is to be evaluated systematically with special reference to their effect, dosage, safety, and applicability.

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