



Review Article

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A CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PRATIVISHA FROM VISHOPAYOGIYA ADHYAYA OF UTTARSTHANA OF ASHTANGA SANGRAHA: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

'Agada tantra' is one of important branch among Ashtanga which deals with the diseases and treatment due to poison. In Ashtanga Sangraha Uttarsthana 48th Vishopayogiya Adhyaya of concept related to use of Visha to treat poisoning and different disease is given. Visha is heavily poisonous, But the Different Prativisha Yogas prepared from visha cannot be considered as harmful, it is not a threat to the life. Prativisha Yogas mentioned is indicated different diseases conditions. The use of snake venom for medicinal remedy, indications and contra indications of the Prativisha yogas are well mentioned in this chapter. It has been reviewed through many research articles that Visha such as Vatsanabha and snake venom have wide therapeutic Application. It is need of time to conduct research on Prativisha yogas to establish their clinical importance. This paper highlights the clinical significance of Visha Upayogiya Adhyaya.

Keywords: Ashtanga Sangraha, Vishopayogiya, Visha Dravyas, Prativisha

INTRODUCTION

Ashtanga Sangraha is one among the Brihatrayee grantha of Ayurveda. It was written by Acharya Vridha Vagbhata. It describes eight branches i.e. Ashtanga of Ayurveda.¹ Agada Tantra is the branch of Ayurveda which is always depicted as the science which deals with the different sources of poison, types of poison, their signs and symptoms, complications and their management.² Agada Tantra is described in Uttarsthana of Ashtanga Sangraha. The 48th Chapter Visha Upayogiya Adhyaya deals about use of visha as drug or Prativisha (counter poison). Visha is classified into Sthavara Visha (Inanimate poison), Jangama Visha (Animate poison) and Kritima Visha. When such types of Visha enters into the body, different signs and symptoms appear on the body. When general treatments got fail and physician is sure that patient is about to die; then only the Prativisha is administered. This Adhyaya describes about Necessity of using Prativisha, Medication dosage for poisoning, Sarpa Visha Prayoga, Prativisha Prayoga vidhi and Prativisha Yogas in detail. This paper highlights the clinical significance of Visha.³

Conceptual Review

There is Samanya Chikitsa and specific treatment for all poisoning condition is mentioned. When the effects of poison do not subside by curative hymns and drug, after the lapse of the fifth stage and before the lapse of seventh stage, Prativisha has to be administered, after duly informing the king (master or authority) but never without intimating someone (other than the patient).⁴ Sthavara Visha (vegetable and mineral poisons) generally possess properties similar to Kapha and spread upwards, whereas Jangama Visha possesses properties of Pitta

and spread downward, thus the two kinds of poison possessing opposite qualities when put together destroy each other. person who is bitten by snake should be administered poisonous roots (vegetable poisons). The person who has consumed vegetable poison should be got bitten by snake by the clever physician. Nothing is equal to poison to neutralise the poison.

Medication dosage for poisoning

For a patient of snake bite, vegetable poison of the quantity of four, six and eight Yava are the minimum, moderate and maximum doses. For the patient bitten by Kita (insect) it will be two Yava and in case of scorpion bite it will be of the size of Tila (sesame seeds). For a case of spider bite, oral administration of Prativisha is not advisable, determining the site of bite exactly, it should be incised and Prativisha applied over it. Prativisha acts like nectar when applied/administered to wounds or persons who have poison in them; whereas it is poison only if the person is not having poison, powerful Prativisha administered to weak persons gives rise to many complications/diseases, in cases of doubt whether a person is having poison or not an Agada which is harmless should be administered. In person it acts as Gada, similarly Agada administered after lapse of suitable stage also causes disease.

Frequently used drugs with method of administration of Prativisha

Saktuka, Mustaka, Sringi (*Pistacia integerrima*), Valaka (*Pavonia odorata*), Sarshapa (*Brassica campestris* Linn.) and Vatsanabha (*Acontium ferox*) are safe acting Prativisha, possessing snigdha (unctuous), Ghana (compact) and Guru (heavy) qualities. After administration of strong counter poison patient should be made to drink Ghrita Processed with Bharangi

(*Clerodendrum serratum*), Dadhi, Dhumottha, Sariva (*Hemidesmus indicus*), Tanduliyaka (*Amaranthus spinosus*) or with Agaradhuma, Manjishtha (*Rubia cordifolia*) and Yashtimadhu (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) or Powder of Arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*) mixed with Ghrita.

Sarpa Visha Prayoga – Snake venom connotation and relevance

A hooded serpent which has been enraged and found emitting fumes from its mouth should be made to bite many times on a piece of meat fastened to the tip of a stick. The physician, after carefully deciding the strength of the poison should administer the powder of this meat to that patient (of poisoning) who has not been cured by any other anti-poisonous medicines. It should be dried up under sunlight in sufficient dry weather. Even in other diseases when all other methods of treatment fail, snake venom can be administered in the form of dried flesh powder. It can also be used for rejuvenation purpose. It has been reviewed through many research articles that; snake venom contributed in treatment of many medical conditions. Snake venom constituents of different species have different therapeutic actions such as Fibrinogenolytic, fibrinolytic activity, Cardiotonic, Anti-arrhythmic, anticancer, anti-paralytic activity, anti-inflammatory,

analgesic, anti-arthritis, antibacterial, antiviral, antibiotic activity which can be potentially used in treatment of various diseases.

Prativisha Prayoga Vidhi

The patient who has been purified by the use of Ghee (for oleation and purgation), who is taking only healthy foods, and who is pure in mind should be administered Prativisha after sunrise, during the winter and spring seasons generally, and in the summer for emergency cases only.

Contraindications

Prativisha should be avoided in the rainy season and cloudy days. It should not be given in diseases of Pitta, to the impotent, the king, the Brahmana, persons troubled by hunger, thirst, exertion, sunlight, long walks, or diseases; pregnant women, children, the elderly, those who are dry (emaciated greatly), and those suffering from diseases of vital organs. Though use of Prativisha becomes a daily habit, the use of pungent, sour, oils, salts, day sleep, sunlight, fire, and dry foods should be avoided. People who take dry foods, Prativisha use produces disorders of vision, pain in the ears, and diseases of Vata origin; in people suffering from indigestion, it may cause death itself.⁴

Prativisha Yogas

Prativisha Yogas	Indications
Visha consumed with Milk, Honey, Ghee	Vishahara - (Antitoxic) (oral)
Visha along with Sinduvra (<i>Vitex negundo</i>) and Tagara (<i>Valeriana wallichii</i>) is called Mritasanjivana	Vishahara – (Antitoxic) (oral)
Visha along with flowers of Shirisha (<i>Albizia lebbek</i>) and Vakra	Aakhu Visha (Rat Poison) (oral)
Visha with Devdaru (<i>Cedrus deodara</i>), Nata (<i>Valeriana wallichii</i>), Jatamansi (<i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i>), Dramili, Bakuchi (<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i>), Kusutha (<i>Saussurea lappa</i>)	Sarvavishahara - (cures all types of poisons) (oral)
Nasya of Powder made from Manashila, Anjana, Ala, Ela (<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>), Sinduvra (<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.), Amarahvayam, Manjishtha (<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>), Kumkuma (<i>Crocus sativus</i>) and Visha	Restore consciousness of unconsciousness person (Nasal)
Lepa of Saktu (barley flour) with milk and ghee	Daha (Burning sensation) due to Visha (External Application) ^[12]
Hartala soaked in cows urine and dried in the sun for three days, it should be consumed in the beginning of treatment, leads to Bruhana (strengthening) of the body. It is consumed along with Mastu (whey) in case of fever of Vata origin, with milk in fever of Pitta origin, with cows urine in fever of Kapha origin and with decoction of Triphala in Tridoshaja origin	Jwara (Fever) (oral)
Visha along with Lodhra (<i>Symplocos racemosa</i>), Chandana (<i>Santalum album</i>), Vacha (<i>Acorus calamus</i>), Sugar, Ghee, Honey, Milk	Jeerna Jwara (chronic fever) (oral)
Visha along with decoction of Chitraka (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> Linn.), and Karkatshrungi (<i>Pistacia integerrima</i>)	Vishamjwara (intermittent fever) (oral)
Visha along with yashtimadhu (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.), Rasna (<i>Pluchea lanceolata</i>), Sevya (<i>Vetiveria Zizanioides</i>), (<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>) with Rice water	Raktapitta (Bleeding disorders) (oral)
Visha with Rasanjana (Extract of <i>Berberis aristate</i>), Bharangi (<i>Clerodendrum serratum</i>), Vrushchikali (<i>Pergularia daemia</i> Forsk.), Mahasaha, Mashaparni (<i>Phaseolus triloba</i>)	Vedana and Paki Vrana (Ulcers with pain and pus) (External application)
Visha with sugar, Kshirataru Prawal (leaf buds of Panchvalkala trees) macerated with honey.	Shwasa (dyspnoea) and Hikka (Hiccups) (oral)
Visha with Yavakshara, Ushira (<i>Vetiveria zizanioidis</i> Linn.) Yashtimadhu (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>), Haridra (<i>Curcuma longa</i>), kutaja bark (<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i>) mixed with honey.	Chhardi (vomiting) (oral)
One pala (40 gm) each of Haritaki (<i>Terminalia Chebula</i>), Pippalimula (Root of <i>Piper longum</i>), Pippali (<i>Piper longum</i>), Gajapippali (<i>Scindapsis officinalis</i>) Chitraka (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>), Pushkarmula (<i>Inula racemosa</i>), Shathi (<i>Hedychium spicatum</i>), Draksha (<i>Vitis vinifera</i>), Yawani (<i>Trachyspermum ammi</i>), Yavakshara (Alkali obtained from Yawa), Ajamoda (<i>Carum Roxburghianum</i>), Sugar, Yashtimadhu (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>), Bruhati (<i>Solanum indicum</i>), Kantakari (<i>Solanum surattense</i>), Saindhava (Rock salt) with half Pala (20 gm) of Visha and ghee taken one Prastha (2460 ml) and medicated ghee will be prepared	Durmama (piles), Meha (Diabetes), Gulma (Abdominal tumour), Arma (Pterygium), Timira (blindness), Krimi (worm infestation), Pandu (Anaemia), Galagraha (Sore throat), Graha (Possession by evil spirits, Unmad (Insanity), Kushtha (Skin diseases) (oral)
Visha together with Pathya (<i>Terminalia chebula</i>), Chitraka (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>), Danti (<i>Baliospermum montanum</i>), Draksha (<i>Vitis vinifera</i>), Haridra (<i>Curcuma longa</i>), Ativisha (<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i>)	Mutrakrichhra (dysuria) (oral)
Visha together with Shilajatu	Udawarta (upward movement inside the abdomen), Ashmari (Renal calculi) (oral)
Yavakshara, Saindhava, Visha, Pashanbheda (<i>Bereinia ligulata</i>) and cow urine mixed together.	Pittashmari (bile stones) (oral)
Pippali (<i>Piper longum</i> Linn.) plant together with its root, cows' urine and Visha	Shoola (colicky pain) (oral)
Visha with <i>Dravanti</i> (<i>Jatropha curcas</i>) Madhuka (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>), Draksha (<i>Vitis vinifera</i>), Rasna (<i>Pluchea lanceolata</i>), Shathi (<i>Hedychium spicatum</i>), Pippali (<i>Piper longum</i>)	Shoola (colicky pain) (oral)
Eranda taila (castor oil), Triphala, cows urine, Chitraka (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> Linn.), and Visha added with ghee.	Cures Vatanda (Scrotal enlargement). (oral)
Triphala, Swarjika Kshara with Visha	Gulma (Abdominal tumours) (oral)

Visha together with vella, misi (<i>Foeniculum capillaceum</i>) and milk	Gulma and Plihodara (Abdominal tumours and Enlargement of spleen)
Shatavha (<i>Anethum sowa</i>), Krimijit (<i>Embelia ribes</i>), Visha with Milk	Plihodara (Enlargement of spleen)
Visha consumed with Decotion of root of Vayasi (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>)	Kushtha (skin diseases) (oral)
Decotion made from Vayasi (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> Linn.), bark of Rajavriksha (<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn.), Trayanti (<i>Gentiana kurroo</i>), seeds of Bakuchi (<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i> Linn.), Ibhakana (<i>Scindapsus officinalis</i>) and Visha	Kushtha (skin diseases) (oral)
Seeds of Avalguja (<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i>), and Edagaja (<i>Cassia tora</i>), the Dwaykshara, Visha and Saindhava (Rock Salt) macerated with water	Kushtha (skin diseases) (external application)
Chitraka (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>), root of Arka (<i>Calotropis procera</i>), Hastippali (<i>Scindapsus officinalis</i>), Bakuchi (<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i>), and Visha macerated with cows' urine	Kushtha (skin diseases) (external application)
Monohva, Snuhi Kshira (<i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i>), Visha, Chandralekha (<i>Streptocarpus ionanthus</i>), Edagaja (<i>Cassia tora</i>), seeds of Karanja (<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>), Saindhava, Vyosha, Swarjika, kshara, Yavakshara, Haridra (<i>Curcuma longa</i>), Daruharidra (<i>Berberis aristata</i>) and Agaradhuma mixed with goats' urine.	Kushtha (skin diseases) (external application)
Bhallataka (<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i>), Agni (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>), Shamyaka (<i>Cassia fistula</i>) and Visha macerated with cows' urine	Vicharchika, Dadru, Shatāru and Kīṭibha (external application)
Leaves, bark and root of Aaragvadh (<i>Cassia fistula</i>) and Visha macerated with buttermilk	Vicharchika, Dadru, Shatāru and Kīṭibha (external application)
Visha, Bhallataka (<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i>), Dvipi (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>), Gunja (<i>Abrus precartoius</i>) and Nimbaphala (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>) macerated with a sour juices	Shwitra (Leucoderma), Pundarika (pathognomic Pundarika (a type of leprosy)) (external application)
Vakra, Kushtha (<i>Saussurea lappa</i>), Rasa (Sarjarasa), Dvipi (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>), Sprukka (<i>Anisomeles malabarica</i>), Patra and Elavaluka (<i>Prunus cerasus</i>) macerated in the decoction of Khadira (<i>Acacia catechu</i>), added with Visha (poison) allowed to stay for three days and then consumed. Then the blebs of leucoderma should be pricked with the thorns and paste mentioned in Kushtha chikitsa chapter is applied on them or paste of Karavira (<i>Nerium indicum</i>), Root of Arka, Bakuchi (<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i>), Visha, Dvipi, the two Pippali, and Arushkara (<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i>) macerated with goats' urine	Shwitra (leucoderma) (oral followed by external application)
Medicated oil is to be prepared either with Tila Taila or Katu taila with the decoction and paste of Laksha (<i>Laccifer lacca</i>), Surahva, Manjishtha (<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>), Kushtha (<i>Saussurea costus</i>), Padmaka (<i>Prunus cerasoides</i>), Sariva (<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>), seeds of Gunja (<i>Abrus precartoius</i>), Kurabaka (<i>Barleria prionitis</i>), Langali (<i>Gloriosa superba</i>), Vajrakandaka (<i>Syzygium Aromaticum</i>), Varahikanda (<i>Dioscorea alata</i>), Aspota (<i>Jasminum angustifolium</i>), Saptavha, Grikarnika (<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>), roots of Arka (<i>Calotropis procera</i>) and Ashvamara (<i>Nerium oleander</i>), Nagapushpa (<i>Mesua ferrea</i>), Nata, Haridra (<i>Curcuma longa</i>), Daruharidra (<i>Berberis aristata</i>), Danti (<i>Baliospermum montanum</i>), Visha, Ativisha (<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i>), Pippali (<i>Piper Longum</i>) and Maricha (<i>Piper nigrum</i>)	Shwitra (leucoderma) (external application)
Vira, Langali (<i>Gloriosa superba</i>), Danti (<i>Baliospermum montanum</i>), Visha and Pashanabheda (<i>Bergenia ligulata</i>) made into a Lepa and applied over the abdomen	Garbhamochana (external application)
Swarasa of Bijapuraka (<i>Citrus medica</i>), Vacha (<i>Acorus calamus</i>), Swarasa of Brahmi (<i>Bacopa monniera</i>), Visha and Ghee cooked together and consumed	Vandhya-Putraprapti - (Barren women bestows children to her) (oral)
Milk processed with Draksha (<i>Vitis vinifera</i>), Kapikachchu (<i>Mucuna pruriens</i>), Vacha (<i>Acorus calamus</i>), and Visha	Nashtashukra - (loss of semen) (oral)
Visha, mixed with Sugar and Honey	Timira (blindness) - (collyrium)
Visha macerated with goats milk and exposed to the fumes of Ghee	Timira (blindness) - (collyrium)
Visha together with Shankha (Conch Shell) soaked many times in the juice of Dhatriphala (<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>) and applied as collyrium	Timira (blindness) - (collyrium)
Visha and Indrayudha macerated with breast milk and used as collyrium	Kacha (partial blindness) - (collyrium)
Visha macerated with juice of Bijapuraka (<i>Citrus medica</i>), sugar is added and applied as collyrium	Kacha (partial blindness) - (collyrium)
Visha together with Magadhika (<i>Piper Longum</i>), Haridra (<i>Curcuma longa</i>) and Daruharidra (<i>Berberis aristata</i>) made as a collyrium	Kacha (partial blindness) - (collyrium)
Visha together with milk macerated with cows' urine	Shuklarma (Pterygium) - (collyrium)
Rasakriya prepared from the drugs Samudraphena (cuttle bone fish), Sphatika (alum), Kuruvinda, Sudha, Anjana, and Kurmaprushtha (tortoise shell), taken each equal in quantity and all together making one part, half part of Manashila (Realgar), Maricha (<i>Piper nigrum</i>), saindhava and ayoraja (iron fillings) each succeeding one less by half the quantity of its preceding and visha equal to quantity of ayoraja (iron filling) are powdered nicely, macerated with honey and made into rasakriya used as collyrium.	Shuklarma (Pterygium), Kacha (partial blindness) - (collyrium)
In Pilla group of diseases scrapping should be done first and later filled with juice of Surasa (<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>) macerated along with Rasonakanda (<i>Allium sativum</i>), Maricha (<i>Piper nigrum</i>), Visha, Sarshapa (<i>Brassica campestris</i>) and Saindhava (Rock Salt)	Pilla - (collyrium)
Ghee cooked with Madhuka Sara, Madhuka (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>), Visha, milk and water	Ratrandhatwa - (Nasal drops)
Pratyakpushpi (<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>), Sugar with Visha used as Nasya	Shiroruja (Headache) - (Nasal drops)
Yashtimadhu (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>), Visha, Ghee with Sugar	Shiroruja (Headache) - (Nasal drops)
Shunthi (<i>Zingiber officinale</i>), Pathya (<i>Terminalia chebula</i>), Visha, Patha (<i>Cissampelos pareira</i>) and Dravanti (<i>Jatropha curcas</i>) used as Nasya	Putinasa - (Nasal drops)
Visha and Katu Taila used as Nasya	Palita, Arunshika - (Nasal drops)
Sukta (vinegar) mixed with Swarjika Kshara (Sajjikhar), Saindhava and Visha	Trivakarnashoola - (Karnapoorana)
Medicated oil prepared with Prapaundarika (<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>), Manjishtha (<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>) Visha and Saindhava (Rock salt) used as Gandusha	Mukharoga - (Gandusha - holding of the fluid in the mouth)
Ghee prepared with Devadaru (<i>Cedrus deodara</i>), Visha, cows' urine and Kantakari (<i>Solanum surattense</i>)	Vachskhalana (Stammering) - (oral) ⁵

Significance of Vishopayogiya

Person who consumed *Prativisha* Habitually need not to be fear about poison given by enemies, Artificial poison, bites of spider, serpent, or rat bites, old age, untimely death, possession by an evil spirit.

DISCUSSION

Vishopayogiya represents use of *Visha Dravyas* in different poisoning conditions. In this we are applying the particular poisons only after a particular stage. *Visha* is heavily poisonous, But the Different *Prativisha* Yogas prepared cannot be considered as harmful, it is not a threat to the life. *Prativisha* Yogas mentioned is indicated in *Jeerna jwara* (chronic fever), *Prameha* (Diabetes), *Twak Vikara* (Skin disorders), *Raktapitta* (Bleeding disorders), *Shwasa* (dyspnoea) and *Hikka* (Hiccups), *Chhardi* (vomiting), *Durnama* (piles), *Gulma* (Abdominal tumour), *Arma* (Pterygium), *Timira* (blindness), *Krimi* (worm infestation), *Pandu* (Anaemia), *Galagraha* (Sore throat), *Graha* (Possession by evil spirits), *Unmad* (Insanity), *Mutrakrichhra* (dysuria), *Udawarta* (upward movement inside the abdomen), *Ashmari* (Renal calculi), *Pittashmari* (bile stones), *Shoola* (colicky pain), *Vatanda* (Scrotal enlargement), *Pleeharoga* (Enlargement of spleen), *Nashtashukra*, *Vedana-Pakiyukta Vrana* (Ulcers with pain and pus), *Kushtha - Vicharchika*, *Dadru*, *Kitibha* (Skin diseases), *Shwitra* (Leukoderma), *Pundarika* (pathognomic *Pundarika* (a type of leprosy), *Mudhgarbha* (Applied on the abdomen eases the obstructed foetus (possessing abnormal Presentations) to pass through the parturient canal), *Shwitra* (Leukoderma), *Timira* (blindness), *Kacha Shuklarma* (pterygium), *Shukla*, *Pilla* and *kacha* (Diseases of cornea, and sclera, blindness), *Naktandhata* (nourishing the eye in case of chronic night blindness), *Shirshula* (Headache), *Palitya* (Gray hairs), *Arunshika* (Ulcers on Scalp), *Karnashoola* (Severe pain in ear), *Mukharoga* (Disorders of Mouth).

There are different studies conducted on use of *Visha* as *Prativisha* describing use of *Vatsanabha* as *Prativisha* in cobra Poisoning showing Antipyretic, Analgesic, Anti rheumatic activities. Different published studies prove Fibrinogenolytic, fibrinolytic, Antitumor, Anticancer, Anti-paralytic, Antibacterial and Antiviral activity of snake venom and therapeutic use in different medical conditions. This studies signifies that even a

Visha can become an excellent medicine. Now It is need of time to conduct various researches on *Visha* and their therapeutic actions.

CONCLUSION

In *Vishopayogiya Adhyaya* concept regarding idea of using *Visha*, indications, procedure, and contra indications of the *Visha Dravyas* to treat poisoning is well compiled by *Vagbhata*. The Utility of *Visha* in different clinical conditions is given but it needs further research to establish their clinical significance. The establishment of information resources to enable timely usage and essential monitoring of toxic symptoms with suitable inventory of *Prativisha*.

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