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Review Article

ANALYSIS ON ACTION OF *RAKTHASTHAMBHAKA DRAVYA'S* IN *ASRIGDHARA* WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ABNORMAL UTERINE BLEEDING

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ABSTRACT

Rakta is the main constituent in the human body as it is considered as vital. Sthambhana means to prevent mobility or block, is one among the Shadvidopakrama and can be well-thought-out as a part of Chaturvidha Chikitsa. Raktasthambhana means to stop excess flow of Rakta because Atyaadhika Raktasrava (excessive menstrual bleeding) may be life threatening so haemostatic measures should be adopted. Asrigdhara defined as excessive and prolonged bleeding during menstruation with or without intermenstrual bleeding. The Nidana's leading to vitiation of Tridosha's in Garbhashaya Gata Siras and Artavavaha srotas leading to Artava Atipravrutti. Abnormal uterine bleeding is a common gynaecological complaint with various aetiologies and varied pathophysiological origins. Excessive bleeding during menstruation can restrict with her daily activities, disturb her wellbeing and reducing their efficiency in society. Excessive flow of blood during menstrual and intermenstrual period creates a condition of anaemia in the patient. The Raktasthambhaka Dravya's are not only helpful for stopping excessive and prolonged bleeding during menstruation but also regularizes menstrual cycle and acts on improving the quality of Rakta Dhatu were discussed in detail in the present paper with their clinical researches.

INTRODUCTION

 $\it Rakta$ is considered a subtle factor which sustains the life. [1] Menstruation denotes to the regular course of cyclical uterine bleeding that occurs in the reproductive years of the human female. Menstrual flow is a combination of whole blood (with red cells and polymorphonuclear leukocytes), endometrium and a serous endometrial transudate. With the onset of menstrual sloughing and bleeding, the requisite need for local haemostasis depends on various factors. The local vasoconstriction plays the dominant role in securing early haemostasis. Thromboxane (from vascular endothelial and platelet origins), endothelin-1, $PGF2\alpha$ each contribute to the induction of vasospasm in the spiral arteries of the endometrium.

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Increase in local levels of cyclooxygenase that converts arachidonic acid to prostaglandin precursors, increased synthesis of PGE2 compared with PGF2α and increased expression of PGE2 receptors. There is also a local increase in the synthetic capacity for PGI2 and its receptors. PGE2 & PGI2 can result in vasodilatation of the same vessels and high ratios of PGI2 and /or PGE2 to PGF2α. PGI2 (Prostacyclin) also a potent natural inhibitor of platelet aggregation. Excessive secretions of local factors of endometrium heparin like activity, TNF- α and VEGF resulting in changes in uterine vascular tone, disturbance of angiogenesis, disordered prostaglandin synthesis and increased nitric oxide production. The coagulation cascade is important for secondary haemostasis following day one of the cycle. Coagulation cascade depicted two distinct pathways, and intrinsic, each of which independently capable of activation of factor X(Xa), which ultimately, with the stimulus of activated factor V, catalyses the conversion of prothrombin to thrombin. Endometrial vascular clot is the process of fibrinolysis that is mediated by the generation of plasmin from plasminogen following its activation by

plasminogen activator. Enhanced fibrinolysis through increased endometrial levels of tissue plasminogen activator may impede the attainment of local haemostasis.^[2]

The Samprapti of Asrigdara states that the Prakupita Apana Vata withholding Prakupita Rakta Dhatu due to the etiological factors, increase in its Pramana and then reaching the Rajovaha sira's (Uterine and ovarian arteries \rightarrow Arcuate arteries \rightarrow Radial arteries \rightarrow Spiral arteries \rightarrow Basal Arteries) which further increases the amount Artava (menstrual blood). This increase in menstrual blood is due to its comparative increase of Rasa (plasma contents). The measurable increase in amount of Asruk (menstrual blood) is called Asrigdhara and due to excessive expulsion of Raja (menstrual blood) is termed as Pradara. The concept of Ashraya- Ashrayi Bhava,

Rakta and Pitta having the same properties, so Rakta Dhatu getting easily vitiated by Pitta Dosha. The Chala Guna of Vata Dosha, Sara and Drava Guna of Pitta Dosha increases the amount of Rakta and Guru-Picchila Guna of Kapha dosha does excessive proliferation of endometrium resulting in irregular shedding and ripening of endometrial layer. The ten Shonithasthapana Gana Dravvas mentioned by Acharva Madhu, Madhuka, Nagakeshara, Charaka are Mocharasa, Mritkapala, Lodhra, Gairika, Priyangu, Sharkara and Laja.[4,5] Acharya Sushrutha narrated four types of *Upakramas* (therapies) for excessive blood loss namely, (1) Sandhana (2) Skandana (3) Dahana (4) Pachana. [6] All basic principles of treatment told in Raktarsha, Raktatisara, Raktapitta, Yonivyapat and Garbhasrava can be applied to treat Asrigdhara.[7]

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Table 1: Tabulation of Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka and Doshaghnata of Raktasthambhaka dravyas.[8]

Name of the Dravya's	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Doshaghnata
Ashoka	Kashaya, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Atibala	Madhura	Laghu, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatapittahara
Arjuna	Kashaya	Ruksha, Laghu	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Apamarga	Katu, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha, Tikshna, Sara	Ushna	Katu	Kapha vatahara
Amalaki	Lavanavarjita Pancharasa	Ruksha -	Ushna	Katu	Kapha pittahara
Aragvadha	Svadu	Guru A	Sheeta	Madhura	Kaphapittahara
Bhumyamalaki	Tikta, Kashaya, Madhura	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Madhura	Kaphapittashamaka
Bola	Madhura, Katu, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Badara	Madhura	Guru	Sheeta	Madhura	Pittahara
Bimbi	Madhura	Guru	Sheeta	Madhura	Pittavatahara
Chandana	Tikta, Madhura	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Daruharidra	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Ushna	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Durva	Madhura, Kashaya, Tikta.	Laghu, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Kaphapittahara
Dhataki	Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Dhanvana	Kashaya, Madhura	Laghu, Ruksha, Picchila	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Gokshura	Madhura	Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatahara
Indrayava	Katu	Laghu	Sheeta	Katu	Tridoshashamaka
Jambu	Kashaya, Madhura, Amla	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara, vatakara
Japa	Kashaya, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Jhandu	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Jeevanthi	Svadu	Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Tridoshahara
Kadambha	Tikta, Kashaya	Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Tridoshahara
Kutaja	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara

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Kakoudumbara	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Pittashamaka
Kanchanara	Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kapha pittahara
Kushmanda	Madhura	Laghu, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatapittahara
Kadali	Madhura, Kashaya	Guru, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatapittashamaka
Khadira	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Koshamra	Amla	Guru	Ushna	Katu	Kaphavatahara
Kusha	Madhura, Kashaya	Laghu, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Tridoshagna
Kumari	Tikta, Madhura	Guru, Snigdha, Picchila	Sheeta	Katu	Vatahara
Lodhra	Kashaya, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Laksha	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Kaphapittahara
Lajjalu	Kashaya, Tikta	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Madayantika	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Mayaphala	Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Musta	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Mudgaparni	Tikta, Svadu	Ruksha, laghu	Sheeta	Madhura	Tridoshahara
Mashaparni	Tikta, Madhura	Ruksha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatapittaraktahara
Manjishta	Tikta, Kashaya, Madhura	Guru,Ruksha	Ushna	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Narikela	Madhura	Guru, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatapittahara
Nagakeshara	Kashaya, Tikta	Ruksha, Tikshna, Laghu	Ushna	Katu	Kaphapittahara
Nyagrodha	Kashaya	G <mark>uru</mark> , R <mark>u</mark> ksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Padma	Kashaya, Madhura, Tikta	Laghu, Snigdha, Picchila	Sheeta	Madhura	Kaphapittahara
Plaksha	Kashaya	Guru, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Punarnava	Madhura, Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Ushna Sheeta (Rakta)	Katu	Kaphavatahara
Punnaga & Surapunnaga	Madhura, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Madhura	Kaphapittahara
Pashanabheda	Kashaya, Tikta	Laghu, Snigdha	Sheeta	Katu	Tridoshahara
Pattranga	Kashaya, Madhura, Tikta	Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Pittakaphahara
Priyangu	Tikta, Kashaya, Madhura	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Tridoshahara
Palasha	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Ushna (Pushpa- sheeta),	Katu	Kaphapitta shamaka (Pushpa)
Parpata	Tikta	Laghu	Sheeta	Katu	Pittaraktahara
Shala	Tikta, Kashaya	Guru	Sheeta	Katu	Pittakaphanashaka
Shalmali	Kashaya	Laghu, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Vatapittashamaka, Kaphapittashamaka (Mocharasa, Pushpa and Phala)
Sharapunkha	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu	Ushna	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka

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Sariva	Madhura, Tikta	Snigdha, Guru	Sheeta	Madhura	Tridoshahara
Usheera	Tikta, Madhura	Ruksha, Laghu	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Udumbara	Kashaya	Guru, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Vata	Kashaya	Guru, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Vasa	Tikta, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Katu	Kaphapittashamaka
Vamshalochana	Svadu, Kashaya	Laghu, Ruksha	Sheeta	Madhura	Raktapittahara
Yastimadhu	Svadu	Guru, Snigdha	Sheeta	Madhura	Pittavataraktahara

DISCUSSION

Shuddha Artava formed from Aahara rasa/ Rasadhatu and follicle stimulating and luteinizing hormones are made up of proteins and estrogen and progesterone are formed from cholesterol. The Raktasthambhaka Dravya's with Ruksha, Laghu Gunas, Tikta, Kashaya Rasa and Sheeta Virya acts on Sara, Drava, Ushna Guna of Pitta Dosha and as vasoconstrictors on the Garbhashayagata sirah (uterine arteries) and the level of hormones decreases production of unopposed oestrogens (Estradiol :E₂) cholesterol (Fatty acids)→Phospholipids→ Arachidonic acid synthesis, abnormal angiogenesis, decreases uterine congestion, reduces capillary fragility, promotes fibrin formation over decapitated stumps of spiral arteries, regeneration and reduces abnormal proliferation of endometrium (Endometrium Hyperplasia).

Extraoral distribution of taste receptors in the female reproductive system are mainly solitary or clustered cells, not grouped in buds but may be a part of large diffuse chemosensory system, the taste buds representing only the most visible portion but the extraoral taste receptors are the larger "submerged" part like a glacial mass. [9]

Estrobolome is a collection of bacteria in the gut which is capable of metabolizing and modulating the body's circulating estrogen. When the gut microbiome is healthy, the estrobolome is producing optimal levels of an enzyme called betaglucoronidase which helps in conjugation of estrogen in the liver and this conjugated estrogen is delivered to the bile for excretion into the gut, lessens reabsorption of estrogen from the gut letting safe removal as waste in stool and urine again guaranteeing hormonal equilibrium. If there is an excess of bacteria that produce betaglucuronidase, that reverts estrogen back into its unconjugated active form and it is then reabsorbed back into the blood stream resulting in estrogen dominance leading to fibroids, endometriosis, polycystic ovarian disease etc.[10] So, the Deepana, Pachana and Yakrututteja properties of the Dravya's might help in maintaining the healthiness of gut which in turn normalizes estrogen metabolism.

Ashoka twak is used in treating metrorrhagia and menorrhagia. Pure phenolic glucoside (P2), isolated from stem bark, exhibited highly potent oxytocic activity on different mammals, and was similar in nature to pitocin and ergometrine. A case study of patient aged 48 years with complaints of increased flow and duration of menstruation with clots for 3 years with endometrial hyperplasia. The patient was treated with 50ml Ashoka Valkala kshirapaka morning and evening on empty stomach and Musthamruthadi Kashaya 30ml thrice daily before food for consecutive 2 months. The results showed that there was absolute reduction in the amount of bleeding and duration of menstrual flow without clots and observation was for total 3 months starting from the 30th day of treatment. Ashoka Valkala Kshirapaka and Musthamruthadi Kashaya helps to tone up the uterine muscles, corrects the excessive bleeding, irregular shedding and irregular ripening of endometrium during menstruation due to its astringent property (vasoconstrictor). [11]

A Clinical Evaluation of effect of Chandrakala Rasa & Ashoka Ksheera Paka in Asrigdara w.s.r to Dysfunctional uterine bleeding: Group A: Chandrakala Rasa= 250mg (2 Ratti) B.D in tablet form orally, Ashoka Ksheera paka= 48ml B.D orally. Duration of treatment= 30 days (two menstrual cycles). Group B: Progesterone hormone= 5mg B.D orally. Duration of treatment= 10 Days (two menstrual cycles). Chandrakala rasa and Ashoka possessing Garbhashaya sankochaka, Raktha sthambhaka, Rasayana properties and liquid extract from the bark is strongly astringent, contain beta sitosterol, acts directly on muscular fibres in the uterus, stimulating effect on the endometrium and on the ovarian tissue. Chandrakala rasa and Ashoka ksheera paka have marked good results in treating Asrigdara.[12]

A case study *Ashoka Ghrita* two teaspoon half an hour before food once a day in patient complaining of excessive bleeding during menstruation. The constituents of *Ashoka* include glycosides, flavonoids, tannins, saponins, and sterols. Research has shown that it has antibacterial, antifungal, oxytocic, uterotonic, anti- cancerous, anti- progestational, anti-

estrogenic, anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant. Phytoestrogens which are also present in *Ashoka* bark modulate the raised levels of hormones in cases of primary dysmenorrhea.^[13]

Bark of *Arjuna* acts as an astringent, demulcent, expectorant, cardiotonic, styptic, anti- dysenteric, urinary astringent and has shown to be useful in fracture, ulcers, leucorrhoea, diabetes, anaemia, cardiopathy and cirrhosis. *Acharya Chakradatta* recommended it to be given as a decoction of bark with *Ksheera* or as a *Ghrita*. Tribals of Orissa used dried bark powder of *Arjuna* along with rice washed water to treat blood in urine. Major chemical constituents are triterpenoids, glycosides, flavonoids, tannins, β - sitosterol etc. are inotropic, anti-ischemic, antioxidant, blood pressure lowering, antiplatelet, hypolipidemic, anti-atherogenic and antihypertrophic. [14]

Atibala plant contains mucilage, tannins, asparagines, gallic acid, sesquiterpenes, alkaloids, leucoanthocyanins, flavonoids, sterols, triterpenoids, and cardiac glycosides. Avurvedic pharmacopoeia of India indicates use of the root in hemorrhagic diseases. A comparative clinical study of Atibaladi churna and Pushyanuga churna in Asrigdara, Group A: Pushyanuga churna - 6gm BD with Madhu orally before food from 8th day of menstrual cycle to till the bleeding stops for 2 months and follow up is on next consecutive month. Group B: Atibaladi churna (Atibala, Nyagrodha, Dhataki, Nagakesara, Lajjalu, Lodhra)- 6gm BD with Madhu orally before food from 8th day of menstrual cycle to till the bleeding stops for consecutive 2 months and follow up is on next consecutive month. There was significant effect in treating *Asrigdara*.[15]

Amalaki, in randomized controlled study to evaluate efficacy of 'Amalaki Rasanjana Haritaki choorna' in Asrigdara. Group A: Amalaki Rasanjana Haritaki choorna. Group B: Ashok Twak choorna, 5 grams - two times daily before food. Total duration of the study was 12 months. Treatment was given and follow up were taken up to 3 consecutive menstrual cycles. Amalaki-rasanjana-haritaki choorna and Ashoka twak choorna both were equally effective to reduce Rajasrava pramana & Kala, Angamarda, Adho udara & Katishula, Daurbalyata, to increase Haemoglobin %.17 Bhumyamalaki mula Churna with Tandulodaka given orally. Acts on Pitta dosha helps in treating Raktapradara.[16]

The bark of *Chandana* contains a triterpene – urs-12-en-3 butyl- palmitate, essential oil from heart wood is alpha and beta santalol and shows action against any type of abnormal proliferation. The Hydrolysed Exhausted Sandalwood Powder (HESP) has properties like anti-inflammatory, anti-mitotic,

anti-cancerous, anti-hypertensive, sedative, ganglionic blocking etc. $^{[17]}$

Durva swarasa, 30ml morning and evening for seven days given to 18 years old female patient. It was observed that bleeding decreased from 6 pads to 2 pads per day after 3 days, after 7 days the bleeding completely stopped and associated symptoms like abdominal pain, weakness, giddiness, irritability etc. were decreased after 3 days and completely absent after 7 days, *Durvaswarasa* is a detoxicant, alkaline. easily absorbed in the blood, coagulant, strengthens the uterus due to its Madhura Garbhashayashodhaka due to Tikta and Kashaya rasa and reduces endometrial hyperplasia. *Durva* contains 65% of chlorophyll thus is natural remedy for treating anaemia, giddiness, generalised weakness, relieves stress and strengthens the nervous system.[18]

Russian therapists, American Indians and also in traditional system of medicines used B. aristata (*Daruharidra*) plant to cure menorrhagia. Fruit is rich in Vitamin C. Reported clinical and experimental studies showed alkaloid Berberine possesses various pharmacological properties like antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antineoplastic, analgesic, hepatoprotective, immunomodulatory etc.^[19]

Effect of polyherbal drug on menorrhagia and its evaluation by assessing biomarker serum VEGF-A. 40 patients were divided into three groups: Oral drug alone/intrauterine instillation of the oil alone/ oral drug with intrauterine instillation of the oil. Treatment was given orally for three months, 20ml of decoction in twice daily dose with honey/ intra-uterine instillation (3-5ml of oil in increasing order) was given for three days in each month, after clearance of menses for three months. Improvement in symptoms were statistically significant in all the three groups along with reduction in Serum VEGF-A but improvement in the patients of Group C was more There are eight *Dravya's* in *Darvyadi* Kwatha i.e., Daruharidra, Rasanjana (extract of Berberis Aristata in milk), Kiratatikta, Musta, Bilva, Arka, Vasa and Chandana. Daruharidra also acts as anti-oxidant activity and inhibits vascular permeability.[20]

A clinical comparative study of *Dhataki churna* with Tranexamic acid in *Asrigdhara, Dhataki pushpa churna* was equally effective as Tranexamic acid, useful in increasing haemoglobin and no adverse effects found. A clinical study of *Majuphala powder & Dhataki pushpa* powder to assess the effect in leucorrhoea is undertaken on 30 patients, were divided in three groups. Group A of 10 patients were received *Majuphala churna* for 21 days & *Yonidhavana* done with *Majuphala Kwatha* for 10 days. Group B of 10 patients received internally *Dhataki pushpa* powder

and *Yonidhavana* with *Dhataki pushpa Kwatha* for 10 days. Group C of 10 patients (control group) were received wheat flour in above said same manner. Group A (*Majuphala*) & B (*Dhataki*) had shown highly significant results in both cordial & associated symptoms of leucorrhoea as compared to control group. In local pathology, Group A (*Majuphala*) showed significant results in cervicitis. Group B (*Dhataki*) showed significant results in improving Hb%. [22]

The dried Shatavari root yields sitosterol, 4.6dihydroxy-2-0-(2' hydroxvisobutyl) benzaldehyde. undecanvl cetanoate and contains a large amount of saccharine matter, mucilage and minerals - Ca (0.172), Cu (0.033), Na (14.60), K (8.32), Mg (0.169), Mn (0.0074), Ni (0.105) and Zn (0.072) mg/g (dry weight). Use of the tuber for disorders of female genitourinary tract (bleeding disorders and hematuria). A study on Ayurveda poly herbal compound of Yogaratnakara (17-A. D) w.s.r Raktapradara (AUB) was conducted on 30 patients divided into three groups: Group 1-Shatavari Yashti yoga - 5gms twice daily with Tandulodaka as Anupana before meals for 2 menstrual cycles, Group 2- Shatavari Yasti yoga - 5gms, twice daily before meals and in Group 3: Tandulodaka 50ml twice daily before meals. In Group 1, extremely significant results were found in the main symptoms like amount and duration of bleeding, pain, increased hemoglobin levels, burning sensation and generalized weakness.[23]

A Randomized comparative clinical study of two groups consisting 20 patients in each group suffering from *Asrigdara*. Group A *Shatavarigopakanyadi Kashaya* 50ml BD with *Anupana* of *Sita* and *Madhu*, Group B - *Vasaadi Kashaya* 50ml BD with *Anupana* of *Sita* and *Ghrita* was given for 2 consecutive cycles starting from 5th day of menstruation in each cycle. Both the groups showed statistically significant results for all assessment criteria.^[24]

The flowers of *Kanchanara* consists of flavonoids, kaempferol-3-galactoside and kaempferol-3-rhamnoglucoside and buds' decoction is given in menorrhagia. *Kanchanara pushpa choorna*, orally 12grams in three divided doses on empty stomach for three consecutive cycles for first 5 days of menstrual flow with *Tandulodaka* (30ml) in *Asrigdara*. The treatment is done for the duration of 3 months. The response to the treatment is recorded and therapeutic effects were evaluated with the help of symptomatic relief.^[25]

Kutaja, a case study of female patient suffering with Asrigdhara was treated with Kutajashtakaleha 10gm BD with cow's milk for 20 days consists of Kutaja, Shalmali, Patha, Samanga, Ativisha, Musta, Bilva

and *Dhataki*. Duration of menses and amount of blood loss was reduced with remarkable improvement in quality of life. *Deepana, Pachana, Raktastambhana, Raktaprasadana and Balya* properties were present in all the *Dravya's*. While *Dahaprashamana* was found in *Shalmali, Patha, Dhataki, Trishna nigrahana* in *Musta, Yakritottejaka, Pittasaraka, Kaphavatashamaka* in *Bilva*. All the components were *Kaphapittashamaka*, while *Patha* and *Ativisha* were found *Tridoshashamaka*.^[26]

Kakoudumbara, the fruits, seeds and bark contain beta-sitosterol, beta-amyrin, n-triacontanyl acetate, acetate. gluacol hispidin, phenanthraindolizidine alkaloid etc. The juice of the fruits of Kakodumbara is mixed with honey and same mixture is given orally in females suffering from Pradara, Kadambha, the dried bark contains alkaloids. steroids, reducing sugars and also tannins (4.61%). The ether-soluble alkaloid of the bark shows antibacterial activity. Leaves juice or decoction of bark or dried stem bark is indicated in disorders of female genital tract and bleeding conditions. Kamala, filaments are astringent, haemostatic and prescribed for bleeding piles and menorrhagia.[27]

A Clinical evaluation of the effect of *Khanda Kushmanda Avaleha* in *Raktapradara* (AUB) was done and 12 gm after food once daily for 30 days was given. More relief was observed on chief complaints, *as it* contains *Kusmanda, Pippali, Shunthi, Jeeraka, Danyaka Patra, Ela, Marich, Twaca, Madhu and Ghrita. Kushmanda* is best *Brimhana Dravya,* helps in subsiding *Pitta* and increases *Rakta Dhatu. Kushmanda* contains lutein, both alpha, beta carotene, vitamins B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B12, vitamin C & E, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, iron & folate. Iron & folate helps in increasing the blood volume, also beneficial in psychosomatic diseases due to its *Medhya Guna* and can regulate hypothalamus pituitary ovarian axis.^[28]

Kadali fruit boiled in cow's urine or fried (or roasted) on charcoal is orally given in excessive discharge of menstrual blood. Kadali fruits mixed with ghee internally prescribed given menometrorrhagia. The Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India recommends the fresh rhizome in dysuria, polyuria (in females) and menstrual disorders; the flowering in asthma, bleeding disorders, vaginal discharges and leucorrhoea. A clinical evaluation of Kadali Pushpa (Musa Paradisiaca) in Asrigdara, 20 patients with *Kadali Pushpa Churna*, 4 grams/day with Ushnodaka for 3 menstrual cycles. On fourth day, there was gradual decrease in the amount of bleeding during menstruation from cycle 1 to 3 with a t- value of 0.1525. Endometrial thickness was found to be 7.5mm before treatment, which was reduced to 6.0mm after

treatment which is statistically significant with t- 3.408 and p<0.005. $\c^{[29]}$

The concentrated extract of Khadira contains tannins (2-20%), catechin (25-33%), catechu (20-50%): flavonoids including quercetin, quercitrin, fisetin, gums, resins, pigments. The heartwood contains a hepatoprotective chemical composition called cyanidanol. The astringent (in urinary and vaginal discharge), hemostatic and antibacterial properties of catechu results from its high tannin content. Koshamra bark contains 9.4% tannin, acts as astringent (Raktasthambhaka) used in treating Pradara. Madayantika leaves contains flavonoids, luteolin. beta-sitosterol-3-0-glucoside; contain tannins. Leaves are astringent, haemorrhagic, antispasmodic, oxytocic, antifertility, antifungal, antibacterial. [30]

Extracts of *Yashtimadhu (Glycyrrhiza Glabra)* roots is a natural occurring angiogenic inhibitors and antitumor activity. The results suggest that the extract from the roots of *G. glabra* may be a possible additional source for cancer therapy. Anti-proliferative effect of licochalcone A (a flavonoid found in licorice root) on vascular smooth muscle cells, anti-microbial activity and its reported ability to inhibit cancer cell proliferation.^[31]

Randomly selected 60 patients were further divided into two groups viz. Group A (Trial) and Group B (Control). Group A patients were treated with 'Yashtimadhu Sita Choorna (5gms) with Tandulodaka' while Group B patients were treated with 'Ashoka Twak choorna' (5gms) with Tandulodaka on empty stomach. Both Yashtimadhu -Sita choorna with Tandulodaka and Ashoka twak choorna were significantly effective to reduce Rajasrava pramana, Rajasrava kala, Angamarda, Adho udara shula & Katishula in Asrigdara. The Trial drug 'Yashtimadhu-Sita choorna with Tandulodaka' is Raktastambhaka, Vata-Pittaghna, Rakta-Pittagna, Jivaniya etc. [32]

Kusha, used for urinary calculi and other diseases of the bladder. Clums used in menorrhagia, dysentery, diarrhoea and in skin diseases. Use of the rootstock in dysuria, vaginal discharges and erysipelas.^[33]

The leaf of Lajjalu is astringent, alterative, antiseptic, styptic, blood purifier. Used for Atisara, Raktapitta, Yonirogas, piles, fistula, hydrocele and glandular swellings. Roots used in gravel and urinary complaints. Aqueous extracts of Lajjalu root powder in pilot studies on patients with dysfunction uterine bleeding gave promising results. [34]

Lodhra, contains 3- monoglucofuronoside of 7-methyl leucopelagonidin, which makes it glycosidic in nature, exerts vaso-constrictive action and reduces the

permeability of cell membrane. Ethanolic extract from bark acts as an anti-fibrinolytic activity analgesic, antiinflammatory and antioxidant. Pushvanuga choorna (5 gms) was given orally thrice a day with Durva swarasa & Lodhrasava (30 ml) in combination for 46 cases and the treatment was found to be highly significant (P<0.001). In a published in-vivo study, Lodhra has been shown to have an effect on regularizing menstrual cycle and in ovulation. Another report to test the hepato-protective effect of Symplocos racemosa Roxb, showed normalizing the conjugation and metabolism of female hormones, which results in maintaining a normal menstrual cycle. Bhrama occurs due to blood loss, the haemostatic effect (Raktasrava nashaka) of Lodhra might have effect in controlling Bhrama. The main component of Lodhra is large amount of loturine alkaloid and a-spinosteral. It is suggested that Lodhra might have influenced the endometrial prostaglandin apparatus, thereby acting effectively in the control of dysfunctional uterine bleeding.[35]

Shunthi Churna (2gms) and Lodhra Churna (3gms) mixed with Sharkara (5 gms.) i.e., total (10gms) thrice daily with cold water, after food was given for 45 days with Sharkara. Previous clinical research has shown that ginger, one of the forms of Shunthi can reduce symptoms of dysmenorrhea in some women when taken in a specific extract composition (Zintoma, Goldaru). The extract of ginger blocks the formation of inflammatory compounds such as thromboxane, leukotrine and prostaglandins, thus acts as an anti-inflammatory substance, this could have positive regulatory effect on dysmenorrhea. Due to anti-inflammatory effect, it is expected to pacify the pelvic congestion (high vascularity), thus the amount of menstrual blood loss gets reduced. [36]

A comparative study on Bharangi -shunthi churna (3gms) and Pushyanuga churna (3 gms) before food for 90 days, two times daily with *Tandulodaka* as Anupana in Asrigdhara. There was significant reduction in the symptoms but, statistical analysis has revealed that Pushyanuga churna has significant results as compared to Bharangi- Shunthi. Shunthi due to its Ushna virva, Snigdha guna and Madhura vipaka, acts as Vataghna. Due to its Katu rasa, Ushna virya and Madhura vipaka, there is no vitiation of Pitta further but improves Agni and does Amapachana. Bharangi due to its Ushna virya, acts as Vataghna, Tikta rasa is Pitta shamaka, Rakta shuddhikara, Deepana and Pachana. Kashaya rasa pradhana dravya's are Rakta stambhaka and Pitta shamaka specially indicated in diseases like Raktapitta, Asrigdara etc.[37]

Narikela mula and Pushpa, astringent- used in urinary and uterine disorder. Tender branches of Padma plant are crushed, soaked in water and taken

internally to avert abortion. Decoction of Palasha flowers is given in diarrhoea and haematuria and also to puerperal women which contains butrin, coreopsin, monospermoside and their derivatives etc. Bark is (prescribed in bleeding piles, styptic haemorrhages, menstrual disorders), anthelmintic. Punarnava, an antifibrinolytic agent, 'Punarnavoside' has been found to stop intrauterine contraceptive device induced bleeding and also quinolizidine alkaloids. Pashanabheda, leaf and root are astringent used in treating menorrhagia. The rhizome contains an active principles bergenin (0.6%), gallic acid, glucose (5.6%), tannins (14.2-016.3%), mucilage and wax; a C- glycoside and beta -sitosterol. Shala, bark contains tannin 72% which is obtained after boiling in water (likewise catechu or Khadira sara). Tree trunk exudes oleogum resin (by incision) commonly known as 'Ral' (Sal nirvasa) which is acting as Raktasthambhana. Indicated in Pradara and Yonivyapad.[38]

A comparative study was done to evaluate the efficacy Patrangasava and Jeerakavaleha with Nisha lauha. The study was carried out in 34 patients who were randomly divided into two groups. 17 patients in group I were given Patrangasava with Nisha lauha and 17 patients in group II were given Jeerakavaleha with Nisha lauha. Group I patients showed more improvement than group II but intergroup comparison was non-significant. Many Dravya's like Patranga, Khadira, Vasa, Shalmali, Japa, Amrasthi, Dhataki, Vanshaja, and Lodhra were Raktashodhaka and Stambhaka which caused Shodhana of Dushita pitta and Rakta and thus haemostasis. Due to Shothahara, Sandhaniya and Vranaropaka karma reduced uterine congestion, fragility of uterine capillaries and helped in their toning. The *Deepana*, *Pachana* properties corrected the Agnimandyata and formation of Artava. Due to Rasayana, Balavardhana, Raktavardhaka, Pandughna Karma of drugs improved general condition of body, replenished blood loss, and corrected anaemia.[39]

Shalmali, ethanolic extract of Shalmali has significant cytotoxicity effect on T HESCs (Human endometrial stromal cells) in a concentration range between the dose range 10 µg/ml to 200 µg/ml as compared with the negative control. The selected plant has significant cytotoxicity on T HESCs cells at 200µg concentration. The extract might have reduced the T HESC's cell count, which is very much near similar to the standard drug Tranexamic acid. The therapeutic effect of *Shalmali* is partially due to the existence of flavonoids. sesquiterpenoids, bombamalosides, phenolics, shamimicin, bombamalones, bombasin 4-oglucoside, bombesin, and bombalin. It is described to contain phytoconstituents like naphthol,

polysaccharides, naphthoquinones, anthocyanins, lupeol, and shamimin, which plays a beneficial role in uterine bleeding problems.[40,41]

The inhibitory effect of Flowers of Bombax ceiba over cell growth in abnormal formation of laver of endometrium (Anti -proliferative effect). Bombax malabaricum stem's bark methanolic extract was found to exhibit a significant anti angiogenic activity on tube formation of human umbilical venous endothelial cells (HUVEC). Shedding of endometrial wall following each menstrual cycle require angiogenesis for endometrial repair and regeneration. Any disruption in above mentioned process leads to menorrhagia which is manifested as excessive bleeding. Bombax, thus by anti-angiogenic effect helps to check excessive uterine bleeding and Mocha rasa contains tannic and gallic acids acts as astringents and helps in restoring the damaged epithelial mucosal lining of the ulcerated mucosa. Fatty acid synthesis (FAS) had been found to be over expressive and hyperactive in most of proliferative diseases (like cancer). To test the inhibitory effort of flavonoid extracts of Shalmalia malabarica on FAS, cancer cell A549 was used as a cell model and was found effective. Thus, Shalmali shows inhibitory effect on fatty acid synthesis which in turn limits proliferation of effected tissues of endometrium in abnormal uterine bleeding disorder. [42]

Nagakeshara acts as haemostatic constricting the blood capillaries and prevents the bleeding. Stamens contains bitter principles, two novel biflavanones as mesuaferrones -A and mesuaferrone, α and β- amyrin, β-sitosterol, bioflavonoids etc. The comparative study of *Indrayava churna* & *Nagakeshara* churna as haemostatic action in Raktapradara wsr to AUB. Group A- Indrayava churna (6gms B.D.) with Sharkara & Jala. Group B-Nagakeshara churna (6gms B.D.) with Ghrutha. Nagakeshara is anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, antifungal, analgesic, hepato-protective, antioxidant, antispasmodic in action. The Extract of M. ferrea has also been shown to possess estrogen and progesterone-like effects which were anticipated to be helpful in the correction of hormonal imbalance during menstrual disorders.[43]

The therapeutic use of *Sharapunkha moola churna* along with *Tandulodaka* was first mentioned in *Bhaishajya Ratnavali*. Research works proved that it is anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antioxidant, hepatoprotective etc. *Sharapunkha moola churna* 5 gms twice a day with *Tandulodaka as Anupana* before meal for 7days in Raktapradara was proved to be helpful in treating the disease. [44]

Japa, contains tannins, flavonoids, steroids, alkaloids, saponins etc. Hibiscus flowers and leaves are used for the treating menorrhagia etc. Jhandu, flower

juice or paste of the flowers is fried in butter and given in patient suffering with *Pradara. Jambu beeja churna* is used for treating *Rakta pradara*. ^[45]

The Pharmacotherapeutic study of 'Dandotpaladi (Kalpita yoga) in the management of 'Raktapradara' with special reference to menorrhagia. Total 40 female patients who had the sign and symptoms of Raktapradara were randomly allocated into two groups: 20 patients in each group. Group-A received Dandotpaladi voqa, orally in powder form 3gms, twice daily for 7days per menstrual cycle for 3 consecutive months while Group-B received Pushyanuga churna 3gms orally with water twice daily for 7days per menstrual cycle for 3 consecutive months. There was significant difference found between the groups in days of bleeding (p- 0.0075) and amount of flow (p-0.0198) and group A showed better relief in these symptoms. Tridax procumbens and Ficus racemosa possess anti-inflammatory & decongestant functions. It helps to stop bleeding by constricting blood vessels & promoting clotting. Due to Dahaprashmana property of Udumbara, it helps to combat signs & symptoms caused by loss of blood like Daha, Daurbalya, Bhrama, Murccha, Trishna, etc. Udumbhara used for Raktasrava, Pittaja Atisara, Bhagnasandhan, Vrana-shodhana etc. [46]

A case study on *Raktapradara* was done with indigenous combination of six drugs namely *Erka*, *Nagakeshara*, *Udumbara*, *Mochrasa*, *Durva* and *Guduchi* were taken in the form of granules and are easily palatable.12 grams in two divided doses with cows' milk for 2 cycles. Medicine will be given from first day of menses continuously for two cycles every 15 days up to 2 cycles and for next one cycle without medicine. There was significant relief in all the symptoms of *Raktapradara*. [47]

Bola, diterpene resin acids compounds exhibited obvious inhibitory effects on human umbilical vein endo epithelial cells proliferation and implied that the anti-proliferative activity on four human gynaecological cancer cell lines that are human ovarian cancer cell lines A2780, SK-OV-3, cervical carcinoma cell line SiHa, and endometrial carcinoma cell line Shikawa and associated with their potential anti-angiogenic properties.^[48]

Vasa, the chief quinazoline alkaloid vasicine. It is uterotonic and fresh leaf juice used to treat menorrhagia. A case study was done on 40 years old woman who was suffering from prolonged heavy menstruation was managed with Yoni vasti (intravaginal instillation of medicine) with Panchavalkala (Nyagrodha, Udumbhara, Aswattha, Parisha, Plaksha) kwatha at the dose of 200ml and internal medication with Vasa putapaka swarasa, 50ml

with honey was given for 5days as an emergency management. Bleeding was effectively reduced owning to the properties and action of treatment modalities used. [49]

A study was conducted on clinically diagnosed 30 patients of *Asrigdara, Drakshadi Yoga (Draksha, Sita, Tiktakarohini and Mulethi)*, dose 5gms twice daily with *Sheetala Jala* and *Kutajashtaka ghana (Kutaja, Shalmali, Patha, Samanga, Ativisha, Musta, Bilwa and Dhataki)*, dose 500mgs twice daily with *Sheetala Jala*. Comparing the symptomatic improvement in both groups and the average percentage of relief was a little bit higher in *Kutajashtaka Ghana* i.e., 74.79 % followed by *Drakshadi Yoga* i.e., 74.21%.^[50]

A clinical study was done to evaluate the efficacy of *Elaadi Kwatha* (*Ela, Samanga, Shaalmali, Haritaki* and *Magadhika*) in *Asrigdhara, Kashaya* was prepared and given with *Sharkara* and *Madhu*. Dose - 1 *Pala* (48ml), orally early morning on empty stomach, follow up for the oncoming next two cycles gave very good results without complications.^[51]

Apamarga Varti^[52], the presence of tannins and glycosides in the plant is having astringent property. The flowers are grounded and mixed with sugars are given for menorrhagia

Some of the simple therapies used for treating Shwetha Pradara (Leucorrhea) can be adopted for Asrigdhara chikitsa:[53]

- 1. Alabu- (Cucurbita Lagenaria) Bottle Gourd has to be cut into small pieces and finely dried and powdered. The Powder is to be added with equal quantity of sufficient sugar and honey and prepared 500mgs pill. 1-2 tabs /2-3 times a day and given with rice washed water.
- 2. Ashoka twak churna added to ½ glass of water and ½ glass of milk to prepare Ksheera paka. Add little quantity of sugar to taste. 1 cup (150ml) of the Ksheera paka consumed every day morning to relieve the Pradara even though associated for long time.
- 3. Leaves of *Vasa* is to be crushed to get the juice. The juice is mixed with sugar and 1 teaspoon full of honey consumed every day morning.
- 4. *Kadali-* 1 banana fruit with cow ghee of 2 teaspoonful twice daily/ take 2 grams each quantity of banana fruit and fruits of *Badari* (Ziziphus jujuba) *churna* add to equal quantity of jaggery and taken twice daily.
- 5. *Japapushpa* 10-12 buds of *Japa pushpa* instantly crushed with milk and taken with the honey. Rice with milk is the food for the patient. The flower of *Japa* is to be fried with *Ghee* and consumed daily.
- 6. Tanduleeyaka mulam (Amarantus tricolour), it is rich in iron. Used as a green vegetable but the roots

- are not used. Roots have good medicinal value. Roots are crushed and made into paste given with rice washed water. It can be used in another way also. Collect the roots and dry it, 1 teaspoon powder every day morning to be given with *Tandulodaka*.
- 7. *Kashaya of Nyagrodha* with *Lodhra* paste consumed every day morning or both can be powdered and consumed 1-2 grams twice daily.
- 8. Powder of *Amra bheeja* (Mango seeds) in a small quantity of 1/2gm to 1 gm added to sufficient quantity of honey and consumed. Then have a glass full of *Tandulodaka* in the morning. The mango seed powder in small dose of 250mg- 500mg can be taken twice with honey for the good action and quick relief.

CONCLUSION

Raktasthambhana plays an important role to prevent the excessive flow of menstrual blood and complications caused for the same. Excessive loss of blood during the menstrual cycles with irregularity will have an impact on her quality of life, if left untreated may be life threatening and at the end she may opt for hysterectomy. The Dravya's are mainly Kashaya and Tikta rasa pradhana, Laghu-Ruksha Guna with Sheeta virya helps in coagulation of blood (Shonithasthapana) but also helps in improving quality (Raktashodhana) and quantity of blood (Raktavardhaka) without any side effects.

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