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Case Study

EFFICACY OF ABHRAKADI YOGAM IN MANAGING TYPE II DIABETES MELLITUS

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ABSTRACT

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disorder mainly characterized by elevated blood sugar level or hyperglycemia. Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) is the most common form, accounting for about 90% of the total diabetic population and is a major cause of morbidity and mortality. The condition mainly occurs from insulin resistance and relative deficiency in insulin secretion. The condition hampers the patient's quality of life with symptoms of polyuria, polyphagia, polydipsia, fatigue, weight loss, etc. Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus can be managed effectively in the initial phases with proper medication and lifestyle modification. The untimely treatment, chronicity of insulin resistance, and hyperglycemia can cause damage to multiple organs. In Ayurveda, the descriptions of *Avaranajanya Madhumeha*, which is a *Medovahasrothodushti Vikara* can be compared with T2DM as both seem analogous in etiopathogenesis and clinical features.

The present study aims to evaluate the efficacy of *Abhrakadi Yogam* in managing Type II Diabetes Mellitus. The study was a consecutive case series done on an OPD basis. The study was conducted on ten subjects newly diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, in whom *Abhrakadi Yogam*, 4gm thrice daily before food along with honey as *Anupana* was given for 90 days and 30 days follow up. Assessment was done on 0th, 91st and 121st day with subjective and objective parameters. All drugs possess *Tridoshahara* property which helps in controlling all the *Doshas*. The *Deepana, Pachana, Lekhana, Vatanulomana* and *Rasayana* properties of the trial drug helped in *Amapachana, Kleda Shoshana, Medohara* and *Srothoshodhana*, restoring *Dhatu Sthirata* thereby improving quality of life of patients. After treatment significant improvement was observed in assessment parameters. The study showed significant clinical efficacy and safety of the trial drug.

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INTRODUCTION

Currently, non-communicable or chronic diseases are on the rise worldwide, and Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is one among the most prevalent lifestyle disorders, leading to an increase in morbidity and mortality. Diabetes mellitus is a heterogeneous metabolic disorder characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose or hyperglycemia^[1]. It occurs either due to insulin deficiency, impairments in insulin action (insulin resistance), or both.

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Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) results from insulin resistance and relative insulin deficiency. The patient presents with polyuria, polydipsia, fatigue, tingling sensation, burning neuropathy^[8], etc. Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus accounts for about 90% of total diagnosed diabetes cases^[2]. It is associated with complex interactions of genetic, environmental, and sedentary lifestyles, a major risk for developing and progressing the condition. In India, about 77 million individuals aged 18 and above suffer from type 2 diabetes, with nearly 25 million being pre-diabetic^[5].

In Ayurveda, the descriptions of *Avaranajanya Madhumeha* share similarities with that of T2DM in etiopathogenesis and clinical features. *Acharyas* explained it as *Medovahasrothodushti Vikara* with *Kaphapradhana Tridoshakopa*^[3]. It is a condition with *Agnidushti, Bahudrava Shleshma, Kleda Vridhi,* Krishna G S, L Mahadevan, Kasthuri Nair A, Arun Pratap. Efficacy of Abhrakadi Yogam in Managing Type II Diabetes Mellitus

Bahvabadha Medas as major pathological features. Thus, drugs possessing Deepana, Pachana, Tridoshaghna, mainly Kapha Pitta Samana, Vatanulomana, Rasayana and Pramehaghna are to be selected for the management of T2DM.

T2DM management, In anti-diabetic medications and Insulin therapy^[6] are increasingly prescribed early on, which are effective in maintaining blood sugar levels. However, long-term use may result hypoglycemia, swelling of arms and legs, in tachycardia, anxiety, skin rashes, etc. This emphasizes the necessity of effective management without compromising the patient's quality of life and highlights the need to reassess the effectiveness of Ayurvedic formulations in managing Type 2 diabetes mellitus. Numerous clinical studies have already validated the efficacy of various Avurvedic formulations for treating Madhumeha. Abhrakadi Yogam mentioned in Yogaratnakara⁴, Prameha Chikitsa is potentially one such formulation possessing Deepana, Pachana, Tridoshaghna, Srothoshodhaka, Medohara, Kledashoshana, Vatanulomana, Rasayana, and Pramehaghna properties. Most of the ingredients in this formulation exhibit antidiabetic, antioxidant, antihyperglycemic, anti-inflammatory, and properties immunomodulatory attributes. These collectively can contribute to lowering and controlling blood glucose levels, enhancing insulin sensitivity,

optimizing beta cell function, preventing diabetes progression, and complications.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Diagnostic criteria for Diabetes^[7]

The current diagnostic criteria considered by ADA and WHO in 2010 have been followed in the present study. According to these criteria, only the venous plasma glucose values should be used for definitive diagnosis, as all the evidence supporting the diagnostic thresholds is based on venous plasma glucose. The diagnostic criteria are as follows:

- Fasting plasma glucose level of ≥126mg/dL (7mmol/L)
- Two-hour post glucose load plasma glucose of ≥200mg/dL (11.1mmol/L)
- A cut-off HbA1c of 6.5% (48mmol/mol) or more.

Clinical Report

The present case series included 10 subjects, newly diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes mellitus with clinical features of T2DM who are registered for clinical study in the OPD of Pankajakasthuri Ayurveda Medical College and PG Centre Hospital, satisfying the inclusion criteria. After proper evaluation and clinical examination, trial drug was given to subjects, and results were analysed based on subjective and objective parameters.

Case	Diagnosis	Age	Gender	Patient history	Complaints with duration	After treatment
Case 1	Newly diagnos	51	Female	Family history-Nil Menopause- 42 yrs.	Increased frequency of micturition - 2yrs	Absent
	ed Type 2 DM			Day sleep,	Increased thirst - 2 yrs.	Reduced
				high carb diet, oily	Gradually excessive hunger	Reduced
				food	Dryness of mouth	Absent
					Fatigue-2 months	Reduced
					Burning sensation of palm and soles-2 months	Absent
					Glycosuria in urine analysis	Negative
Case 2		65	Male	Day sleep, sleep	Increased micturition-5 yrs.	Absent
				reduced and disturbed, high carb	Increased thirst and water intake – gradually	Reduced
				diet	Excessive hunger- 6months	Absent
					burning sensation of palm and soles-6 months	Reduced
Case 3		47	Female	No family h/o DM, day	Fatigue-5 months	Reduced
				sleep, sedentary lifestyle	burning sensation of palm and soles-5 months	Reduced
					Increased thirst-4 yrs.	Absent

Table 1: Clinical report of subjects

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			AYUSHDHARA, 2023;1	Increased appetite yrs.	Absent
Case 4	49	Female	Mother had DM	Increased fatigue - 3 months	Reduced
			Hysterectomy done - 9 yrs back,	Excessive thirst, frequent water intake- 3 months	Absent
			sedentary	Burning sensation of palm and soles-3 months	Reduced
Case 5	65	Male		Increased frequency of micturition since 5 yrs, increased since 2 months	Absent
				Gradually tiredness, increased fatigue-2 months	Absent
				Increased thirst	Reduced
				Burning sensation of both soles and gradually to both palms.	Reduced
				Glycosuria in urine analysis	Negative
Case 6	50	Male	No family h/o DM	Increased fatigue-1.5 yrs	
			Sedentary lifestyle	Increased appetite-1.5 yrs	Absent
				Burning and pricking sensation of both palm and soles-1.5 years	Reduced
				Numbness of foot-1.5 yrs	Reduced
				Gradually- Increased thirst	Reduced
				Feeling of tiredness	Fatigue
				Glycosuria in urine analysis	Negative
Case 7	43	43 Female	No family h/o DM, h/o Gestational DM-14 yrs	Excessive thirst for past 3 yrs, increased -5 months	Reduced
			back, Sedentary lifestyle BMI-30kg/m ² ,h/o DLP (under med)-1 yr.	Fatigue for past 3 yrs, increased - 6 months	Reduced
Case 8	64	Male	Mother had DM, h/o DLP & HTN (under	Increased thirst, excessive intake of water -3 yrs	Absent
			med)-5 yrs sleep disturbed and reduced, sedentary	Gradually -increased fatigue-5 months	Reduced
			lifestyle, day sleep	Burning and pricking sensation of both palm and soles-5 months	Reduced
Case 9	40	Female	Mother and father had DM, Irregular bowel	Increased frequency of micturition- 3 yrs	Reduced
			habits, constipation, irregular menstrual cycle, sleep reduced	Developed increased thirst and water intake	Reduced
			and disturbed, day	Also, dryness of mouth	Absent
			sleep	Gradually-increased appetite	Reduced
				Burning sensation of b/l	Reduced

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				0 00,	
				toes and fingers, later to both palm and soles	
				Developed fatigue	Reduced
				Frequent micturition and fatigue-5 months.	Reduced
Case 10	48	Male	No family h/o DM, obese, sedentary lifestyle, ex-smoker	Initially had frequent micturition, increased since 6 months	Reduced
				Developed increased thirst and excessive intake of water-4 years.	Absent
				Dryness of mouth	Absent
				Gradually-burning sensation of palm and soles	Absent
				Increased fatigue	Absent

Therapeutic Intervention, Follow-up, and Outcome

The selected subjects were given *Abhrakadi Yogam* 4 grams thrice daily before food, along with 4ml of honey as *Anupana* for a period of 90 days. Subjects were encouraged to review once in 15 days. Follow-up was done 30 days after the completion of the medicine. Assessment of subjects was done on the 0th, 91st, and 121st day with subjective and objective parameters.

Subjective Parameters

Polyuria, polydipsia, polyphagia, fatigue, dryness of mouth, and burning sensation of palm and soles.

Objective Parameters

FBS, PPBS, HbA1C, SGOT, SGPT, Creatinine and Ketone

 Table 2: Grading of Subjective parameters

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Assessment parameter	Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3					
Polyuria	5-6 times in 24 hours	8-9 times in 24 hours	10-11 times in 24 hours	>13 times in 24 hours					
Polydipsia	<6 glasses	7-8 glasses	9-10 glasses	>12 glasses					
Polyphagia	2 meals	3 meals	4 meals	>4 meals					
Fatigue over past week	No fatigue feeling throughout the week	Fatigue feeling on 1-2 days during the week	Fatigue feeling on 3-5 days during the week	Fatigue feeling throughout the week					
Dryness of mouth	Absent	Mild	Moderate	Severe					
Burning sensation of palm & soles	Absent	Not continuous and occasionally present	Moderate and constantly present	Severe					

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Marked improvement was observed in the clinical features of T2DM and laboratory investigations after treatment. The results were analyzed using subjective and objective parameters on the 0th day (before treatment), 91st day (after treatment), and 121st day (after follow-up).

AYUSHDHARA, 2023;10(6):140-147 g of the effect of *Abhrakadi Yogam* in subjective paramete

	AYUSHDHARA, 2023;10(6):140-147 Table 3: Grading of the effect of <i>Abhrakadi Yogam</i> in subjective parameters														
[]						ADNTC		_		- -	-	mete]
		Case 1	-		Case 2		Case 3		Case 4		1	Case 5			
	BT	AT	AF	BT	AT	AF	BT	AT	AF	BT	AT	AF	BT	AT	AF
Polyuria	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Polyphagia	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Polydipsia	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Fatigue	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1
Dryness of mouth	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burning sensation of palm & soles	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1
		Case (6	(Case 7		Case 8		8	Case 9			Case 10		
	BT	AT	AF	BT	AT	AF	BT	AT	AF	BT	AT	AF	BT	AT	AF
Polyuria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	1
Polyphagia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Polydipsia	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	2	0	0
Fatigue	2	1	0	3	3	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0
Dryness of mouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
Burning sensation of palm & soles	2	1	1	0	0		3	1	1	3	1	1	1	0	0

Table No.4 Effect of Abhrakadi Yogam in objective parameters

Assessment	FBS (in mg/dl)	PPBS (in mg/dl)	HbA1C (in %)	SGOT (in IU/L)	SGPT (IU/L)	Creatinine	Ketone
	mg/uij	iiig/uij	(111 70)	10/LJ			
Case 1							
BT	164	270	10.1	28	24	0.78	Nil
AT	154	257	7.4	23	18	0.77	Nil
AF	192	278	11.3	23	17	0.78	Nil
Case 2							
BT	166	191	10.4	25	17	1.17	Nil
AT	144	165	7.6	23	17	1.16	Nil
AF	161	186	7.7	22	17	1.16	Nil
Case 3							
BT	168	239	8.6	10	9	0.7	Nil
AT	125.8	186	7.8	11.3	8.5	1.12	Nil
AF	137.2	180	7.5	12.6	10.7	1.08	Nil
Case 4							
BT	158	203	12.1	23	25	0.77	Nil
AT	129	174	7.9	18	20	0.85	Nil

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AF	155	242	8.3	20	22	0.85	Nil
Case 5							
ВТ	150	215	9.4	23	20	1.13	Nil
AT	125	185	7.5	18	20	1.1	Nil
AF	132	195	7.5	20	22	0.9	Nil
Case 6			•				
ВТ	148	265	12.7	20	16	1.38	Nil
AT	148	223	9.8	21	17	1.38	Nil
AF	162	270	10.2	20	17	0.36	Nil
Case 7							
ВТ	127	226	7.4	22	19	0.7	Nil
AT	121	152	5.9	22	18	0.74	Nil
AF	121	152	5.9	22	18	0.74	Nil
Case 8			•				
ВТ	174	268	9.4	48	55	0.87	Nil
АТ	154	235	7.6	42	48	0.85	Nil
AF	180	250	7.7	40	48	0.85	Nil
Case 9							
BT	174	266	13.3	25	33	0.6	Nil
АТ	128	223	12.8	27	31	0.8	Nil
AF	122	217	12.7	23	30	0.8	Nil
Case 10	•		A A			•	
ВТ	165	265	9.8	16	11	0.95	Nil
AT	143	242	8.3	ARA 18	11	0.94	Nil
AF	156	266	8.3	16	12	1.0	Nil

RESULT

- Marked improvement was observed in the subjective parameters such as polyuria, polyphagia, polydipsia, fatigue, burning sensation of palm and soles and dryness of mouth after treatment. Burning sensation of palm and soles result shows an overall slight elevation after follow-up on comparing with after treatment results.
- Marked improvement was observed in the objective parameters such as FBS, PPBS and HbA1C after treatment.
- Improvement in HbA1C was maintained after follow up
- FBS and PPBS were slightly elevated after follow up on comparing with after treatment results.

DISCUSSION

Avaranajanya Madhumeha mainly arises from Santharpanotha Nidana causing an Avarana type of pathology. On analysing the symptoms of different types of Prameha, it is observed that most of the symptoms which can be compared with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus can be identified in the stage of Avaranajanya Madhumeha. The Pratyatmalinga of Madhumeha i.e., Prabhuta Mutrata has been observed in these subjects. The various Aharaja Nidana explained in the classics possess net properties like Guru, Snigda, Sheeta, Pichila Guna and Madhura Amla Lavana Rasa predominant diets, that could vitiate the Jataragni, Dhatwagni and Bhutagni leading to formation of Ama and accumulation of Mala indicating the metabolic derangements at the cellular level. Vihara Nidana indicates sedentary habits. All these factors tend to vitiate Kapha Dosha initially and further vitiate all three Doshas in the Vvaktha Avastha. Excessive intake of Madhura Rasa leads to conditions like Sthoulya and Prameha. Madhura Rasa is predominant of Jala and Pritvi Mahabhoota. Thus, its excessive indulgence increases the Kapha Dosha quantitatively by Jalamahabhoota and qualitatively due to loss of Sthira Guna.

In Avaranajanya Madhumeha, some of the Poorvarupa are retained in Vvakta Avastha such as Karapada Daha, Mukha Sosha, Pipasa, Alasva in these subjects. The initial phases of T2DM can be correlated to Avaranajanya Madhumeha due to the obstruction of Vata Dosha by the Avaraka Kapha and Pitta. Due to over indulgence of Guru, Snigda, Amla, Lavana Rasayukta Ahara, Asyasugha and avoidance of Vyayama leads to excessive increase of Kapha, Pitta, Meda and Mamsa, in turn the normal pathway of Vata gets obstructed i.e.; Chala Guna is hampered due to Avarana by vitiated Dosha and Dushva. In the initial phases, Kapha Dosha being the first Dosha affected, loses its Sthiratva i.e., the Drava Guna is increased due to Dhatvagnimandya and Pitta Vridhi. Bahudrava Sleshma then vitiates its Ashrava Dhatu Medas along with the *Kleda* to *Bahuabadha Medas* and vitiates all other Dushva. All the Kledavukta Dushva enters the Mutravaha Srotas, vitiates it, and gets lodged in Basti, which is a Apana Vata Sthana and gets further afflicted by Viguna Apana Vata and is excreted. As it is a Medopradoshaja Roga, the subjects show the features of *Medo Dushti Lakshanas*. Due to the vitiation of *Kleda*. patients void Prabhoota Mutra, further causing Trishna, and Asyashosha. Vata subsequently gets vitiated when there is a presence of Avarana. Kapha Medo Avruta Vata Lakshanas like Sthaimitva, Angamarda are seen in the subjects. On the progression of disease from *Paithika* to *Vatika* stage symptoms of *Pitta* and *Vata* are observed i.e., *Daha* along with Shoola are also seen in Pittavruta Vata. When Vata dislodges the Avaraka Pitta, Rakta, and Kapha to extremities, neuropathic features like burning sensation, numbness, etc are observed in the subjects. As Vata is being obstructed proper metabolism or Dhatu Parinama through Rasadi Dhatuvaha Srotas gets impaired due to Dhatwagni *Mandya*. The similar pathophysiology seen in Athisthula and hence the classification of Sthoola Pramehi can be better explained.

Type II Diabetes is a condition which cannot be cured completely. It can recur as the insulin resistance persists. Anti-inflammatory compounds secreted by the immune system protect beta cells from its attack. Administering insulin enables patients to live with the disease, but it does not restore pancreatic function. In *Avaranajanya Madhumeha*, the disturbed metabolic state suggest defect in the *Dhatvagni*. Thus, correction in this impaired *Agni* is necessary. As *Uttarottara Dhatu Poshana* is hampered, *Srothoshodhana* is necessary. As *Kleda Dushti* is a main factor in disease progression *Kleda Shoshana* is necessary to subside the symptoms. Thus, the drugs which are *Kapha Vata Shamaka, Tridoshaghna, Anulomaka*, having *Ruksha*,

Ushna, Rasayana properties are beneficial in the management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

Probable mode of action of Abhrakadi Yogam

The medicine used in the study is *Abhrakadi Yogam*, mentioned in *Yogaratnakara* in the context of *Prameha Chikitsa*. It contains 5 ingredients prepared as *Sukshma Churna* and adjuvant is honey. It has indication in all types of *Prameha*. The formulation is predominant of *Katu*, *Tikta*, *Kashaya Rasa*, *Laghu*, *Rooksha Guna*, *Ushna Veerya*, *Deepana*, *Pachana*, *Anulomana*, *Rasayana* propertites. All the ingredients are *Tridoshahara* and is beneficial in *Avaranajanya Madhumeha* which is a *Kapha Pitta Pradhana Tridosha Vikara*.

Katu and Tikta Rasa has Deepana and Pachana properties which helps in increasing the *Pachakagni*, normalise Samana Vayu Gati, Shamana of Kapha Dosha and Vatavardhaka and consequently correcting Dhatwagni and thereby corrects metabolism. Katu, Tikta and Kashaya Rasa present in this formulation are antagonistic to Madhura Rasa thus it may help in reducing elevated glucose. The accumulated free fatty acids and hypertrophied adipose tissue can be understood as Medhodhatu Vridhi due to Medodhatwagnimandya. The Laghu Guna in this formulation with its Lekhana nature does Srothoshodhana by removing the accumulated Bahuabadha Medas.

The Kashaya Rasa and Ruksha Guna helps in Kleda Shoshana, so it may help in reducing polyuria by the Sthambhana nature. Thus, helps in restoring Sthiratva of Kapha Dosha and correcting Kledayukta Dushyas. The Madhura Vipaka helps in Pitta Shamana, Dhatu Poshana.

Madhu is mentioned as Anupana. Madhu is having Lekhana property of honey helps Kleda Shoshana, it has Medo Kshayakara action. It helps in enhancing the Pramehaghna property of Abhrakadi Yogam through its Yogavahi property.

Hareetaki, by its *Anulomana* property helps in correcting the *Viguna Apanavayu* and *Malapaka*. So, the constipation can be corrected. Also, with the *Brihmana* and *Balya* properties, muscle wasting and emaciation can be managed. It is proven to have antioxidant, hypoglycaemic, hypolipidemic and renoprotective activity which may have helped in reduction in blood glucose, maintaining normal creatinine level.

Vibheetaki having Bhedana, Rechaka properties may have helped in Srothoshodhana and thereby normalising vitiated Apana Vayu, expels the Badha Mala through Guda Marga. It is a proven potent drug with antidiabetic activity and also, has been proven to enhance insulin-stimulated glucose uptake in Krishna G S, L Mahadevan, Kasthuri Nair A, Arun Pratap. Efficacy of Abhrakadi Yogam in Managing Type II Diabetes Mellitus

adipocytes. Because of which maybe it has reduced blood glucose level.

Amalaki is a *Pramathi Dravya* which helps in *Dosha Sanchaya*, removes the *Srotho Sanga*, and thus helps in correcting *Dhatvagni* and *Dhatu Parinama*. The *Sheeta Virya* and *Dahaprasamana* property helps in *Pittashamana* and thus may have helped in reducing the burning sensation of palm and soles. It has been proven to have anti-diabetic, anti-cholestremic, antilipidemic, and antioxidant activity which helps regulate insulin action by inhibiting glycogenolysis, reducing hepatic glucose production, and lowering blood glucose.

Haridra is having Ushna Veerya, Katu Vipaka which helps in Medohara and Amapachana. Haridra with its Prabhava is Pramehaghna and Vikara Prasamana has actions in Raktavaha Srotas. It has been proved to have antidiabetic, antioxidant, antihyperlipidemic activity which helps to reduce plasma glucose, increase plasma insulin levels, increase GLUT-2 transporters.

Abhrakabhasma or biotite ash is a mineral drug belonging to group of *Maharasa*. It has *Yogavahini* property which helps the *Prameghna* properties of other drugs. It is a proven antihyperglycemic, hepatoprotective and immune modulator effect which can act as *Rasayana*, it improves the *Dhatu Sarata* and *Nadi Balya*.

CONCLUSION

The efficacy of *Abhrakadi Yogam* in managing Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus or *Avaranajanya Madhumeha* has been presented clinically. The trial drug in gross possesses *Sthambhana, Lekhana, Shoshana, Medohara* and *Rasayana* properties which is effective in reducing the *Sarira Kleda,* removing vitiated *Medas* and restoring the *Dhatu Sthiratva.*

Utilizing these properties, subjects experienced significant improvement in subjective parameters and notable reductions in FBS, PPBS, and HbA1C levels after treatment. However, a slight elevation in FBS and PPBS values after follow up on comparing with after

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treatment values indicates the clinical efficacy of *Abhrakadi Yogam* during the trial period. Furthermore, it effectively maintained SGOT, SGPT, creatinine, and ketone levels within normal levels before treatment, after treatment as well as after follow up, suggesting the clinical safety of the trial drug. Importantly, no adverse effects were identified throughout both the study and follow-up periods. Consequently, considering its overall safety and clinical effectiveness, *Abhrakadi Yogam* stands as a viable and safe treatment option for individuals with Type 2 DM.

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