



# I J A P C

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AYURVEDA AND  
PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY

[www.ijapc.com](http://www.ijapc.com)

E ISSN - 2350-0204

**VOLUME 9**

**ISSUE 1**

**10TH JULY**

**2018**

### Importance of *Raktamoksana* in *Visacikitsa*-A Review

Bhawar (Waghe) Vanita.<sup>1\*</sup> and Mhase R.V.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Dept. Agadtantra, G. S. Gune Ayurved College, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India

#### ABSTRACT

Shri. Dhanvantari blessed human life with Ayurveda to cure all the diseases and to achieve healthy life. To cure all types of diseases, Ayurveda is divided in eight branches known as '*Astang -Ayurved*'. These branches describes copiously the treatment of various diseases. *Damshtacikista or visacikista or Agadtantra* is one of the very important branch of Ayurveda. It deals with alleviation of poisons, artificial poisons and toxic symptoms due to intake of antagonistic substances. There is great devotion of Acharya Carak , Susrut and Vagbhat for this subject. *Raktamoksana* is speciality of Ayurveda. It is very much discussed in all other branches of Ayurveda. In this article, an effort is made to underline the importance of *Raktamoksana* in treatment of poisons.

#### KEYWORDS

*Rakatomoksana, Poisons, Treatment, Ayurveda*



**Greentree Group Publishers**

[Received 21/04/18](#) [Accepted 26/06/18](#) [Published 10/07/18](#)

## INTRODUCTION

There are some things which are harmful to human being. Poisons are one of them. Poisons act deleteriously on the body and prove fatal, if not treated. There is wide use of Raktamokshan in treatment of poisoning. This review article will prove helpful to explain the importance of Raktamoksana in Visacikitsa.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. *Samprapti* of visa and effect on *rakta-dhatu*.
2. Importance of Rakt-dhatu for life.
3. Importance of raktamoksana in treatment of poisons.
4. All references regarding raktamoksana in treatment of poisons.

## MATERIALS & METHODS

For this review, related Samhitas ,texts & commentaries are reviewed in brief.

### 1. *Samprapti* of visa and effect on *rakta-dhatu*.

Poison is said to possess the following 10 properties in almost all the texts. Poisons are penetrating (*tiksna*), hot in potency (*usna*), dry (*ruksha*), non-unctuous (*visada*), they spread all over the body quickly (*vyavayi*), act quickly (*asukari*), light (*laghu*), causes looseness of joints dilating the tissue pores (*vikasi*), and have the

capacity of entering into minute pores (*suksma*), are of imperceptible taste (*avyakta rasa*) and do not undergo digestion (*apaki*)<sup>1</sup>.

Blood flows down due to heat of the poison and it kills the man by blocking the channels. The poison ingested stays in the heart of the dead while that influenced by biting or stinging is located at the particular site<sup>2</sup>.

Due to roughness it aggravates *vayu*, Due to hotness poisons aggravates *pitta* along with blood<sup>3</sup>. Due to drastic nature it affects mind and disjoins the supports of vital spots, it vitiates rakta due to minuteness i.e. quality of entering into the channel, by quick acting nature, it kills instantaneously, by property of *vyavayi*, it is absorbed and circulated all over the body, because of *vikasi* property, it damages *dosas, dhatu and malas*, due to non-sliminess it does not stick anywhere due to lightness it is unstable and difficult to hold by treatment and as it is not diagnosed, it is difficult to eliminate and it troubles for long time<sup>4</sup>.

Because of its properties such as being penetrating (*tiksna*), a visa is opposite of *ojas* and for the person having predominance of *vata* and *pitta*, it is obviously fatal. The poison that result in the death of a person include the one that enters the body, vitiates the blood first

&then the *pitta, kapha and vata* along with their respective seats, finally invading the heart<sup>5</sup>.

*Dusivisa* (latent poisons) vitiates blood and produces pustules, *kitibha* and urticarial rashes<sup>6</sup>.

All types of narcosis (*mada*) caused by alcoholic drinks, poisons or blood are not except the vitiation of the three dosas<sup>7</sup>.

## 2. IMPORTANCE OF RAKTA-DHATU FOR LIFE:-

*Rakta* is responsible for formation of *Oja* and *ayurvidhi* (life)<sup>8</sup>.

There are only 10 seats where vital breath is located-blood i.e. Rakta-dhatu is one of them<sup>9</sup>.

Blood is said as base of life. It protects the body from putrifaction<sup>10</sup>.

Blood is fluid of life because it carries oxygen from lungs to all parts of body and carbon –dioxide from all parts of the body to the lungs. It is also called fluid of health because it protects body against diseases<sup>11</sup>.

*Rakta-dhatu* is vital for the subsistence of the body. It's function is to maintain proper life activities<sup>12</sup>.

## 3. IMPORTANCE OF RAKTAMOKSANA IN TREATMENT OF POISONING :-

After blood-letting the entire poison is eliminated hence it should be performed as it is the best treatment thereof<sup>13</sup>.

The vein should be cut before the poison spreads in the body. When the vitiated blood is taken out, the poison comes out, this is the best treatment<sup>14</sup>.

At the spot of the bite, the poison remains for a period of 100 *matras* and then vitiates the blood and other tissues and it spreads throughout the body. In order to avoid the growth of the creeper of the poison in the body, incision at the spot of the bite and other treatment should be done within this period<sup>15</sup>.

Poison does not advance after excision of bite like a tree after cutting its root. Sucking (*cusan*) is taking out vitiated blood and *aristas* (application of tourniquet) are like water bandhas. Application of heat (cauterisation) burns the poison situated in *twak* (skin) and *mamsa* (flesh). Blood-letting eliminates it from blood<sup>16</sup>.

## 4. REFERENCES OF RAKTAMOKSANA IN TREATMENT OF POISONS :-

Acharya Carak has described 24 remedies, to treat the poisons. Raktamoksana (blood-letting) is one(9<sup>th</sup>) of them. It is stated that in case of the bite poison; when the poison has not spread (localized) the physician should bind the tourniquet above the bitten part and compress it fully. Therefrom blood should be eliminated through scraping, application of horn, leech or venesection because blood being



affected by the poison, the constitution get deranged and thus the patient expires<sup>17</sup>.

Management according to condition in cases of both immobile and mobile source of poisons-if the poisoned site has been discoloured, hard, swollen and painful, blood-letting should be performed immediately<sup>18</sup>.

In *Dusivisa* or the poisons situated in blood, venesection and five evacuative measures should be applied<sup>19</sup>.

In the first phase of poisoning by hooded snake, one should perform blood-letting. Blood-letting should be done by venepuncture, scarification or applying horn<sup>20</sup>. Blood should be let out by incising the muscle near the spot<sup>21</sup>.

In *Mandalin* (viper) snake bite blood-letting should be done by leeches<sup>22</sup>.

In the first phase of poisoning by *Rajiman snake*, blood-letting should be performed with gourd (alabu)<sup>23</sup>. Blood should be let out either by a deep incision or by the use of sucking gourd<sup>24</sup>.

In rat poisoning of all the types, veins should be punctured along with application of evacuative measures. Also cauterization at the site of bite and scarification is also advised<sup>25</sup>.

In bite by rabid animals, the blood should be drained with pressure<sup>26</sup>.

In scorpion bite, incision should be done to cause bleeding<sup>27</sup>.

In *murccha* and *mada*, the patient should be subjected to five evacuative measures, after they have uncted and fomented properly, according to disorder and strength<sup>28</sup>. *Mada* and *murccha* are alleviated by blood-letting<sup>29</sup>.

## DISCUSSION

1. There is wide scope for studies and research regarding Raktamoksana in Agadtantra i.e. in treatment of poisons, particularly sting-bites.
2. Effect of Raktamoksana if studied with special reference to pain and other local and systemic signs and symptoms will prove helpful.
3. In cases of snake-bites, scorpion bite and in other poisons concept of 'dusita' blood may be studied with the help of criteria like colour, composition, coagulation time against modern parameters.

## CONCLUSION

According to this review, Raktamoksana is promising method to save the life of patient in treatment of poisons.

It is more useful in Animal poisons i.e. in snake-bites and other sting bites.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Carak Samhita text with English translation. Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4<sup>th</sup> edition -1996).
2. Susrut Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental ,(2010).
3. Astang hrday of Vagbhat, Chaukhamba Publication, Edited by Kanjiv Lochan.(2017).

## REFERENCES

1. Astang hrday of Vagbhat, Chaukhamba Publication, Edited by Kanjiv Lochan.(2017), Uttarsthan (Chapter 35/7) .
2. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental (2010), kalpsthan Chapter 2/30.
3. Carak Samhita text with english translation. Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition-1996), Cikitsasthan Chapter.23/ 32.
4. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental, (2010), Kalpsthan. Chapter 2/ 19-23
5. Astang hrday of Vagbhat, Chaukhamba Publication, Edited by Kanjiv Lochan.(2017), Uttarsthan Chapter 35/8-10.
6. Carak Samhita text with english translation .Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition -1996) , Cikitsasthan Chapter 23/31.

7. Carak Samhita text with english translation .Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition -1996) , Sutrasthan Chapter 24/ 34.
8. Carak Samhita text with english translation .Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition -1996) , Sutrasthan Chapter 24/ 24.
9. Carak Samhita text with english translation .Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition -1996) , Sutrasthan Chapter 29/ 3.
10. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental 2010, sutrasthan Chapter.14/44.
11. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental, 2010, Sutrasthan, Chapter.15/ 21.
12. Astang hrday of Vagbhat, Chaukhamba Publication, Edited by Kanjiv Lochan. (2017), Sutrasthan Chapter 11/ 4.
13. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental 2010-kalpsthana Chapter 5/ 15.
14. Astang hrday of Vagbhat ,Chaukhamba Publication ,Edited by Kanjiv Lochan.(2017), Uttarsthan Chapter 36/ 48.
15. Astang hrday of Vagbhat, Chaukhamba Publication, Edited by Kanjiv Lochan.(2017), Uttarsthan Chapter 36/39-40
16. Carak Samhita text with english translation .Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition -1996) , Cikitsasthan Chapter 23/ 44.

17. Carak Samhita text with english translation .Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition -1996) , Cikitsasthan 23/ 35-37.
18. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental ,(2010), kalpsthana 5/ 36.
19. Carak Samhita text with english translation .Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition -1996) , Cikitsasthan 23/ 63
20. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental (2010), kalpsthana 5/ 20.
21. Astang hrday of Vagbhat, Chaukhamba Publication, Edited by Kanjiv Lochan.(2017), Uttarasthan36/74.
22. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental, (2010), kalpsthana 5/ 24.
23. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental,(2010) kalpsthana 5/ 28.
24. Astang hrday of Vagbhat, Chaukhamba Publication ,Edited by Kanjiv Lochan.(2017),Uttarasthan36/ 80.
25. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental -2010 -kalpsthana 7/ 33.
26. Susrut- Samhita, Chaukhamba Vishwabharati Oriental -2010 kalpsthana 7/ 50.
27. Astang-hrday of Vagbhat, Chaukhamba Publication, Edited by Kanjiv Lochan (2017), Uttarasthan37/ 31&39.
28. Carak Samhita text with english translation. Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4<sup>th</sup> edition -1996) Sutrasthana 24/ 54.
29. Carak Samhita text with english translation. Prof. P.V. Sharma, (4th edition -1996) Sutrasthana 24/ 58.