

Role of Ahiphen according to Agadtantra in Ayurveda**Dr.Shruti Dharmendra Yadav¹, Dr Amrapali Patil², Dr Sagar Sudhakar Narode³.**

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Abstract: -

Ayurveda is an alternative medicine system .In Sanskrit Ayurveda means "The science of life". Ayurveda knowledge originated in India more than 5000 years ago and is often called the mother of healing.

Ayurveda therapies include herbal medicine, special diet, yoga and meditation, massage, enema and medicinal oils and ghrut. Ayurvedic preparation of medicine typically based on complex herbal compound, minerals and metals substances. An ancient Ayurveda texts also taught surgical techniques including a Rhinoplasty, kidney stone extraction, piles and fistula, sutures and the extraction of foreign objects.

Agadtantra is a one of the eight branch of Ayurveda. Visha chikitsa or Agadtantra include the treatment of disease caused by poison and toxins, animals, snake, insect bites, metals, minerals. It is equivalent to toxicology in modern medicine.

Ahiphen is one of the upvisha from papaveraceae family and it is used in many ayurvedic formulations. The plant of opium poppy or poppy seeds is known as "Ahiphen"¹. Ahiphen yields wide range of natural semi synthetic and synthetic alkaloids namely morphine, thebaine, codein and papaverine which are commonly used in medicine.

Keywords - Ahiphen, Aphim, Opium, alkaloids, Ayurveda, Opioids, Agadtantra.

Introduction:-

Opium is milky latex of papaver somniferum .approximately 12% of opium is made up of the analgesic alkaloids morphine, which is processed chemically to produce heroine and others synthetic opioids for medicinal use and for the illegal drug trade. In today's era drug abuse is serious health problem among the people. Opium and its alkaloids caused drug dependency and it is most commonly narcotic and psychotropic substance used after cannabis.

The opium act 1857 empowers only central government to cultivate poppy plant and manufacturing of opium, with the help of government. Opium act 1878 prohibits import, export, transportation, possession and sale of opium. The narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances act 1985 includes opium as narcotics and psychotropic substances and consumption of opium according to NDPS act contravention of provision in the act rules there under in respect of poppy straw ,opium poppy, coca plant and coca. There penalties should be rigorous jail up to 10 to 20 years.

Opium is classified under neurotoxic narcotic poison². The administration of improper amount of ahiphen (opium) affects the CNS with a symptoms Anxiety, coma, depression , disorientation, fast heartbeat, hallucination, nightmares, and unconsciousness etc. As this plant except is responsible for medicinal and toxic psychotropic effect, so it is necessary to use it after appropriate knowledge.

Brihat-trayi texts did not mention Ahiphen. Sarangdhara quoted it as the example for Vyavaya dravya. Text like Bhava Prakasa, Rasaratna samucchay described ahiphen³.

Vernacular Name:-⁴

Language Name	Synonyms
Hindi	Ahiphen
English	Opium
Sanskrit	Ahiphen
Gujarati	Aphim
Kannada	Aaphin
Bengal	Aaphim

Alkaloids of opium:-⁵

These are opium alkaloids which occur naturally in the the largest amount are

Morphine 2- 5%
Codeine 0.3- 4%
Thebaine 0.3%
Narcotine 2 to 7%

Ayurvedic properties of Ahiphen:- ⁶

Guna-Laghu, sukshma, ruksha, vikashi
Rasa- Tikta, kashay
Vipaka-kattu
Virya- Ushna
Prabhav- Madak

Parts used: - Seed, Seed oil, Flower, Exudate from fruits and latex.

Botanical description:-

Ahiphen is an Erect, rarely branched annual herb 60 to 120 cm in height.

Leaves -Many, lobed, dentate or serrate linear-oblong or ovate oblong.

Flower- bluish, white with a purple base.

Capsule: - globose

Stalk: - 2.5 cm diameter

Seed: - Reni form, Black or white.

Distribution: - Asia, Iran, China, Nepal
In India – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal, Assam

Types: - There types according to it's flower.

- I. White
- II. Purple
- III. Red

Traditional use

Ahiphen can be used in both way for local application and through oral administration also, because of its ushna property . Externally it can use as a local application to reduce pain and swelling.

Internal it is used for stomach aches, stone pain, sciatica, back pain, epilepsy etc. Poppy seeds are used in diarrhea & dysentery and seeds used as syrup in cough and asthma.

Mechanism of action ⁷:- It depresses the cortex respiratory and cough center in medulla but stimulate vagus and vomiting center.

Sign and symptoms⁸ :- poppy seeds are non-poisonous . Poisoning occurs due to in ingestion of opium or its alkaloids action of morphine.

Stage 1:-stage of excitement and euphoria: - There is increase sense of well-being. Increased mental activity. Flushing of face and sometime

hallucination. In children marked feature is convulsion.

Stage 2:- stage of sopor (stupor or depression):- headache, nausea, vomiting, giddiness, lethargy, drowsiness, contracted pupils, cyanosed face and itching all over the body.

Stage 3:-stage of narcosis (coma):-Deep coma, muscle relaxed, pinpoint pupils, none reacting to light, hypertension, hyperthermia, cyanosis and froth at nose and mouth.

Toxicological profile:-

Type of poison

Ayurveda: - sthavar, vanaspatic, upvisha
Modern: - Neurotoxic, narcotic poison
Fatal dose:-opium 2 gm, morphine 200mg ,codeine 0.5 gm., pethidine in 1.0 gm
Fatal period:-6 to 12 hours.

Treatment⁹:-

According to Ayurveda:-If patient is conscious then vaman Karma milk with hing powder, Tankan lahi with cows ghrita, guduchi rasa for drink, karpas beej or eranda beeja or decoction of Amalaki for drink .Prativisha of ahiphenkarpas beeja, neem,tea is given for drink. For protection of heart from poison some gold preparations should use like, hemagarbh and Swarna sutshekhar ras. In stage of coma nasya karm and anjan karma should done.

According to Modern view¹⁰:-

Gastric lavage,
Enema and purgatives.
High tension oxygen and Coramine as cardio-respiratory stimulant.

Symptomatic treatment

Antidote:-Naloxone 0.4 -1.2 mg. IV every 5 minutes till person becomes conscious and pupils dilate, newer antidote is Nalmefene 0.5-1.0 mg IV. Methadone in chronic poisoning.

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