

**Role of an Indian indigenous drug “Bhant”
(Clerodendrum infortunatum Linn.)
In the Treatment of Khalitya (Alopecia Areata)**

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Introduction:

Among the common therapeutic problems are probably a few ones that challenge the skill and ingenuity of the dermatologists more than that done by Alopecia aerate which is mostly resistant to treatment so far known to the medical world. The Present known treatment and management is still not an ideal one by any means.

Under the circumstances an outlook of helplessness & frustration exists till today. The treatment known does not work effectively in many cases and even in those where they sword the relapses are very common and frequent. Due to these drawbacks they cannot be recommended as satisfactory touting treatment of Alopecia aerate. Thus it is obvious that an ideal treatment for the cure and relief of Alopecia aerate remains unknown.

The above mentioned situation presses the need of further research on the problem of treatment and management of Alopecia aerate. With this idea and the indication of a large number system of medicine (Ayurveda) in the form of tails and leaps, for the treatment of Alopecia aerate with claims of satisfactory results by Ayurvedic physician, this scientific therapeutic study was planned. In this therapeutic study the validity and the potentialities of pharmaceutical preparation “Bhant’s oil” will be shown.

Materials and Methods:

The subjects included in this therapeutic trial were from the O.P.D. of LKR Ayurvedic Hospital, Gadhinglaj. All the patients who were diagnosed as

case of Alopecia aerate were subjected to this therapeutic study.

The diagnosis in very patient included in the study was made on the clinical grounds. In addition to history and the clinical examination, appropriate laboratory procedures were undertaken to exclude systemic disease. This therapeutic study is based on total 33 cases that could continue the treatment and were followed till the end of the enquiry. the patients who could not turn up after one week for follow-up study. are not included in the total number.

Trial Drug:

For the therapeutic trial in this study, the leaves of the aslant “Bhantas” was used out of the leaves oil was prepared, which was used topically on the lesions of Alopecia aerate.

Pharmaceutical Preparation of Bhantas oil:

The leaves of Bhantas were chopped in small pieces and were compressed for the extraction of their juice. about 20kg. Of fresh juice was collected and processed for the preparation of oil, for which 5 kg of tile –oil was used.

First of all the tail-oil was put on the fire into a pan and was heated to make it free form and content of water. afterwards the total 20kg. of fresh juice was intermixed with the oil and was kept in boiling on mild fire. Still further one fourth of the weight of the oil. The Kalka of Bhantas was also mixed into the boiling oil, which was constantly being stirred with ladle. Thus the process of providing mild heat to the oil was maintained for three successive days.

The oil was taken off form the fire when it reached to the stage of madhyama degree of sneha-

paka. The following tests were applied to see the perfectness of the Madhyapaka of the prepared oil:

- 1) The oil was dropping off entirely free from drugs, which became dry and shapeless.
- 2) The oil was found non sticky and froth less.
- 3) The drop of oil after putting into the fire burnt without any sound. The color of oil became greenish.

The above mentioned criteria when became positive, only then the oil was considered perfectly prepared.

Criteria of Assessment:

- 1) The main criteria of assessment of the therapeutic trial was based on the regrowth of the hair on the lesions, which was clinically photographed for records to be used at the time of final assessment.
- 2) Next criteria of assessment was the satisfaction reported by the patients after total period of treatment. The results of this therapeutic study were recorded as follows in terms of improvement

Cured: Complete regrowth of the hairs on the lesions.

Improved: Regrowth of the hairs on the maximum area of the lesions barring some of the total area of the lesion or lesion.

Stationery : No change at all.

Deteriorated: increased in the number of lesions and in the area of existing lasting lesion or lesions.

Results:-

Out of the total 33 cases included in therapeutic trial most of them (87.88%) have shown improvement of lesser or greater degree and those who have shown improvement. Amongst them 54.55% have been completely cured, while only rest 33.33% were labeled as improved only 12.12% of the total cases could not show any improvement in their clinical condition and they remained stationery, but even they have not shown any deterioration during the period of Six months of the treatment. which is sufficiently a long time of further development of the disease, considering the area of the existing lesion or lesions or in their number.

Discussion: -

In this therapeutic investigation, total 33 cases of alopecia areate were included out of these 54.55 percent have been labeled as cured and 33.33 percent showed improvement in their clinical condition of lesser or greater degree and rest 12.12 percent cases remained stationary but even these cases could not show any extension in their disease, considering the area of the brain or lesions or their number from this herpetic result, it can be inferred that the drug "Bhanta" is useful in the treatment of alopecia areate of any specific type which is caused due to some specific etiology only and it cannot be claimed good for all types of cases. All these cases who showed encouraging results might have been caused by one and the same etiology threat for they showed encouraging results might have been caused by one and the same etiology, therefore they showed good results and others who might not have been due to another etiology, therefore they showed good results and others who might have been due to another etiology could not show any result or only some improvement, in which this drug may not have similar effect.

Under these circumstances now it remains to find out that on which specific type of etiology this drug acts and on which it is not, in view of the limitations of our knowledge of the etiology it is well to change from one form of treatment to another. if the first proves unsuccessful. Now it has exact etiological factor where this drug acts as it was used on purely empirical basis without any pre-idea of destroying an infectious agent, acting on a possible endocrine disturbance of reflex irritation.

Each specialist becomes an adherent of one or one or several medicaments and feels that he gets better results with his form of treatment than with any other. This is not good and proper what is wanted is to try to find some specific treatment for specific type of disease caused by some specific etiology.

Future measures aiming towards a general up building of the patient and in certain cases endocrine therapy, are to be applied. The oil of "bhanta" is as follows. Is as follows: Vigorous massage of the plaques with a mixture of equal parts of the oil of "bhanta" (deodorized), lanolin or baseline each and night application of the same mixture to healthy portions of the scalp at least two or three times

weekly even every night in severe cases Cleanse the scalp next morning with a solution of thirty grams of acetone containing one gram of glacial acetic acid. Then shampoo the entire scalp with tar soap if the patient is engaged in a daily occupation. If he remains at home a shampoo is necessary only once weekly.

General tonic treatment not only is undernourished and anemic children but also in overworked, serious adults, has always seemed to me to be as important as local applications. Sufficient sleep, fresh air, and outdoor exercise are not to be forgotten.

The cure and improvement results of this therapeutic study can be assumed to have resulted from this form of indiscriminate therapy. It is not to be forgotten that quite a large number of cases of ordinary alopecia areata of the scalp will clear up eventually without any treatment whatever.

This fact often casts a serious doubt on the validity of cures by certain methods of treatment it also accounts for the success and popularity enjoyed by so many commercial chain stores engaged in treating diseases of the scalp. These institutions guarantee that the hair will return in three months, it does and their reputation is made not only for this but for every disease of the scalp.

Conclusion:

The Indian indigenous drug bhant (Clerodendrum infortunatum Linn.) of herbal origin in the form of bhant-oil is effective for the treatment of khalitya (alopecia areata)

The experience gained during the course of therapeutic trials, suggests that the indigenous drugs tried, are safe to use for pretty long time with no untoward effect.

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