



TOPICAL APPLICATIONS OF SINGLE DRUGS MENTIONED IN SUSHRUTA SAMHITA - A REVIEW

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Abstract

Drug plays a vital role in the treatment as it prevents, alleviates or cures the diseases. Wise or proper administration of drug is crucial to convey the mechanism of action of drug. So the concept of Bhesajya prayoga (route of administration) in Ayurveda is the key factor to obtain optimum therapeutic efficacy of the drug. Ayurveda emphasizes on both routes of administration of drug internal as well as external. Based on the target of action the route is selected. To achieve the purpose of healing, topical applications are suitable. Topical application refers to external application of drug. This is applied to a particular place on or in the body. Prashasta bhesajam or an ideal drug of medicament is one which keeps away an individual from diseases and maintains in healthy condition. The non-availability of genuine drugs, their high cost, substitution, adulteration and incorrect identity of the ingredients used are a few of the major problems encountered today in the utilization of compound drugs in Ayurveda. Thus there is an urgent need to reemphasize the use of single drugs recorded in the classical texts. For the purpose, the compilation work was done regarding topical applications of single drugs and their therapeutic indications quoted in Sushruta samhita which is one of the richest records of the ancient Ayurveda. In this, administration of single drug preparation were given with some adjuvant i.e. ghrita, honey, sugar etc. which plays an important role in the treatment. The present article is an attempt to make a review on "Comprehensive Database of Topical applications" suggested by Acharya Sushruta.

Key words: Topical application, Ayurveda, Single drug, Sushruta samhita

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INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is an ancient medical science which was developed in our country. It deals with all the aspects of human life and has been recognized as ancient science of therapy preventive and curative¹. Ayurveda attaches greater importance to drugs which is the second most important factor of *Chikitsa chatuspada*². Proper administration of the drug (*Bheshaja prayoga*) is essential to impart the pharmacological action of drug. *Bheshaja prayoga* includes wise selection of drug and its administration in accurate dose through right route along with suitable adjuvant. The exclusiveness of Ayurveda drug administration is that, a single herb can be used in different individuals, applying various dosage forms, time of administration and route of administration. Ayurveda has classified the herbal preparations into single drug and compound formulation. The usage of single drug is beneficial as they are simple, easily available and cost effective than formulation. Ayurveda has its roots right from *Rigaveda* (1500 BC). On analyzing the *Vedic* literature, it become evident that single drug usage was prevalent at that time. The administration of single drug preparation were given with some adjuvant i.e. ghritha, honey, sugar etc. which become helpful in the success of treatment. Usage of single herb will also reduce the

exploitation of plant materials. *Acharya Sushruta* (600 BC) had vast knowledge of medicine and surgery mainly based on Ayurveda. He has demonstrated the knowledge on topical applications of single drug. In *Sushruta samhita*³, there is detailed description of the topical applications such as- *Lepa* (form of paste), *Pralepa* (cold lepa without heating), *Abhyanga* (massage), *Anjana* (collyrium), *Tarpana* (concentric boundary is formed around the orbit and filled with medicated ghee), *Putapaka* (retaining of plant extracts, fats over the eye), *Ashchyotana* (instillation), *Varti* (medicines are powdered and triturate and given in shape), *Parisheka* (pouring of thin stream), *Nasya* (nasal administration), *Dhumapana* (medicinal smoke), *Shirovirechana* (excretion from head with specified procedure), *Karnapurana* (ear oiling), *Gandusha* & *Kawala* (gargling), *Pratisarana* (massaging to teeth and gums), *Basti* (enema) etc. Topical application is a medication that is applied to a particular place in the body. They are used mainly to cure wounds, cuts, skin diseases, joint problems etc. This paper was present to discuss about single drugs for treatment of diseases pertaining to topical applications and clinical importance.

OBSERVATIONS

Sr No.	Name of the drug	Part used	Indication	Mode of administration	Reference
1.	<i>Shali</i> (<i>Oryza sativa</i> Linn.)	-	<i>Atidagdha</i> (excessive burn)	Application of <i>Churna</i> with <i>Ghrita</i> as <i>Pralepa</i>	Su.Su.12/25
2.	<i>Tinduka</i> (<i>Diospyros embryopteris</i> Pers.)	Bark	<i>Atidagdha</i> (excessive burn)	Application of decoction of bark mixed with <i>Ghrita</i> as <i>Pralepa</i>	Su.Su.12/25
3.	<i>Langali</i> (<i>Gloriosa superba</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Aparapatana</i> (excretion of placenta)	Application of root paste as <i>Lepa</i>	Su.Sha.10/23
4.	<i>Aragvadha</i> (<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn.)	Bark, leaves, fruit	<i>Shwitra</i> (vitiligo)	Application of processed <i>Kshara</i> with addition of <i>Putikit</i> (insect)	Su.Chi.9/16
5.	<i>Bibhitaka</i> (<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> Roxb.)	Fruit	<i>Shwitra</i> (vitiligo)	Application of <i>Taila</i> with addition of <i>Krushna sarpa masi</i> as <i>Lepa</i>	Su.Chi.9/17
6.	<i>Hribera</i> (<i>Pavonia odorata</i> Willd.)	Whole plant	<i>Shwitra</i> (vitiligo)	<i>Lepa</i> of <i>Hribera</i> with <i>Mayurpitta</i> (bile of peacock)	Su.Chi.9/26
7.	<i>Karavira</i> (<i>Nerium indicum</i> Mill.)	Root	<i>Krimiyukta kushtha</i> (skin disease)	<i>Lepa</i> of root paste with <i>Gomutra</i> (cow urine)	Su.Chi.9/52
8.	<i>Vidanga</i> (<i>Embelia ribes</i> Burm.f.)	Fruit	<i>Krimiyuta kushtha</i> (skin disease)	<i>Lepa</i> of paste with <i>Gomutra</i> (cow urine)	Su.Chi.9/52
9.	<i>Trunashunya</i> (<i>Pandanus odoratissimus</i> Roxb.)	Rhizome	<i>Pittaja granthi</i> (glandular swelling)	<i>Lepa</i> of <i>Trunshunya kanda</i> with sugar	Su.Chi.18/10
10.	<i>Muchukanda</i> (<i>Pterospermum acerifolium</i> Willd.)	Flower	<i>Pittaja granthi</i> (glandular swelling)	<i>Lepa</i> of <i>Muchukanda</i> with sugar	Su.Chi.18/10
11.	<i>Gunja</i> (<i>Abrus precatorius</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Indralupta</i> (alopecia)	<i>Lepa</i> of root paste	Su.Chi.20/25
12.	<i>Nimba</i> (<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.)	Bark	<i>Arunshika</i> (eczema of scalp)	Application of decoction of bark (After <i>Raktamokshana</i>) as <i>Parisheka</i>	Su.Chi.20/27
13.	<i>Bala</i> (<i>Sida cordifolia</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Mrudita</i> (disease of reproductive organ)	Application of <i>Taila</i> as <i>Parisheka</i>	Su.Chi.21/8
14.	<i>Vidanga</i> (<i>Embelia ribes</i> Burm.f.)	Fruit	<i>Parilehi</i> (ear disease)	Application of <i>Lepa</i>	Su.Chi.25/22
15.	<i>Ankota</i> (<i>Alangium salviifolium</i> Wang.)	Root	<i>Vishayukta dantakashtha</i>	Application of root paste with honey as <i>Pratisarana</i>	Su.Ka.1/50
16.	<i>Shatavari</i> (<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.)	Root	<i>Karnagata visha</i>	Application of juice mixed with <i>Ghrita</i> and honey as <i>Karnapurana</i>	Su.Ka.1/68

17.	<i>Pippali</i> (<i>Piper longum</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Karnagata visha</i>	Application of paste processed <i>Ghrta</i> as <i>Tarpana</i>	Su.Ka.1/70
18.	<i>Bhallataka</i> (<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i> Linn.)	Flower	<i>Vishayukta anjana</i>	<i>Anjana karma</i> with flower	Su.Ka.1/71
19.	<i>Bandhuka</i> (<i>Pentapetes phoenicea</i> Linn.)	Flower	<i>Vishayukta anjana</i>	<i>Anjana karma</i> with flower	Su.Ka.1/71
20.	<i>Ankota</i> (<i>Alangium salviifolium</i> Wang.)	Flower	<i>Vishayukta anjana</i>	<i>Anjana karma</i> with flower	Su.Ka.1/71
21.	<i>Bhrungaraj</i> (<i>Eclipta alba</i> Hassk.)	Whole plant	<i>Shukavrunta</i> (insect venom)	<i>Lepa</i> of juice with <i>Krushna valmika mrutika</i>	Su.Ka.8/54
22.	<i>Eranda</i> (<i>Ricinus communis</i> Linn.)	Root, Bark, Tender leaves	<i>Vatabhishyanda</i> (allergic conjunctivitis), <i>Adhimantha</i> (glucoma)	<i>Nasya</i> and <i>Putapaka karma</i> with processed milk	Su.Ut.9/11
23.	<i>Kantakari</i> (<i>Solanum surattense</i> Burm.f.)	Root	<i>Adhimantha</i> (glucoma)	<i>Parisheka karma</i> with processed milk	Su.Ut.9/12
24.	<i>Shunthi</i> (<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe)	Rhizome	<i>Sushkakshipaka</i> (dry eye syndrome)	<i>Anjana karma</i> with <i>Stanya</i>	Su.Ut.9/23
25.	<i>Palasha</i> (<i>Butea monosperma</i> Roxb.)	Root, Flower	<i>Pittabhishyanda</i> (allergic conjunctivitis)	<i>Anjana karma</i> with juice of flower and root mixed with honey and sugar	Su.Ut.10/7
26.	<i>Shallaki</i> (<i>Boswellia serrata</i> Roxb.)	Gum-resin	<i>Pittabhishyanda</i> (allergic conjunctivitis)	<i>Anjana karma</i> with juice mixed with honey & Sugar	Su.Ut.10/7
27.	<i>Palindi</i> (<i>Shyama Trivrutt- Operculina turpethum</i> R. Br.)	Root bark	<i>Pittabhishyanda</i> (allergic conjunctivitis)	Decoction of drug mixed with honey and sugar boiled till it becomes semi solid and used as <i>Anjana</i>	Su.Ut.10/7
28.	<i>Madhuka</i> (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Pittabhishyanda</i> (allergic conjunctivitis)	Decoction of drug mixed with honey and sugar boiled till it becomes semi solid and used as <i>Anjana</i>	Su.Ut.10/7
29.	<i>Kinshuka</i> (<i>Butea monosperma</i> Roxb.)	Flower	<i>Pittabhishyanda</i> (allergic conjunctivitis)	<i>Anjana karma</i> with <i>Churna</i> of flower mixed with honey	Su.Ut.10/9
30.	<i>Katphala</i> (<i>Myrica esculenta</i> Buch. Ham)	Bark	<i>Pittabhishyanda</i> (allergic conjunctivitis)	<i>Ashchyotana karma</i> with <i>Churna potli</i>	Su.Ut.10/12
31.	<i>Madhooka</i> (<i>Madhuca</i>)	Heart-	<i>Balasagrathita</i>	<i>Anjana karma</i> with heartwood	Su.Ut.12/32

	<i>indica</i> J. F. Gmel.)	wood	(perinaud's conjunctivitis)	mixed with honey	
32.	<i>Bibhitaka</i> (<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> Roxb.)	Karnel (most central part)	<i>Balasagrathita</i> (perinaud's conjunctivitis)	<i>Anjana karma</i> with <i>Asthimajja</i> (karnel) mixed with honey	Su.Ut.12/32
33.	<i>Amalaki</i> (<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn.)	Leaves, Fruit	<i>Praklinna vartma</i> (odema of eyelid)	Decoction of leaf and fruit mixed with honey and sugar boiled till it becomes semi solid and used as <i>Anjana</i>	Su.Ut.12/49
34.	<i>Vansha</i> (<i>Bambusa arundinacia</i> Willd.)	Root	<i>Praklinna vartma</i> (odema of eyelid)	Decoction of root should be boiled till it becomes semi solid and made like <i>Varti</i> then used as <i>Anjana</i>	Su.Ut.12/49
35.	<i>Palasha</i> (<i>Butea monosperma</i> Roxb.)	Flower	<i>Praklinna vartma</i> (odema of eyelid)	Decoction of flower should be boiled till it becomes semi solid and made like <i>Varti</i> then used as <i>Anjana</i>	Su.Ut.12/50
36.	<i>Apamarga</i> (<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Linn.)	Seed, root, leaves	<i>Praklinna vartma</i> (odema of eyelid)	Decoction of drug should be boiled till it becomes semi solid and made like <i>Varti</i> then used as <i>Anjana</i>	Su.Ut.12/50
37.	<i>Pippali</i> (<i>Piper longum</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Kaphaja Upanaha</i> (lacrimial gland cyst)	<i>Pratisarana karma</i> with honey and rock salt	Su.Ut.14/9
38.	<i>Ashvattha</i> (<i>Ficus religiosa</i> Linn.)	Leaves	<i>Karnashula</i> (ear ache)	A bowl shaped cup prepared from the leaves should be completely filled with burning charcoal covered by thick layer of leaves and should be placed over ear.	Su.Ut.21/9
39.	<i>Ardraka</i> (<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe)	Rhizome	<i>Karnavedana</i> (ear ache)	Juice is advised for tropical application as <i>Karnapurana</i>	Su.Ut.21/18
40.	<i>Tila</i> (<i>Sesamum indicum</i> Linn.)	Seed	<i>Karnavedana</i> (ear ache)	Application of <i>Taila</i> as <i>Karnapurana</i>	Su.Ut.21/18
41.	<i>Vansha</i> (<i>Bambusa arundinacia</i> Willd.)	Bark	<i>Karnashula</i> (ear ache)	<i>Karnapurana karma</i> with bark along with <i>Ajamutra</i> (Goat's urine)	Su.Ut.21/19
42.	<i>Chukra</i> (<i>Rumex vasicarius</i> Linn.)	Leaves, seed	<i>Karnashula</i> (ear ache)	<i>Karnapurana</i>	Su.Ut.21/26
43.	<i>Matulunga</i> (<i>Citrus medica</i> Linn.)	Fruit	<i>Karnashula</i> (ear ache)	Application of juice as <i>Karnapurana</i>	Su.Ut.21/32
44.	<i>Lasuna</i> (<i>Allium</i>)	Tuber,	<i>Karnashula</i> (ear ache)	<i>Karnapurana karma</i> with juice	Su.Ut.21/32

	<i>sativum</i> Linn.)	oil			
45.	<i>Ardraka</i> (<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe)	Rhizome	<i>Karnashula</i> (ear ache)	<i>Karnapurana</i> with juice	Su.Ut.21/32
46.	<i>Vatarku</i> (<i>Solanum indicum</i> Linn.)	Root, Fruit	<i>Krumikarna</i> (magates-secondary infection in ear)	<i>Dhumapana</i>	Su.Ut.21/51
47.	<i>Sarshapa</i> (<i>Brassica campestris</i> Var.)	Seed	<i>Krumikarna</i> (magates-secondary infection in ear)	<i>Dhumapana</i> with <i>Sarshapa sneha</i>	Su.Ut.21/51
48.	<i>Guggulu</i> (<i>Commiphora wightii</i> Arn.)	Gum-resin	<i>Karna-daugandhya</i> (putrid smell coming from the ear)	<i>Dhumapana</i> & <i>Kawala</i>	Su.Ut.21/53
49.	<i>Sarshapa</i> (<i>Brassica campestris</i> Var.)	Seed	<i>Karnakshweda</i> (Labrynthitis)	<i>Dhumapana</i> with <i>Sarshapa-sneha</i>	Su.Ut.21/54
50.	<i>Bala</i> (<i>Sida cordifolia</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Nasanaha</i> (deviation of nasal septum)	<i>Anuvasana basti</i> , <i>Shirobasti</i> and <i>Abhyanga</i> with <i>Balataila</i>	Su.Ut.23/9
51.	<i>Madhooka</i> (<i>Madhuca indica</i> J. F. Gmel.)	Heart-wood	<i>Kaphaja shiroroga</i> (sinusitis)	<i>Shirovirechana</i>	Su.Ut.26/20
52.	<i>Ingudi</i> (<i>Balanites roxburghii</i> Planch.)	Bark	<i>Kaphaja shiroroga</i> (sinusitis)	<i>Shirovirechana</i>	Su.Ut.26/20
53.	<i>Meshashrunji</i> (<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> R. Br.)	Root, leaves, bark	<i>Kaphaja shiroroga</i> (sinusitis)	<i>Shirovirechana</i> with <i>Churna</i>	Su.Ut.26/20
54.	<i>Katphala</i> (<i>Myrica esculenta</i> Buch. Ham)	Bark	<i>Kaphaja shiroroga</i> (sinusitis)	<i>Nasya karma</i> with <i>Churna</i>	Su.Ut.26/21
55.	<i>Shirisha</i> (<i>Albizia lebeck</i> Benth.)	Root & fruit	<i>Suryavarta</i> (severe headache arises from sun light), <i>Ardhavabhedaka</i> (migraine)	<i>Avapida nasya</i> with root and fruit	Su.Ut.26/31
56.	<i>Madhuka</i> (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Ardhavabhedaka</i> (migraine)	<i>Avapida nasya</i> with <i>Churna</i> and honey	Su.Ut.26/33
57.	<i>Sarshapa</i> (<i>Brassica campestris</i> Var.)	Seed	<i>Sarva shiroroga</i> (all types of neurological disorder)	<i>Nasya karma</i> with <i>Sarshapa taila</i>	Su.Ut.26/42
58.	<i>Matulunga</i> (<i>Citrus medica</i> Linn.)	Kesara (karnel-most)	<i>Pitta jwara-Asya vairasya</i> (fever- mouth hostility)	It is advised that <i>Matulunga kesara</i> with honey and rock salt should be <i>Dharana</i> (hold in mouth) in <i>Pitta</i>	Su.Ut.39/185

		central part)		jwara.	
59.	<i>Palasha</i> (<i>Butea monosperma</i> Roxb.)	Flower, seed, bark	<i>Jwara- daha</i> (burning sensation in the body)	<i>Abhyanga</i> with <i>Palashakshara siddha taila</i> with addition of <i>Shukta</i> (fermented gruel)	Su.Ut.39/273
60.	<i>Palasha</i> (<i>Butea monosperma</i> Roxb.)	Leaves	<i>Jwara- daha</i> (burning sensation in the body)	<i>Lepa</i> of leaves with water	Su.Ut.39/285
61.	<i>Badara</i> (<i>Zizyphus jujube</i> Linn.)	Leaves	<i>Jwara- daha</i> (burning sensation in the body)	<i>Lepa</i> of leaves with water	Su.Ut.39/285
62.	<i>Arishtaka</i> (<i>Sapindus trifoliatus</i> Linn.)	Leaves	<i>Jwara- daha</i> (burning sensation in the body)	<i>Lepa</i> of leaves with water	Su.Ut.39/285
63.	<i>Madhuka</i> (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Pittaja hradroga</i> (heart disease)	<i>Sneha basti</i> with <i>Madhuka siddha taila</i> with addition of honey	Su.Ut.43/16
64.	<i>Trapushi</i> (<i>Cucumis sativa</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Ghranagata raktapitta</i> (nasal bleeding)	<i>Avapida nasya karma</i> with root paste mixed with honey and rice water	Su.Ut.45/29
65.	<i>Yashtimadhu</i> (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Ghranagata raktapitta</i> (nasal bleeding)	<i>Avapida nasya</i> with <i>Churna</i> along with honey and rice water	Su.Ut.45/29
66.	<i>Karanja</i> (<i>Pongamia glabra</i> Vent.)	Seed	<i>Ghranagata raktapitta</i> (nasal bleeding)	<i>Avapida nasya</i> with seed mixed with honey & sugar	Su.Ut.45/29
67.	<i>Ingudi</i> (<i>Balanites roxburghii</i> Planch.)	Karnel (most central part)	<i>Ghranagata raktapitta</i> (nasal bleeding)	<i>Avapida nasya</i> with <i>majja</i> mixed with honey & sugar	Su.Ut.45/29
68.	<i>Karanja</i> (<i>Pongamia glabra</i> Vent.)	Leaves, seed, root bark	<i>Ghranagata raktapitta</i> (nasal bleeding)	<i>Avapida nasya karma</i> of fruit along with rock salt & <i>Dadhimastu</i> (supernatant portion of the curd)	Su.Ut.45/29
69.	<i>Madhuka</i> (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Raktapitta</i> (bleeding disorder)	<i>Anuvasana basti karma</i> with processed <i>Ghrita</i>	Su.Ut.45/44
70.	<i>Madhuka</i> (<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn.)	Root	<i>Mutrashayagata raktapitta</i> (haematuria)	<i>Uttarabasti</i> with processed <i>Ghrita</i>	Su.Ut.45/46
71.	<i>Amalaki</i> (<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn.)	Fruit	<i>Trushna</i> (Thrist)	<i>Asyadharana</i> of <i>Churna</i>	Su.Ut.48/18
72.	<i>Amalaki</i> (<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn.)	Fruit	<i>Trushna</i> (Thrist)	<i>Gandusha</i> of juice	Su.Ut.48/18
73.	<i>Madhuka</i> (<i>Glycyrrhiza</i>	Root	<i>Hikka</i> (Hiccough)	<i>Avapida nasya</i> with <i>Churna</i> mixed	Su.Ut.50/16

	<i>glabra</i> Linn.)			with honey	
74.	<i>Pippali</i> (<i>Piper longum</i> Linn.)	Root, fruit	<i>Hikka</i> (Hiccough)	<i>Avapida nasya</i> with <i>Churna</i> along with sugar	Su.Ut.50/16
75.	<i>Raktachandana</i> (<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> Linn.)	Heart-wood	<i>Hikka</i> (Hiccough)	<i>Nasya karma</i> with <i>Raktachandana</i> mixed with <i>Stanya</i> or <i>Ghrta</i>	Su.Ut.50/18
76.	<i>Shala</i> (<i>Shorea robusta</i> Gaertn.f.)	Gum-resin	<i>Hikka</i> (Hiccough)	<i>Dhuma</i>	Su.Ut.50/19
77.	<i>Sarshapa</i> (<i>Brassica campestris</i> Var.)	Seed	<i>Unmada</i> (schizophrenia)	<i>Nasya</i> & <i>Abhyanga</i> with <i>Sarshapa taila</i>	Su.Ut.61/17
78.	<i>Chandana</i> (<i>Santalum album</i> Linn.)	Heart-wood	<i>Swasthvrutt- Sharad rutu</i> (health purpose- autumn)	It is stated that a person who do <i>Lepa</i> of <i>Chandana</i> and follows other diets in autumn season, then the diseases will stay away from him.	Su.Ut.64/15
79.	<i>Agaru</i> (<i>Aquilaria agallocha</i> Roxb.)	Heart-wood, oil	<i>Swasthvrutt- Hemant rutu</i> (health purpose- winter)	It is stated that a person who do <i>Lepa</i> of <i>Agaru</i> and follows other diets in winter season, then the diseases will stay away from him.	Su.Ut.64/24

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Ayurveda had reached the zenith of knowledge in the *Samhita kala* regarding external application of single drug. *Acharyas* had emphasized each and every minute detail for best therapeutic effect. There are 537 herbal drugs and 1120 diseases/symptoms mentioned in *Sushruta samhita*. Among them, 79 plants have been mentioned for the treatment of various diseases in the form of topical applications as a single drug therapy. Literary review reveals that enormous external applications of single drug have been mentioned for wide range of diseases. At some instances we come across few concepts

similar to the concept of single drug, which needs clear understanding and application in clinical practice. The treatment with single drug is considered as simple and cost effective. It is favourable for the conservation of plant resources. In current scenario, the numbers of plants being added to red list/ endangered list, unquestionably the usage of single drug therapy is worthwhile endeavour. It will also give a way for exploring and enriching Ayurveda pharmacopeia with more *Anukta dravyas*. If a single herb is sufficient to meet the *Samprapti vighatana* of the diseased, there is no necessity of adding any other drug. When we administer a compound formulation,

innumerable constituents gets added to the body. This gives a subject for thought on judicious administrations of drugs. Comprehensive database of all information available in Ayurvedic classics regarding topical application of single drug to indication are establishing richness of subject on the basis of academic and clinical acumen. It admits the reflection of epistemology of Ayurveda and its robust approach towards research & development.

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