

**International Journal
of Ayurveda and
Pharmaceutical
Chemistry**



Volume 7 Issue 3 2017

www.ijapc.com



e ISSN 2350-0204

Greentree Group



A Review on Therapeutic Use of Agadas in Ancient Ayurveda

Manjusha Mehar^{1*}, Kalpana R.Chavhan² and Shama S.Suryawanshi³

¹⁻³Dept. of Agadtantra, Government Ayurveda College, Nagpur, M.S., India

ABSTRACT

Agadtantra is one of the branches among Ashtanga Ayurveda. The word Agadtantra is derived from two words-Agad and Tantra. Agada means anything that conquers a poison and Agadtantra is a system of knowledge for conquering poisons. AcharyaCharaka explained that even strong poison is consumed in a proper way, it may work as a medicine (amruta) and medicine consumed in improper way works as a poison. AcharyaVagbhata in AshtangaSangraha well explained the use of vishdravyas(poison) in rasayanchikitsa i.e., for promoting immunity and maintain health. Every drug when used as medicine, the shodhana (purification) procedure is most important. In the process of shodhana the impure drug becomes pure and the medicinal properties of the drug increases due to contact in various dravyas. Through this research paper I am going to discuss the therapeutic properties of Agada in ancient Ayurveda.

KEYWORDS

Agadas, Agadtantra, Ancient Ayurveda, RasayanChikitsa



Greentree Group

Received 10/10/17 Accepted 01/11/17 Published 10/11/17



INTRODUCTION

Ayurved has gone through several stages of development in its long history. Agad Tantra is one among the eight branches of Ayurveda. This deals with the nature, effects and treatment of poisonous substances, both animate and inanimate. Poison is defined as a substance which when administered, inhaled or ingested, incapable of acting dexterously on human body and there by destroys life¹. The word Agad Tantra consists of three separate words A, Gada and Tantra. 'A' stands for defending or to combat. Gada means visha or the one which causes diseased condition. Tantra means the science. Agada stands for defending disease or to combat visha i.e. anti poison. In Modern toxicology, Antidotes are agents which either neutralize the poison itself or counteract the effects of poisons². In Ancient Ayurveda, these agadas (Antidotes) are used in vega (in between fifth to seventh condition) of poisonous case³. These formulation of Agadas contains drugs which have opposite properties to the vishas i.e., antipoisonous properties. Due to antipoisonous conditions Agadas are useful for only in several emergency conditions. But in Ayurvedic samhitas and various referance Granthas, Aacharyas used Agadas as medicine in diseases. Agadas are used in

Rasayanachikitsa⁴ (lengthening lifespan). e.g., Bhallataka Rsayana. Charakacharaya described visha in Tilmatra (minute dose) can be used as Rasayan as well as visha when used by proper yukti (justification) can be converted to bhashaja (medicine)⁵. This article is collection of Agadas from ancient text which is used for treatment of various diseases.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aim

To collect the Agadas from ancient Granthas which is used as medicine for various diseases

Objectives-

- To study the use of various Agadas used in poisonous conditions
- To study the therapeutic use of Agadas other than poisonous condition.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

References of *Agada* and its therapeutic use have been described in *ayurvedic* texts as well as *samhitas*. All the data were compiled, analysed and discussed through in depth understanding of therapeutic use of *Agada* which is mentioned in *Ayurvedic* literature. According to Aacharya Charaka Agadas used in various diseases are seen in table no.1.

**Table 1** Therapeutic use of Agadas described by Charakacharya-

Sr. no	Name of Agada	Main uses	Therapeutic use
1	<i>GandharvahastyadiAgada</i> ⁶	<i>shirogatVisha, keetdamsha(insectbite), savishvrana (poisonous wound), vishpana.</i>	<i>Jwar,bhutgrana, visuchika,ajirna,murcha,unmad, apsmar,netrarog, pandurog, madatyaya, arsha, udar, mudhgarbha, dushtapratishyaya, kitibhkustha, vicharchika</i>
2	<i>MahagandharvahastyadiAgada</i> ⁷	<i>Sarpvisha, lutavisha, mushikavisha, mulvisha, kandavisha</i>	<i>Netraroga ,vishamjwar, ajirna,dadru,,kandu, visuchika, pama, udar, mudhagarbha, murcha.</i>
3	<i>Ksharagad</i> ⁸	<i>Sarvvishvikara</i>	<i>Shoth, gulhane, arsha, bhagandar, plyharoga, apsmar, krumi, bhutpretbadha, swarbheda, panduroga, mandagni, kas, unmad.</i>
4	<i>Mansyadi yoga</i> ⁹	<i>Sarvvishvikara</i>	<i>Sarvshothprakara</i>
5	<i>Kutjadi yoga</i> ¹⁰	<i>Sarpvisha , vruschikvisha, lootavisha</i>	<i>Ajirn</i>
6	<i>Amrutghrit</i> ¹¹	<i>Sarvvishanashak,gavisha</i>	<i>Apsmar , kshaya, unmad, bhutpretbadha, udar,pandu,krimirog,gulma,pliharog, urusthambha, kamala, hanugraha, skandhagraha</i>
7	<i>SiddharthakadiAgada</i> ¹²	<i>Sarvvishvikara</i>	<i>Jwar , apsmar,unmad, shwetkushtha, halimaka, arsha, pandu,arochaka, shosh, shoth, visuchika, gulma, ashmari, shwas, kas, kustha</i>
8	<i>Kshargutika</i> ¹³	<i>Garavisha</i>	<i>Philavikara, udar,shwetkushtha, halimaka, arsha, pandu, arochaka, shosh,shoth,visuchika, gulma, ashmari, shwas, kas, kustha</i>
9	<i>Pippalimulyadikshar yoga</i> ¹⁴	<i>Sarvvishnashak</i>	<i>Sarvvatroga</i>
10	<i>Snuhikshirghrita</i> ¹⁵	<i>Garavisha</i>	<i>Gulma, udar</i>
11	<i>Narayan churna</i> ¹⁶	<i>Danshravish , mulavisha, garavisha,</i>	<i>Udar ,gulma, aanadhvat, vatvikara, arsha, ajirna,bhagandar, pandu, shwas, kas,galgraha, hridayaroga, grahani,kushtha</i>
12	<i>Yograj yoga</i> ¹⁷	<i>Sarvvishroga</i>	<i>Pandu,kas,rajayaksha,vishamjwar,kustharoga, ajirna,prameha, shosh,shwas,arochaka, apsmar,kamala,arsha</i>
13	<i>Shilajatuvatak</i> ¹⁸	<i>Garavisha</i>	<i>Kustha,pandu,jwar,pliha,tamakshwas, arsha, bhagandar, shosh,kas, raktpitta,,gulma.</i>
14	<i>All types of Agada</i> ¹⁹		<i>kushtha</i>

According to SushruataAgadas used in various diseases are seen in table no.2 –

Table 2 Therapeutic use of Agadas described by Sushrutacharya-

Sr.no	Name of Agada	Main use	Therapeutic use
1	<i>VanshtwagadiAgada</i> ²⁰	<i>Lootavisha, mushikavisha,sarpavisha</i>	<i>Vatvikara, garbhavrodh, kach, arma,akshikosh,patalgatrog</i>
2	<i>Kharagada</i> ²¹	<i>Takshakavisha,sarpavisha</i>	<i>Sharkara, ashmari,arsha,vatgulma, kas, shul, udar,ajirna, ajirna, grahani, shoth,shwas</i>
3	<i>Kalyanaksarpi</i> ²²	<i>sarvvishnashsk</i>	<i>Pandu, apsmar, shwas, mandagni, jwar, kas, shosh.</i>

AshtanghridayamAgadas used in various diseases are seen in table no.3 –

Table 3 Therapeutic use of Agadas described by Acharya Vagbhata-

Sr.no	Name of Agada	Main use	Therapeutic use
1	<i>ParavatadiAgada</i> ²³	<i>Garavisha</i>	<i>Trushna,ruja,kas,shwas,hikka,jwar</i>
2	<i>HimwanAgada</i> ²⁴	<i>Mandalisarpa</i>	<i>Shoth,visarpa,visphot,jwar,dah</i>
3	<i>BilvadiAgada</i> ²⁵	<i>Sarp,loota,mushaka, vruschikavishnashska</i>	<i>Visuchika,ajirna,jwar</i>

AshtangasangraAgadas used in various diseases are seen in table no.4 –

**Table.4** Therapeutic use of Agadas described by Acharya Vriddha Vagbhata-

Sr.no	Name of Agada	Main use	Therapeutic use
1	SanjivanAgada ²⁶	Sarvvishnashaka	Jwar , grahabadha
2	JatamansyadiAgada ²⁷	Sarvvishnashaka	Grahabadha, utpat, gallapitika
3	UdumbaradiAgada ²⁸	Sarvvishanashaka	Visphot, visarp, jwar, dahshamak
4	ChandanadiAgada ²⁹	Vishvikarnashaka	Dah, trushna, raktavikar, visarpa, pittashamak
5	NishadiAgada ³⁰	Sirogatvisha	Shirashul, vishamjwar, ajirna, visuchika, upsmar, unmad, pandu, prameha, madatya
6	HimwanAgada ³¹	MandaliSarpavishnashaka	Shoth, visarp, visphot, jwar, jwar, dahshamak
7	RodhradiAgada ³²	Sarp, vruschik, alarkavishhar	Jwar, grahabadha, apsmar, unmad, gulma, ajirna, visuchika, shirshul, netrashul, karnashul
8	BilwamuladiAgada ³³	Sarp, vruschik, loota, mushakadamshavishnashak	Visuchika, ajirna, jwar
9	DhawadiKsharagad ³⁴	Sarvvishnashaka	Shul, gulm, udar, ajirn, shwas, kas, ashmari, sharkara, Arsha, shoth, grahani, arsha
10	SugandhaAgada ³⁵	Sarvvishnashaka	Bhutbadha, balgraha, unmad
11	RodhradiAgada ³⁶	Sarvvishnashaka	Jirn, jwarnashaka

According to Sharangadhar Samhita Agadas used in various diseases are seen in table no.5-

Table 5 Therapeutic use of Agadas described by Acharya Sharangadhara

Sr.no	Name of Agada	Main use	Therapeutic use
1	Chaturjatchurna ³⁷	Sarvvishnashaka	Varnya, ruchikar, kapharoghar
2	Narayan churna ³⁸	All types of sthavar and jangamvisha	Grahani, galrog, hridayrognashaka, pandu, kas, shwas, bhagandar, mandagni, jwar, kushtha, ajirna, udar, vatvyadhi
3	Sanjivanivati ³⁹	Sarpadamshavishahar	Ajirna, visuchika, gulma, sannipatjwar
4	Yograjguggulu ⁴⁰	Mushakavishanashaka	Grahani, prameha, vatrakta, nabhishul, bhagandar, udavarta, kshaya, apsmar, urograha, mandagni, shwas, kas, aruchi
5	Paniyakalyanakghrita ⁴¹	Sthavar and jangamvishanashaka	Apsmar, jwar, kshaya, unmad, vatrakta, kas, mandagni, pratishyaya, katishul, jwar, mutrakruhcha, pandu, prameha
6	Kasisadighrita ⁴²	Lootavishnashaka	Kushtha, dadru, pama, vicharchika, shukdosha, visarpa, upadamsha, bhagandar
7	Gauradyagrita ⁴³	Sarpivishahar, lootavish, keetvishnashaka	Visarpa, vrana
8	Shatavaritaila ⁴⁴	Garvishnashaka	Angashul, shirashul, kamala, pandu, grudhrasi, shosh, prameha, ardit
9	Suchikabharan rasa ⁴⁵	Sarpadanshstumrutavsthoapijivti	Raktabheshajasamparkamurcha
10	Kanaksundar rasa ⁴⁶	Garvishnashaka	Kushtha, visarpa, jwar, ajirna

DISCUSSION

Acharya Vagbhata described Agadas as formulations that can be used in all conditions of poisoning⁴⁷. In ancient Samhita Granthas, Acharya described Agadas for treatment of other diseases, while it contains some poisonous drug also.

Acharya Charaka explained that even a strong poison can become an excellent medicine if administered properly⁴⁸. On the other hand even the most useful drug can act like a poison if handled carelessly. The drugs which is used in day-to-day life such as Sanjivanivati, yograjguggulu which is used



as Agadas for Sarpvisha. There are some preparations such as Suchikabharan Rasa used for emergencies in sarpvisha which is used on murcharoga. Poisoning cases are the medical emergencies even death can occur in these cases. This medicine generally very strong in mode of action. But in Ancient times, Acharya had deep knowledge about the medication. They use this formulation in other diseases also. Acharya Vagbhata, in Uttartantra; Vishpayogi Adhyaya described uses of

poisons in various diseases such as netravikara, shirogatavikara, twachagatroga etc⁴⁹. Hence there is a need of research about these formulations that can be used other than poisoning cases.

CONCLUSION

Hence it is concluded that Agadas are the formulations which can be used in treatment of other diseases as well as medical emergencies other than poisonous cases.



REFERENCES

1. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.538
2. Dr. Parikh C.K, Parikh's Textbook of Medical Jurisprudence,Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Reprint 2008;CBS Publishers,Delhi.page no.7.39
3. Aacharya Vagbhta Ashtangasangraha, Edited by PanditLalchandra Shatri Vaidya; Edition First 1988; Baidyanath Ayurved Publication, Nagpur; Uttersthan. Page no.785
4. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.24
5. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.28
6. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.552
7. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.553
8. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.555
9. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.567
10. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.569
11. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.573
12. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.243
13. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.278
14. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint 2012,Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit Pratisthan.part 2.page no.303
15. AachryaAgniveshCharaksamhita,Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla ,Edition Reprint



2012, Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit
Pratisthan. part 2. page no. 309

16. Aachrya Agnivesh Charaksamhita, Edited
by Vaidya Vidyadharshukla, Edition Reprint
2012, Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit
Pratisthan. part 2. page no. 308

17. Aachrya Agnivesh Charaksamhita, Edited
by Vaidya Vidyadharshukla, Edition Reprint
2012, Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit
Pratisthan. part 2. page no. 406

18. Aachrya Agnivesh Charaksamhita, Edited
by Vaidya Vidyadharshukla, Edition Reprint
2012, Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit
Pratisthan. part 2. page no. 407

19. Aachrya Agnivesh Charaksamhita, Edited
by Vaidya Vidyadharshukla, Edition Reprint
2012, Varanasi Chaukhabha Sanskrit
Pratisthan. part 2. page no. 188

20. Aachrya Sushruta Susrut Samhita Edited
by Ambikadatta Shastri, Edition Reprint
2012 Varanasi

Chaukhambha Sanskrit Sansthan Kalpasthana
66.

21. Aachrya Sushruta Susrut Samhita Edited
by Ambikadatta Shastri, Edition Reprint
2012 Varanasi

Chaukhambha Sanskrit Sansthan Kalpasthana
68.

22. Aachrya Sushruta Susrut Samhita Edited
by Ambikadatta Shastri, Edition Reprint

2012 Varanasi

Chaukhambha Sanskrit Sansthan Kalpasthana
69.

23. Aachrya Vagbha Ashtanghridayam, Edi
ted by Vaidya G.k. Garde, Edition Reprint
2009, Proficient Publishing House Pune, page
no. 527.

24. Aachrya Vagbha Ashtanghridayam, Edi
ted by Vaidya G.k. Garde, Edition Reprint
2009, Proficient Publishing House Pune, page
no. 533.

25. Aachrya Vagbha Ashtanghridayam, Edi
ted by Vaidya G.k. Garde, Edition Reprint
2009, Proficient Publishing House Pune, page
no. 534.

26. Aachrya Vagbha Ashtangasangraha, Edi
ted by
Pandit Lalchandra Shastri Vaidya, Edition First
1988; Baidyanath
Ayurved Publication, Nagpur; Uttersthan page
no. 635.

27. Aachrya Vagbha Ashtangasangraha, Edi
ted by
Pandit Lalchandra Shastri Vaidya, Edition First
1988; Baidyanath
Ayurved Publication, Nagpur; Uttersthan page
no. 641.

28. Aachrya Vagbha Ashtangasangraha, Edi
ted by
Pandit Lalchandra Shastri Vaidya, Edition First



1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.641.

29. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha,Edi
ted by
PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya;Edition First
1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.641

30. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha,Edi
ted by
PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya;Edition First
1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.642

31. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha,Edi
ted by
PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya;Edition First
1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.682

32. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha,Edi
ted by
PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya;Edition First
1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.691

33. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha,Edi
ted by
PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya;Edition First

1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.692

34. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha,Edi
ted by
PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya;Edition First
1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.778

35. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha,Edi
ted by
PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya;Edition First
1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.779-780

36. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha,Edi
ted by
PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya;Edition First
1988;Baidyanath
AyurvedPublication,Nagpur;Uttersthan page
no.794

37. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa
mhita, Edited by
BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012,
ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page
no.174-175.

38. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa
mhita, Edited by
BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012,



ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi,Page no.183-184.

39. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa mhita, Edited by BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012, ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page no.198.

40. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa mhita, Edited by BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012, ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page no.203-204.

41. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa mhita, Edited by BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012, ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page no.224.

42. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa mhita, Edited by BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012, ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page no.225-226.

43. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa mhita, Edited by BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012, ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page no.228.

44. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa mhita, Edited by BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012,

ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page no.237.

45. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa mhita, Edited by BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012, ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page no.298-299.

46. AcharyaSharangadharaSharangadharsa mhita, Edited by BrahmanandTripathi, Edition 2012, ChaukhambhaSancritaPratisthan, Delhi, Page no.313

47. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha, Edited by PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya, Edition First 1988; Baidyanath AyurvedPublication, Nagpur; Uttersthan page no.709

48. AcharyaAgniveshCharaksamhita, Edited by VaidyaVidyadharshukla, Edition Reprint 2012, Varanasi Chaukhambha Sanskrit Pratisthan. part 1, sutrasthana page no.10.

49. AcharyaVagbhtaAshtangasangraha, Edited by PanditLalchandraShatriVaidya, Edition First 1988; Baidyanath AyurvedPublication, Nagpur; Uttersthan page no.785.