

CLINICAL VERIFICATION

Amoora rohituka

A multicentric clinical verification study conducted by CCRH

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Abstract

Amoora rohituka or Andersonia has been used by Indian physicians as a medicine for splenic disorders since longtime. In Ayurvedic literatures it has been mentioned as an alterative, astringent and a tonic for liver and spleen enlargement. In Homoeopathy, it has been used for conditions like constipation, prolonged fevers associated with enlargement of spleen and liver; headache and burning pain in eyes, face, hands, feet, stomach, nausea & vomiting etc.

A total of 4706 patients participated in this multicentric clinical study at various Units/Institutes under Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy to confirm the uses of Amoora rohituka as mentioned in the homoeopathic materia medica and to evolve its clinical drug picture.

This study not only confirms its therapeutic use in constipation, headache, fever, enlargement of liver and spleen and burning pain in different parts of the body etc. as noted in literature, but has also delineated the characteristics, which would help in differentiating Amoora rohituka from other similar remedies given in homoeopathic materia medica. Besides, a set of other symptoms were also relieved by the same drug, given for other purpose and emerged as clinical symptoms.

Keywords: homoeopathy; clinical verification; amoora rohituka; andersonia

Introduction

The clinical verification and confirmation of signs and symptoms, irrespective of disease, observed during proving of a drug substance is essential for validation of drug pathogenesis and its therapeutic application. At times clinical application of drug on the basis of symptoms elicited during proving may also produce clinical symptoms as well, expanding the horizon of therapeutic potential of a drug.

Ayurvedic authorities like Chakradatta and Charaka have found it to be an alterative, astringent and tonic and they prize it as an excellent remedy in liver and spleen enlargement. They have also recommended it in gonorrhoea.

Amoora rohituka is a drug of Indian origin and the first proving of this drug has been reported in Drugs of Hindoosthan by Dr.S.C.Ghose, where it is mentioned that Dr. Pramada Prasanna Biswas of Pabna Distt. of undivided Bengal, presently Bangladesh, had personally proved this drug.¹

Out of his personal experience, Dr. S. C. Ghose has mentioned that it is a splendid remedy in all disorders of the spleen, either enlarged or painful, and also an excellent remedy in hepatic derangement. These symptoms may or may not be associated with malarial fevers for which the drug is also found to be efficacious in relieving the aforesaid symptoms.

'Constipation' as well as 'burning sensation in palms and soles' are its more characteristic symptoms as have been reported in literatures.

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In our clinical verification programme an effort has been made to explore its therapeutic utility by way of verification on the fragmentarily available data, by conducting trial in the OPDs of Institutes and Units engaged in the Clinical Verification Programme under the Council. Most of these symptoms are the reconfirmation of the symptoms found in the book, *Drugs of Hindoosthan* of Dr. S. C. Ghose.

The plant

The botanical name is *Aphanamixis polystachya* (Wall.) Parker or *Amoora rohituka* (Roxb.) W & A, belongs to natural order Meliaceae^{2,3} and its various vernacular names are -

Bengali	-	Royna, Harinhara & Pita raja
Gujrati	-	Rohida
Hindi	-	Rohera
Malayalam	-	Chemmaram
Marathi	-	Rohada
Sanskrit	-	Rohituka
Tamil	-	Sem, Malampuluvan
Telugu	-	Chawanmanu



Amoora rohituka

It is a large tree and is generally found in Sub-Himalayan tract from Gonda (U.P.) east wards to Bengal and Assam, Sikkim upto 6000 ft., Chota Nagpur, Konkan, Western ghats and adjoining hill ranges from the Pune district southwards to Tinnevely up to 3500 ft. It also grows in Sylhet and Cachar of Bangladesh, Burma and Malacca.^{2,3}

Its major constituents are two yellow resins, starch, coloring matter, tannin and salts. Both resins are soluble in ether but one is insoluble in alcohol and alkaline solution but the other is soluble in both these liquids and is of an acrid nature.¹ Its bark is astringent, used in spleen and liver diseases, tumors, abdominal complaints. Seed oil is used as liniment in rheumatism.²

Studies revealed that it is an alterative, astringent and tonic given in enlarged glands as liver and spleen, in corpulence and in general debility. It is also used as an aspirant and in enlarged glands, liver and spleen

diseases.¹

In Homoeopathy its bark is used as raw material for the preparation of mother tincture.³

Methodology

Locations of study

- Regional Research Institute (H), New Delhi
- Homoeopathic Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, (U.P.)
- Homoeopathic Research Institute, Jaipur, (Rajasthan)
- Clinical Research Unit, Jammu (J& K)
- Clinical Research Unit, Ghaziabad (U.P.)
- Clinical Verification Unit, Patna (Bihar)
- Clinical Verification Unit, Vrindaban, (U.P.)

The Council has undertaken validation of the symptomatology reportedly attributed to *Amoora rohituka* as available in old literature under its Clinical Verification studies programme. The drug was procured from licensed pharmacy in various potencies viz. Q, 3x, 6c and 30c. 4706 cases were prescribed *Amoora rohituka* during the period April 1982 to March 2004, out of which 1963 were males and 2743 were females. Patients for the study were drawn from OPDs of respective Institutes / Units of the Council. Their presenting symptoms and signs were recorded in the predefined case recording proforma to prescribe medicine from the list of drugs chosen for clinical verification study. The medicine, which matched the symptoms of patient, was prescribed in mother tincture and any change in presenting symptoms and signs was recorded during the follow-up visits. If there was no change in symptoms and signs for significant period (according to the nature of disease), next higher potencies like 3x, 6c and 30c were prescribed and in case no considerable change was noted, the prescription was shifted to the second best indicated medicine.

Results

The data of all the cases were collected, analysed and compiled. A list of clinically verified symptoms is presented below, indicating the number of patients prescribed on the basis of available symptoms and number of patients got relieved. The symptoms superscripted with '1' & '4' are in conformity with the corresponding literature mentioned under bibliography and the remaining symptoms were found relieved wholly or partially during the study and emerged as *clinical symptoms*, not mentioned in earlier literatures of *Amoora rohituka*.

Clinically verified symptoms observed during the study

The symptoms given below are arranged in descending order as per the effectiveness of the medicine found during the study :

• Fever with frontal headache ²	(815, 562)
better by cold application ²	(49, 40)
with burning in eyes ²	(10, 6)
with bitter taste in mouth ²	(48, 38)
desire for open air ²	(6, 6)
• Constipation ²	(568, 380)
• Headache in temporal region ^{1,2}	(341, 224)
better by cold application ^{1,2}	(269, 183)
• Burning in palms and soles ²	(238, 180)
better by cold application ²	(131, 102)
• Headache in frontal region ²	(286, 219)
better by cold application ²	(32, 20)
with nausea and vomiting ^{1,2}	(181, 124)
with liver enlarged ^{1,2}	(113, 73)
• Leucorrhoea ¹	(112, 71)
• Spleen enlarged ^{1,2}	(92, 62)
with pain in abdomen ¹	(22, 13)
• Headache with giddiness ^{1,2}	(77, 60)
with warmth in head ²	(24, 22)
• Memory weak, cannot fix mind on any subject or matter ^{1,2}	(66, 58)
• Intermittent fever with enlargement of liver and spleen ²	(48, 48)
with aching pain all over body ²	(3,3)
• Burning in stomach ^{1,2}	(36, 28)
• Bad taste in mouth worse in morning ^{1,2}	(24, 17)
• Easily angered ^{1,2}	(9, 7)
• Heat sensation in vertex ^{1,2}	(7, 4)
• Makes mistakes while writing ^{1,2}	(5, 4)

N.B. In the parenthesis, the first figure denotes the number of cases the medicine was prescribed on the basis of the symptom and the second figure denotes the number of cases who got relief of the symptom .

Following symptoms or part of symptoms are the additional symptoms either relieved fully or partially and emerged as clinical symptoms not mentioned in earlier literature.

Vertigo	Vertigo	(37, 26)
	worse on movement, better by rest	(3, 2)
Head	Falling of hair	(51, 47)
	Headache on top of head	(162, 121)
	worse from cold air	(4, 4)
	Headache	
	better by pressure	(54, 40)
	better at sunset	(6, 4)
	worse in evening	(29, 23)
	worse on closing eyes	(10,6)
	with pain in eyes	(6, 4)
	worse from sun	(161, 110)
	better in evening	(30, 24)
Eye	better by pressure	(106, 64)
	worse during study	(30, 24)
	with burning pain	(80, 60)
	Headache, occipital, worse during day	(17, 16)
	worse from sun and from pressure	(23, 16)
	Burning in eyes	
	worse from cold application	(12, 8)
	worse while studying	(24, 16)

Stomach	Appetite decreased	(171,121)
	Nausea and vomiting	
	soon after breakfast	(19, 16)
Abdomen	worse after drinking water	(20, 6)
	Distension of abdomen	(2, 2)
	Burning pain in abdomen	(20, 14)
	better by taking cold drinks	(13,11)
	Pain in hypochondrium better by passing flatus	(11, 11)
	Spleen enlarged	
Rectum	covering whole left side of abdomen	(22, 13)
	Constipation with dry, hard stool	(431,283)
	with flatulence	(51, 43)
	with headache	(6, 5)
	with ineffectual urge to pass stool	(6, 5)
	Bleeding piles	(336,220)
	Stool loose, watery	(91, 54)
	mixed with mucus	(61, 37)
	Bleeding piles	
	with burning in anus	(9, 1)
	with soreness in anus	(47, 33)
Urine	Burning urination	(2, 2)
Female genitalia	Leucorrhoea	
	thin, whitish	(35, 21)
	with burning in hands and feet	(12, 9)
Cough	Cough with whitish expectoration, worse in morning	(16, 4)
Chest	Pain in chest, worse on coughing	(10, 8)
	Palpitation	(3, 1)
Extremities	Burning in palms and soles	(238, 180)
	Pain in knee joints, worse on sitting, by crossing legs	(9, 7)
Fever	Fever	
	worse at night	(55, 42)
	worse in evening and daytime	(144, 97)
	with chill	(124, 90)
	with restlessness	(3, 3)
	with giddiness	(11, 11)
	with excessive thirst	(7, 5)
	with flushes of heat from whole body	(491, 346)
	with nausea	(10, 6)
	with body ache	(306, 199)
	with urticaria	(3, 3)
	with cough and cold	(19, 16)
	with cough and thick expectoration	(4, 4)
	with weakness following fever	(22, 18)
Skin	Dry reddish eruption with itching and burning	(10, 4)
	Vesicular eruption with tendency to suppuration	(47, 25)
Generalities	Aching pain allover body	(90, 59)
	with general weakness	(2, 2)

Discussion

The medicine was prescribed to 815 cases presenting with fever, out of which 562 cases (68.95%) were improved. Apart from this, 48 cases of *intermittent fever with enlargement of liver and spleen* were improved (100%), which belonged to the pathogenesis of Amoora rohitika.

The sphere of action of Amoora rohitka in lower gastrointestinal tract can be marked out in the clinical symptom of 'constipation' and 'bleeding haemorrhoids' as 380 cases (66.90%) out of 568 got relieved from the former and 220 (65.47%) out of 336 cases got relieved from the later.

Beside this, headache of different types, especially frontal headache, were also alleviated by this medicine. The most common modalities of headache, which was frequently verified in the study were '*worse from sun and better by cold application*'.

The medicine was found efficacious in numerous patients suffering from 'leucorrhoea, particularly of bland thin, whitish nature with concomitant symptom of burning in palms and soles, a clinically proved symptom.

In 'weakness of memory', *Amoora rohituka* was found to be a very effective in 58 cases (87.87%) out of 66 cases prescribed

Liver and spleen enlargements are the other symptoms which were verified clinically and improvement was found in 73 (64.60%) out of 113 cases with enlarged liver and 62 (67.39%) out of 92 cases with spleen enlargement.

This study extends horizon of usefulness of *Amoora rohituka* in conditions like fever, headache, bleeding haemorrhoids, weakness of memory, leucorrhoea, falling of hair, anorexia, nausea & vomiting, enlargement of liver and spleen, loose stool, leucorrhoea, burning in palms & soles, weakness of memory and myositis.

The additional modalities and concomitants associated with various symptoms of this medicine were also noted during study, which need further clinical trials under suitable study design and scientific parameters, to validate their usefulness. In conclusion, it can be said that, *Amoora rohituka* has been reasonably verified for the clinical conditions for which it is suggested.

Repertory

A concise repertory of the verified symptoms, according to J.Kunzli's Kent's Repertorium Generale has been compiled and presented herewith for the purpose of quick reference. Rubrics / subrubrics in italics are new rubrics / sub-rubrics which are not mentioned in the above referred repertory, while rubrics / subrubrics in normal roman letters are existing in the said repertory. Physicians may include these rubrics in their personal Repertories for their day to day reference in practice and feedback may be given to CCRH for reconfirmation of symptoms, so that grading of the medicine can be carried out at a later stage by the Council.

MIND

ANGER

easily

CONCENTRATION

difficult

cannot fix mind on any subject or matter

FORGETFUL

MEMORY, weakness of

MISTAKES

spelling, in

VERTIGO

MORNING

REST amel.

HEAD

HAIR, falling

HEAT

Vertex

PAIN

closing eyes on, giddiness, with warmth in head, with

Forehead

evening

cold applications amel.

eyes, *pain with*

pressure, amel.

sun

sunset, amel.

Temples

evening, *amel.*

cold application amel.

pressure amel.

study during agg.

sun, from

Occiput

daytime giddiness, with

pressure agg.

sun, from

Vertex

air, cold

BURNING

Temples

EYE

PAIN

BURNING

cold application from

studying while

MOUTH

TASTE

BAD

morning

STOMACH

APPETITE
diminished
NAUSEA
breakfast after, soon
water, after drinking
PAIN
BURNING

ABDOMEN

DISTENSION
ENLARGED
LIVER
SPLEEN
*whole left side of abdomen covered
pain in abdomen, with*
PAIN
Hypochondria
passing flatus, amel.
BURNING
cold drinks amel.

RECTUM

CONSTIPATION
*flatulence with
headache with
ineffectual urging*
HAEMORRHAGE
Bright
HAEMORRHOIDS
Bleeding
*with burning in anus
with soreness in anus*

URETHRA

PAIN
BURNING
urination, during

GENITALIA-FEMALE

LEUCORRHOEA
*burning in hands and feet with
thick, stringy
thin
white*

EXPECTORATION

WHITE
Morning

CHEST

PAIN
cough, during
PALPITATION

EXTREMITIES

PAIN
Knee
sitting, by crossing legs, agg.
BURNING
palm
soles
cold application amel.

FEVER

DAYTIME, in
EVENING
BURNING, in eyes, with
night
CHILL, WITH
EXTERNAL heat
*from whole body, flushes with
cold application, amel.*
INTERMITTENT
enlarged liver, with
spleen, with
nausea, with
PAIN
*head, frontal in
whole body, in*
AIR, open, desire for
*Cough and cold, with
COUGH, thick expect, with
GIDDINESS, with
RESTLESSNESS, with
TASTE, bitter
THIRST, excessive, with
URTICARIA, with
WEAKNESS, following*

SKIN

ERUPTIONS
RED
*burning, with
itching, with*
URTICARIA, fever, during
VESICULAR
suppurating, tendency

GENERALITIES

PAIN
*aching, allover body
weakness, in general, with*
WEAKNESS, fever following

Conclusion

Study reveals that the symptoms of *Amoora rohituka*, as available in literatures, have been reasonably verified and the additional symptoms which are not available in literatures have emerged as clinical symptoms. Hence, there is scope to conduct further studies on this medicine basing on other parameters, so that symptoms, especially the additional ones, can be verified again and again, paving the way for obtaining characteristics of *Amoora rohituka* and it could find its proper place in *Materia Medica*.

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