Immunomodulatory Effects of Ayurvedic Drugs: A Review

KEYWORDS
Immunomodulatory, Katuki, Yashadabhasma, Muktabhasma, Swarnamakshika bhasma.

* Dr. Veena B Kupati
PG Scholar, Department of Rasashashtra, KLEU, Shri BMK Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Belgaum, Karnataka.
* Corresponding author

Dr. P.G. Jadar
Professor, Department of Rasashashtra, KLEU, Shri BMK Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Belgaum, Karnataka.

ABSTRACT
In this review we have attempted to highlight the work on Immunomodulatory effects carried out in herbal, mineral, metal and gem stone viz. Katuki, Swarnamkshika, Yashada and Mukta. The results of these drugs revealed that potential of immunomodulatory activity. Clinical study can be undertaken in immunodeficiency disorder.

Introduction:
Immunomodulation is a process which can alter the immune system of an organism by interfering with its functions and results in an enhancement of immune reactions either in immunostimululent or immunosuppressant. Immunomodulators are biological entities exerts effect by improving defense mechanism against disease and that have the capability to either augment or suppress an immune response. In addition to an altered immune response, modulation of haematopoiesis, including increased RBC and WBC counts, an increased PCV and enhanced macrophage activation, have also been reported. 1

Modulation of immune responses to alleviate the diseases has been of interest for many years and the concept of ‘Rasayana’ is based on related principles. 2 Rasayana, listed as a class in the texts of traditional Indian medicine literature, consists of a number of drugs reputed to promote physical and mental health, improve defense mechanisms of the body and enhance longevity. In Ayurveda particularly Rasayana is recommended for immune system. Many herbs, minerals, metals, gem stones and some poisonous drugs also having property of Rasayana. Some studies proved that immunomodulatory effect of herbs, metals, minerals and gem stones. Among these I selected one from each group. By collecting the effect of different drugs helpful in further clinical study, that helpful in the treating of any immunodeficiency disorder. Keeping this in mind this review work is started.

Results:
Table no.1: Effect of Trikatumega Ext on Phagocytic activity by carbon clearance test (Cheng et al., 2005) 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Dose (mg/kg)</th>
<th>Phagocytic index Mean±SD</th>
<th>Mean±SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I-Control</td>
<td>10 ml/kg normal saline</td>
<td>0.013±0.003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II-Standard</td>
<td>cyclophosphamide (25 mg/kg)</td>
<td>0.034±0.004***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III- Dose I</td>
<td>100 mg Trikatu</td>
<td>0.017±0.003***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV-Dose II</td>
<td>200 mg Trikatu</td>
<td>0.024±0.003***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All values are mean ± SD, *** P<0.001 when compared to control group

Table no. 2: Effect of Trikatumega Ext treatment in Delayed type hypersensitivity test by induced footpad oedema. (Dashputreet al., 2010)5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Dose (mg/kg)</th>
<th>DTH response mm Mean±SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-Control</td>
<td>10 ml/kg normal saline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II-Standard</td>
<td>cyclophosphamide (25 mg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III- Dose I 100 mg</td>
<td>Trikatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV-Dose II 200 mg</td>
<td>Trikatu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclude that Trikatumega Ext has immunomodulatory activity. Trikatu could be attributed to the presence of flavonoids, Alkaloids, tannins, saponin glycosides and phenolic compounds. It is already reported that naturally occurring phenolic compounds have immunomodulatory activity.

1) Immunomodulator activity of Trikatu mega Ext.
Jain Neha and Mishra RN*
Sagar Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences Sagar, MP, India

Materials and methods:Six-eight week old healthy, laboratory breed swiss albino mice of either sex, weighing 25±2g were used for the present study. A test solution of mega Ext was prepared by dissolving it in acacia with distilled water for orally administration to animals. cyclophosphamide in a dose of 25 mg/kg p.o. was used as a reference standard immunomodulator activity for comparison in this study.6

2) Immunomodulator activity of Swarnamakshika bhasma Ext.
Patel Bhumika and Patil Jayashree RN*
Research Institute in Ayurveda and Yoga, Jignvashri, MP, India

Materials and methods:Six-eight week old healthy, laboratory breed swiss albino mice of either sex, weighing 25±2g were used for the present study. A test solution of mega Ext was prepared by dissolving it in acacia with distilled water for orally administration to animals. cyclophosphamide in a dose of 25 mg/kg p.o. was used as a reference standard immunomodulator activity for comparison in this study.6
2) Immunomodulatory effect of Yashada Bhasma
Dr. Santosh B and Dr. P.G. Jadar*
Shri B.M.K Ayurveda mahavidyalaya Shahapura, Belgaum

Materials and methods
Drug: Yashadabhasma suspension

Human blood samples – 3 (A, B and C)

Parameters assessed are:
- Nitro blue tetrazolium test (NBT)
- Phagocytosis and Candidacidal assay
- Neutrophil and Chemotaxis test

Yashadabhasma (YB) suspensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>1% suspension</th>
<th>2% suspension</th>
<th>5% suspension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yashadabhasma</td>
<td>1 gm</td>
<td>2 gm</td>
<td>5 gm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound powder of Tragakanth*</td>
<td>2 gm</td>
<td>4 gm</td>
<td>10 gm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distilled water</td>
<td>100 ml</td>
<td>100 ml</td>
<td>100 ml</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Compound powder of Tragakanth*: 7.5 gm Tragakanth, 10 gm each of gum acacia and soluble starch and 22.5 gm of finely powdered sucrose.

Results:
Maximum stimulation was seen with 5% YB suspension in NBT.

The Candidacidal activity was seen to be better in all the concentration when compared to positive control used.

No much difference was seen in the results of 2% and 5% drug suspension but mean value indicates 5% suspension has better result comparatively in neutrophil locomotion and chemotaxis test.

Result revealed that 5% drug suspension showed significant results in all the four parameters i.e NBT, Phagocytosis, Candidacidal assay and Chemotaxis.

3) Immunomodulatory effect of Mukta (Freshwater cultured Pearl) bhasma
Dr. Poornima B Tukanatti and Dr. P.G. Jadar*
Shri B.M.K Ayurveda mahavidyalaya Shahapura, Belgaum

Materials and methods
Drug: Muktabhasma (MB) in the dosage of 1, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.06

Human blood samples – 5 (A, B, C, D and E)

Parameters assessed are:
- Nitro blue tetrazolium test (NBT)
- Phagocytosis and Candidacidal assay
- Neutrophil and Chemotaxis test

Results:
Muktabhasma has shown significant (p<0.001) increase in the % of NBT stimulated cells particularly in lower doses.

MB 0.06mg shows significant increase in the phagocytic activity when compared to MB 1.0 mg.

MB 0.06mg showed highly significant (***p<0.0001) increase in the dead candida cells when compared to MB 1.0 mg. MB 0.125 and 0.25 mg showed significant increase (**p<0.01) as compared to MB 1.0 mg.

Muktabhasma has shown significant (p<0.001) neutrophil and chemotactic activity at the dose of 0.06mg and 0.125 mg when compared to MB 0.5 and 1.0 mg.

Increase in the NBT assay, Phagocytosis, Chemotaxis represents good Immunomodulatory effect of Mukta bhasma at the dose of 0.06mg. It suggests that in higher doses it may act as cytotoxic agent but acts as an immunostimulant when applied in smaller doses.

4) Immunomodulatory effect of Swarnamakshika Bhasma
Dr. Shrikant A. Sherikar and Dr. P.G. Jadar*
Shri B.M.K Ayurveda mahavidyalaya Shahapura, Belgaum

Materials and methods
Drug: Swarnamakshikabhasma (SMB) in the dosage of 1, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.06

Human blood samples – 3 (A, B and C)

Parameters assessed are:
- Nitro blue tetrazolium test (NBT)
- Phagocytosis and Candidacidal assay
- Neutrophil and Chemotaxis test

Results:
The doses of SMB 1.0 and 0.5 mg showed significant (p<0.0077) increase in the % of NBT stimulated cells except 0.25, 0.125 & 0.06 mg (p< 0.05) when compared to negative control group.

Positive control group showed significant (p<0.001) phagocytic activity at the dose of 0.6 mg when compared to different doses of SMB.

Positive control group showed significant (p<0.001) increase in the dead candida cells when compared to SMB 1.0 mg.

SMB showed significant difference in (***p<0.001) neutrophil and chemotactic activity at the dose of 1 and 0.5 mg when compared to negative control.

Swarnamakshika bhasma of 1mg showed statistically significant results.

DISCUSSION:

1) Discussion:
The role of phagocytosis is the removal of microorganisms and foreign bodies, dead or injured cells. The increase in the carbon clearance index reflects the enhancement of the phagocytic function of mononuclear macrophage and non-specific immunity. Trikatumega Herb appeared to enhance the phagocytic function by exhibiting a clearance rate of carbon by the cells of the reticuloendothelial system.
Increase in DTH reaction in mice in response to T cell dependent antigen revealed the stimulatory effect of mega extract on T cells.

The results of Trikatumega Herb a potent immunostimulant, stimulating specific and nonspecific immune mechanisms.

2) Discussion:
In this study Yashadabhasma was subjected to assess Immunomodulatory activity in 3 different concentrations (1%, 2% and 5%) of Yashadabhasma solution. Result revealed that 5% drug suspension showed significant results in all the four parameters i.e NBT, Phagocytosis, Candidacidal assay and Chemotaxis.

3) Discussion:
In present study Muktabhasma was subjected to assess Immunomodulatory activity in five different doses for which parameters like NBT test, Phagocytosis & Candidacidal assay and Neutrophil locomotion & Chemotaxis assay were evaluated.

MB has significantly increased the intracellular reduction of NBT dye to formazan crystals by neutrophils confirming the intracellular killing property when compared to NC & PC.

By NBT test, MB confirms the Immunostimulating effect. This stimulated immunity further confirms the phagocytic function of neutrophils by engulfing the candida cells & also confirms the Candidacidal effect significantly which was near to PC value.

MB significantly increased the movement of neutrophils towards the foreign body which is most important step in phagocytosis process.

4) Discussion:
In present work Swarnamakshikabhasma was subjected to assess Immunomodulatory activity in three different samples for which parameters like NBT, phagocytosis, candidacidal assay and neutrophil locomotion and chemotactic assay were evaluated. SMB of 1mg showed statistically significant results. It also showed immunomodulatory effect in vitro. This helps in preventing the immune mediated liver damage especially in CCl4.

Conclusion:
By analyzing above drugs results it proved that above mentioned drug having effect over Immunomodulatory activity in different dosage and in different form. Clinical study can be undertaken in immunodeficiency disorder.

REFERENCE