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PHARMACEUTICAL STUDY ON DEVELOPMENT OF NOOLA MALAHARA - TOPICAL DOSAGE FORM

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ABSTRACT

Background: Noola Taila, described by Acharya Vangasena in the context of Agantuka Vrana Rogadhikara, is a medicated oil of the Sneha Kalpana group used for wounds and is attributed with Vrana Ropana (wound healing) activity. Its application in the form of Noola Malahara is intended for the management of Parikartika. **Objective:** Noola Malahara was formulated as a semisolid dosage form using Noola Taila as the base material. Methods: A Kwatha was prepared from coarse powder of Bala moola (2 kg) and Apamarga moola (2 kg) with 8 parts of water, reduced to one-fourth. This was boiled with Tila taila (2 litres) on mild fire with continuous stirring until Sneha siddhi lakshana appeared. Noola Malahara was then prepared as per the Malahara Kalpana of Rasatarangini by adding Sikta (390 g) to hot Noola Taila (1950 ml) in a 1:5 ratio. **Results:** For the preparation of Noola Malahara, 390 g of Sikta was added to the hot Noola Taila and thoroughly mixed. The mixture was allowed to stand for approximately 30 minutes to facilitate proper mixing and setting. A total of 32 tubes of Noola Malahara were prepared, with each tube containing approximately 45 g of Malahara. **Conclusion:** Classical Ayurvedic methods can be applied to prepare Noola Taila and its Malahara form. Further clinical evaluation is recommended to establish its efficacy in wound healing and anorectal disorders such as Parikartika.

KEYWORDS: *Noola Taila; Noola Malahara; Sneha Kalpana; Vrana Ropana; Parikartika; Sikta; Bala; Apamarga.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Malahara is a semisolid topical dosage form indicated for the local application. Malahara has the advantage of remaining in contact with the skin for a longer period. This prolonged contact allows the active ingredients to act locally and provide better absorption in comparison with taila. Another important advantage of Mālāhara is that it generally remains confined to the area of application and does not run easily as compared to taila. This makes it convenient for localized lesions. It can also protect the affected area from external irritants and maintain prolonged contact between the medicine and the skin.

Tailas are liquid dosage form of medicine in which fatt media soluble components of the herb will be extracted and used for therapeutic purpose it may be internal or external, depending on physician opinion & disease condition.

The classical reference is as follows:

बलाशिखरिकामूलं पिष्ट्वा तैलं विपाचयेत्।
नूलतैलमितिये ख्यातमभ्यङ्गान्नूलकान्वितम्।
ये व्रणास्त्विवृता केचिच्छरीरागन्तवः सदा।
रोपणार्थं भिषक्तेषामिदं तैलं प्रयोजयेत्।।65।।
Vangasena Samhita, Agantuka Vrana Rogadhikara.[1]

Noola Taila is explained by Acharya Vangasena in the context of Agantuka Vrana Rogadhikara indicated for both external wounds. It does **healing, reducing inflammation and supports tissue repair.**

Its *Vrana Ropaka* action is attributed to the respective Rasapanchaka of its ingredients, *and this Ropana activity is intended to be utilised through the application of Noola Malahara in the management of Agantuka vrana. In the present preparation, Noola Taila is the prominent and major ingredient.*[1]

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Ingredients

The ingredients used for the preparation of Noola Taila and Noola Malahara are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Ingredients used and their quantities.

S. No.	Ingredient	Role in the preparation	Quantity
1	Bala moola	Drug for Kwatha	2 kg
2	Apamarga (moola)	Drug for Kwatha	2 kg
3	Tila taila	Sneha dravya (oil base)	2 litres
4	Drava dravya	Water for Kwatha	32 litres
5	Sikta	Base for Malahara	390 g

2.2 Equipment and instruments

The following equipment and instruments were used:

- Weighing machine
- Vessel
- Spoon
- Pounding machine
- Measuring jar
- Plate, etc.

2.3 Method of preparation of Noola Taila[2]

Purva karma. The individual raw materials, i.e. the drugs and the Taila, were identified and authenticated. Bala moola and Apamarga moola were pounded to a coarse powder (Figure 1). For preparation of the Kwatha, the coarse powder of Bala moola and Apamarga moola was mixed with 8 parts of water and boiled on moderate heat until it reduced to one-fourth of its quantity (Figure 2a, 2b).

Pradhana karma. The Sneha (Tila taila) was mildly heated and the Kwatha was added to it. The mixture was boiled together on mild fire (Figure 2c, 2d) and stirred continuously so that the Kwatha was not allowed to adhere to the vessel. Paka continued until the Sneha siddhi lakshana appeared.

2.4 Paka siddhi lakshana

The completion of Sneha Paka was assessed by the following classical features[1,3]:

वर्तिवत् स्नेहकल्कः स्याद् यदाऽगुल्या विमर्दितः।
शब्दहीनोऽग्निनिक्षिप्तः स्नेहः सिध्दौ भवेत्तदा।
यदा फ़ेनोदगमस्तैले फेनशान्तिश्च सर्पिषि।
गन्धवर्णरसोत्पतिः स्नेहसिध्धिस्तदा भवेत् ॥
Sarngadhara Samhita, Madhyama Khanda 9/12–14 (Sa. Ma. Kha. 9/12–14).[3]

Table 2: Sneha siddhi lakshana (Sarngadhara Samhita, Madhyama Khanda 9/12–14)

Lakshana	Interpretation
वर्तिवत् स्नेहकल्कः	Sneha kalka attains a ‘perfect wick shape’ when rolled between the thumb and index finger.
शब्दहीनोऽग्निनिक्षिप्तः	If a part of the Sneha kalka is put into the fire, no sound is produced, indicating loss of moisture in it.
फ़ेनोदगमस्तैले फेनशान्तिश्च सर्पिषि	Foam appears in Taila paka and disappears in Ghrita paka at the completion of the preparation.
गन्धवर्णरसोत्पतिः	The desired colour, odour and taste of the ingredients become appreciable when the preparation is properly done.

2.5 Preparation of Noola Malahara

Noola Malahara was prepared according to the Malahara Kalpana mentioned in Rasatarangini.[3] Sikta and Noola Taila were taken in a 1:5 ratio (Table 3). Sikta was added to the hot Noola Taila and left for 30 minutes to mix well and dry, and the Malahara was then filled into tubes and packed (Figure 3).

Table 3: Composition of Noola Malahara.

Ingredient	Quantity
Noola Taila	1950 ml
Sikta	390 gm

3. RESULTS

During the preparation of **Noola Taila**, 32 litres of Kwatha Dravya was boiled over moderate heat until its volume was reduced to one-fourth (4 litres) & filter it. Subsequently, 2 litres of Tila Taila was added to the 4 litres of Kwatha Dravya and subjected to heating over moderate heat until the desired **Taila paka Siddhi Lakshana** were achieved. A total of 1,950 mL of Noola Taila was obtained, with approximately 50 mL being lost due to evaporation during the process.

For the preparation of **Noola Malahara**, 390 g of Sikta was added to the hot Noola Taila and thoroughly mixed. The mixture was allowed to stand for approximately 30 minutes to facilitate proper mixing and setting. A total of **32 tubes of Noola Malahara** were prepared, with each tube containing approximately **45 g** of Malahara.(Figure 3d).

Difficulty faced during preparation: While filling the Malahara into tubes, it should be maintained in a warm condition to ensure proper filing through a 50 mL syringe.

5. DISCUSSION

Noola Taila, as described in the Vangasena Samhita, is a classical Ayurvedic formulation attributed with Vrana Ropana (wound healing) and Vrana Shodhana (cleansing) properties. The preparation involves classical Sneha Kalpana methods using Bala moola, Apamarga and Tila taila, which collectively are considered to contribute to its anti-inflammatory and tissue-repairing actions.

The present study demonstrates that Noola Taila can be successfully prepared and converted into the Malahara form for convenient application.



(a) Pounding of Bala moola



(b) Pounding of Apamarga moola



(c) Bala + Apamarga Moola Churna

Figure 1: Raw drugs and their processing: a) Pounding of Bala moola, b) Pounding of Apamarga moola, c) Churna of Bala and Apamarga moola.



(a) Mixing of churna with water



(b) Boiling of kwatha



(c) Mixing of kwatha to taila



(d) Taila paka siddhi lakshana

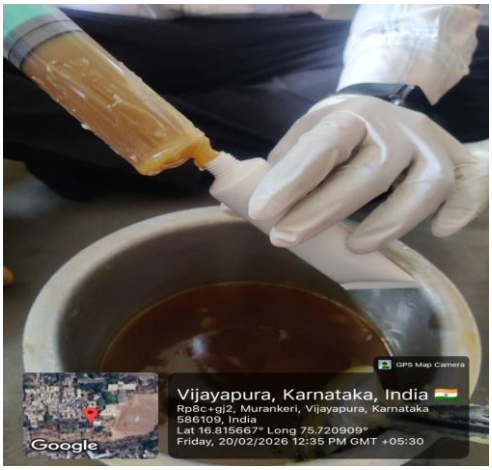


(e) Sikta

Figure 2: Preparation of Noola Taila: (a) mixing of churna with water; (b) boiling of Kwatha; (c) mixing of Kwatha to Taila; (d) boiling of Taila; (e) Sikta.



(a) Sikta added to taila



(b) Filling of prepared Malahara into tubes



(c) Packed Malahara



(d) Noola Malahara

Figure 3: Preparation and packing of Noola Malahara: (a) Sikta added to Taila; (b) filling of the prepared Malahara into tubes; (c) packed Malahara; (d) Noola Malahara.

6. CONCLUSION

The study shows that classical Ayurvedic methods can be effectively applied to prepare Noola Taila and its Malahara form with desirable pharmaceutical qualities. It supports the classical claim and presents Noola Taila Malahara as a feasible and patient-friendly formulation for wound management. Malahara Kalpana is ointment preparation in Ayurveda. It holds a widespread reference area from Brhatrayee to Yogaratnakar, Rasatantrasara & Siddaprayoga Sangraha to Rasatarangini.[4] Further clinical evaluation is recommended to establish its efficacy in wound healing and in anorectal disorders such as Parikartika.

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