Exploration of Navayasa Lauha: A literary scientific study

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ABSTRACT

Navayasa Lauha is a herbo metallic preparation (Lauha kalp) which is in practice right from the time of Samhita period. It is widely used hemetenic agent (Panduhara) apart from its other indications in Kushta, Kamala, Prameha pidika, Shotha etc. In the present study details' regarding Navayasa Lauha has been compiled from 45 Ayurvedic texts. On exploring the formulation it is came across that this formulation is either mentioned by same nomenclature but different composition or different nomenclature with same composition. In this study, various forms of Navayasa Lauha have been explored out based on above facts. Apart from this other related issues like different views about formulation as a whole, type/form of Lauha used as an ingredient,, views about herbal constituents, Bhavana dravyas (Trituration drugs), Mode of administration i.e. Dose (Matra), Duration and Anupana (Vehicle) used as well as the various ailments in which it is indicated by Ayurvedic seers has also been compiled in this study.

Key words: Lauha, Herbomineral, Panduroga

INTRODUCTION

Navayasa Lauha is a member of 'Lauha kalpa' which has been mentioned by almost all classical Ayurvedic texts right from the time of Samhita period in context of treatment of Pandu roga (Anaemia), Kushtha (Skin disease), Kamala (Jaundice), Halimaka (Chlorosis), Shotha (Swelling), Samgrahni (Malabsorption Syndrome), Rajyakshma \ Kshaya (Phthisis) etc.

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It is a herbo-mineral complex in which ratio of herbal composition and the *Lauha* is in the specific ratio of 1:1. The pioneer who described this formulation for the first time was *Krishna Atreya* by the name of *Navayasa Churna* as quoted in *Charaka Samhita*. Later on, owing its importance it was quoted by rest of *Vrihatrayee Samhita* as well as by almost all other texts of later period .The composition of the original formulation of *Charaka Samhita* is as follows –

uok;ksjtlks HkkxkLrPpw.akZ {kkSnzlfiZ"kk AA

Hk{k;sr~ ik.Mq ânzksx dq"Bk'kZ% dkeykige~ AA

uok;Ifena pw.akZ d`".kk=s.k Hkkf"kre~ AA**

Ch. Chi. 16/70-71)

Apart from this, three other formulations with same nomenclature but different in composition also come across the Ayurvedic texts. These include:

- " मुस्ताघ्मृताचित्रकयश्टिपिप्पलीविडंगषुण्ठीत्रिफलैर्यथोतरम्। र्च्णनवायोरसभागसयुतंसमाक्षिकंपाण्डुगदाघ्पहंपरम्।।
 - " त्रिकटुत्रिफलैलाभिर्जातिफललवडंगकैः। नवभागोन्मितैरेतैःसमं तीक्ष्णं मृतं भवेत्।। ण्सञचूर्ण्याघ्घ्लोडयेत्क्षौद्रै र्नित्यं यः सेवेतनरः। कासं ष्वासं क्षयं मेहं पाण्डुरोगं भगन्दरम्।। ज्वरं मंदाघ्नलं षोफं सम्मोहं ग्रहणीञजयेत्।
- " ष्यूशणं त्रिफला मुस्ता विडंग चित्रकं समम्। भागमेकं लौहचूर्णं भावयेदिक्षुजै रसैः।। अश्टभागाष्च मण्डूरं दत्वा भावयं च पूर्ववत्। षीलितं तु मधुनाघपि घृतेन पाण्डुरोगहृदयाघ्ध्भयाघ्पहम्। सेवितं प्रखर कामलार्घ्यसां नाषनं खलु हलीमकस्य।

Furthermore, the original formulation in Charaka Samhita was later on quoted by so many authors with different nomenclature but same composition. These nomenclature includes Navayasadi churna by Nighantu Ratnakar, Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar and Vaidya chintamani; Sahayasa churna by Vasavaraajiyam; Kapha sangrahani hara Lauha by Rasakamadhenu; Navarasadi gutika by Yoga Chintamani ; Navayasa rasa by Rasa Kalpa Lata; Shothagni vati by Chikitsa Ratnabharana; Vyoshadi churna by Sahstrayogam., Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar, Nighantu Ratnakar and Yoga Chandrika etc. List of texts depicting Navayasa Lauha with their variants has been depicted in Table No-1 and Table No-2.

DIFFERENT COMPOSITION OF NAVAYASA LAUHA (TABLE NO-3)

On surveying the literature four different formulations came across with the name of Navayasa Lauha. This includes:

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Formulation No. - I
                Triphala + Trikatu + Trimada + Lauha
                   3 parts) (3 parts) (3 parts) (9 parts)
                   1+1+1 1+1+1 1+1+1
Formulation No. II
                Triphala + Triushna + Trimada + Lauha + Mandoor
                 (3 parts) (3 parts) (3 parts) (1 parts) (8 parts)
                         1 + 1 + 1
                 1 + 1 + 1
                                    1 + 1 + 1
Formulation No. III
                 Rasa + Mustaka + Amrita + Chitraka + Yastimadhu + Pippali
Ingrédients-
                 (1 part) (1 part) (2 parts) (3 parts) (4 parts) (5 parts)
                 + Vidanga + Shunthi + Triphala + Lauha
                (6 parts) (7 parts) (8 parts) (9 parts)
Formulation No. IV
                Triphala + Trikatu + Trimada + Lauha
Ingrédients-
                 (3 parts) (3 parts) (8 parts)
                 1+1+1 1+1+1 1+1+1
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From the Literature mentioned above it is evident that most of the *Acharyas* are of the same view as that of the pioneer author of the formulation i.e. *Krishnatreya* with slight differences in specifications like indications, dose, duration, *anupana* etc.

DIFFERENT VIEWS ABOUT FORMULATION AS A WHOLE

The formulation mentioned in *Chakradatta*, *Gadanighraha*, *Yogatarangini*, *Rasa Kalpa lata*, *Yogaratnakar*, *Siddha Yoga Samgraha*, *Rasa Tantra Saar & Siddha prayoga Samgraha*, *Rasendra Sambhava*., *Rasa Jala Nidhi*, *Rasamrita* are similar to the formulation mentioned in *Charaka Samhita*.

Chikitsa Kalika, Vrihat Yoga Tarangini, Rasa Kamdhenu showed exactly similar verse.

Vaidya Chintamani depicts two preparations with same constituent drugs named Navayasa Churna and Navayasaadi churna. Same verse is depicted in Nighantu Ratnakar and Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar.

Navarasaadi Gutika of Yoga Chintamani too show almost similar formula as that of Navayasa Churna of Vaidya Chintamani but the prescribed dosage form is gutika.

Verse depicted in *Bhavaprakash* is exactly similar to *Ras Raja Sundar* and *Vrihat Ras Raja Sundar* which is almost similar to *the Vaidya chintamani*.

Formulation of *Vyoshadi churna* depicted in *Yoga Chandrika, Nighantu Ratnakar* and *Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar* are same.

DIFFERENT VIEWS ABOUT LAUHA AS AN INGREDIENT

In all formulations 'Lauha' as a whole is taken 9 parts to that of individual constituents.

In *Harita samhita, Mandoor* being member of *Lauha* group is taken 8 parts and *Lauha* itself 1 part with total quantity still remaining 9 parts.

In *Rasavtaar* 8 parts of *Lauha* is prescribed .This might be due to some mistake.

Although *Siddha Yoga Samgraha* (by *Yadavji*) has quoted the view of *Charaka* but in Hindi commentary *Mandoor* is recommended in place of *Lauha*.

The Various forms of iron recommendation by different authors is tabulated in Table No.-4.

Different views about dosage form (Table No-5)

It is chiefly prescribed in the form of *churna* (powder). However, for easy usage it has been recommanded in the dosage form of *gutika* (pill) and *leha* (confectionary) in *Yoga Chintamani* and *Harita Samhita* respectively.

Different views about Herbal Constituents

Herbal constituents in all the formulations of *Navayasa Lauha* are nine in number except the formulation quoted in *Rasavtaar* where the constituents of the formulation shows *krama vriddhi* (orderly increasing pattern).

Different views about Bhavana (Trituration)

Among ancient seers, it was only *Harita*, who advocate seven times trituration with the juice of *Saccharum officinalis* (*Ikshu swarasa*). *Yadavji Trikamji* in his book *Rasamrita* too advised trituration with juice of *Eclipta alba* (*Bhringraa*j) prior to administration.

MODE OF ADMINISTRATION

Dose (*Matra*) - Regarding the dose no clearcut specification has been given. However the view of *Charaka* is worth mentioning as

'..... यथादोषं भैषज्यवचारयेत् ।'' (Ch. Vi. 8/123)

i.e. selection of drug (*bheshajya*) is in accordance to the potency of *dosha* apart from other factors of *dashavidha pariksha*.

Furthermore, *Rasa Pradeep* and many other authors advocated *kalpa krama* in dose administration with starting dose of either of 1 *ratti* or 2 *ratti* (125 mg or 250mg) is gradually increased up to 9 ratti or 18 *ratti* (1125mg or 2250mg) and maintained till the ailment is cured. During *kalpa karma* dose selection is decided by dosha, bala and agni of the patient .*Nischalakara* in his commentary on *Chakradatta*⁴⁴ too support the *kalpa karma* at a dose starting with 2 *ratti* till 2 masha. (Table No-5)

Duration According to *Vangsena* it can be consumed for a period of one month, whereas *Rasapradeep* and many others recommend it in *kalp* form till the disease is cured. (Table No-5)

Anupana (Vehicle) - The widely accepted anupana of madhu and grihta in unequal proportion is suggested by most of the authors whereas others advocate either Takra, Gomutra, Ushnodaka, Adraka swarasa, Dugdha, Madhu alone or Grita alone as an anupana. Nischalakara in his commentary on Chakradatta advocated anupana should be taken either in accordance to doshika involvement or anupana mentioned in context of Amritsaar Lauha. Acharya Kashyapa is of view that one should drink either soup (yusha) of dried Raphanus sativus (moolaka) or milk with Cyperus Rotundus (mustaka) and take meals containing Hordeum vulgare (Yava) or Sathi anna (a variety of rice). Various anupana of Navayasa Lauha has been enlisted in Table No-6.

INDICATIONS

The formulation of *Navayasa Lauha* is chiefly indicated for the treatment of *Pandu roga*. Apart from *Pandu roga* other clinical conditions where it is chiefly indicated are listed in **Table No-7**. It includes *Sannipatika Pandu*, *Kushtha* (Skin disease), *Kamaala* (Jaundice), *Halimaka* (Chlorosis), *Shotha* (Swelling), *Prameha pidika* (Carbuncle), *Samgrahni* (Malabsorption Syndrome).

Table 1: List of texts depicting Navayasa Lauha with their variants

1 Charaka Samhita ¹ Navayasa Churna	
1 Charaka Samhital Nanayaca Churna	
1 Churuku Summuu Ivuougusu Churtu	Pan d ur og adh ika r
2 Sushruta Samhita ² Navayasa Churna	Prameha pidika chikitsa
3 Naavni tkam³ Navayasa Churna	Chikitsa sthana
4 Asthanga Hridaya ⁴ Navayasa Churna	Pan d u chiki ts a
5 Kashyapa Samhita ⁵ -	Sh otha chikits a
6 Harita Samhita ⁶ Shunthyaadi mishrit Lauha churna	Pan d u chiki ts a
7 Vrinda Madhav ⁷ Navayasa Churna	Pand u rog a
8. Kalyankarak ⁸ Navayasa Churna	Mah am a ya dhi ka r
9. Chikitsa Kalika ⁹ Navayasa Churna	Pand u chiki ts a
10. Vangasen Samhita ¹⁰ Navayasa Churna	Pan d ur og adh ika r
11. Chakra Dutta ¹¹ Navayasa Churna	Pand u chiki ts a
12. Gadanigraha ¹² Navayasa Churna	Ch ur na pr akaran
13. Lauha Sarvasvam ¹³ Navayasa Lauha	Lauha siddhi prakaran
14. Vasavaraajiyam ¹⁴ Sahayasa churna	Pandu chiki tsa
TI. Vasical autification	1 WILL OF CITALON
15. Vaidhya Rahas yam ¹⁵ Navayasa churna	Pandu rog a
16. Vaid ya Chintamani ¹⁶ Navayasadi churna	Pandu prakaran
N av ay as a churna	Pandu prakaran
17. Yoga Chintamani ¹⁷ Navarasadi gutika	Pandu (gutika prakaran)
18. Vaidya Chamatkaar Chintamani ¹⁸ -	Pandu roga pratikaar
S.No. Name of the Text Name of the Formulation	Rogad hikar
19. Sahastrayogam ¹⁹ V yoshadi churna	Churna prakaran
20. Bhav Prakash ²⁰ -	Pandu-Kamala-Halimaka chikitsa
21. Rasa Kalpa Lata Navayasa rasa	-
22. Anand am ala ²¹ Navayasa churna	_
23. Yoga Tarang ini ²² Navayasa churna	Pand u rog a chikits a
V V	Pandu chiki tsa
25. Yoga Ratnakar ²⁴ Navayasa churna	Pan d u chiki ts a
26. Rasa Kam dhenu ²⁵ Navayasa churna Kaphahar sang rahini Lauha	Grahani chikitsa
27. Bhaishajy a Ratnavali ²⁶ Navayasa churna	Pand u chiki ts a
28. Vrihat Ras Raj Sundar ²⁷ Navayasa churna	Pand u rog a chikits a
29. Ras Raj Sundar ²⁸ Navayasa churna	Pandu roga chikitsa
30 Nighantu Ratnakar ²⁹ Navayasadi churna	Pandu roga chikitsa
Navayasa churna	Pandu roga chikitsa
V yoshadi churna	Kam ala chi ki tsa
31 Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar ³⁰ Navayasadi churna	Pand u karm a vip aka
Navayasa churna	Pandu karma vipaka
V yoshadi churna	Pandu Kamala vipaka
32 Yoga Chandrika ³¹ V yo shadi churna	Pan d u chiki ts a
33 Shri Ranveer Prakash ³² Navayasa Churna	Pan d u chiki ts a
	(under Halimak chikitsa)
34 Ras Raja Mahaudadhi ³³ Navayasa Churna	Sannipatika Pandu
35 Rasendra Sambhav ³⁴ Navayasa Churna	Lauha prakaran
36 Ras Ratna Deepika Navayasa churna	-
S.No. Name of the Text Name of the Formulation	Rogadhikar
37 Siddha Yoga Sangraha ³⁵ Navayasa churna	Pan d u r og ad hika a r
38 Rasamrita ³⁶ Navayasa churna	-
39 Rasa Jala Nidhi ³⁷ Navayasa churna	Pand u rog ad hika ar
40 Rastantra Saar Evam Siddha Prayoga Navayasa churna Sang raha ³⁸	-
41 Abhinava Naav jiwan ³⁹ Navayasa Churna	Churna kalpana
42 Chikitsa Manjari ⁴⁰ Navayasa churna	Pandu Chikitsa
43 Ra. (Ma.) Rasavtaar ⁴¹ -	-
44 Chikitsa Ratnabharana ⁴² Shothagni vati	-
45 A. F. I. 43 Navayasa churna	Churna Prakaran

Table 2: Variants of Navayasa Lauha and their different nomenclature

S.No.	Name of the formulation	Chief Reference Text	Formulation with same ingredients but different Nomenclature
1.	Navayasa Churna - I	Charak Samhita	Vyoshadi Churna , Navayasadi Churna, Sahayasa Churna, Navrasadi Gutika , Navayasa rasa, Shothagni Vati, Kapha Sang rahinihara Lauha
2.	Navayasa Churna - II	Harita Samhita	-
3.	Navayasa Churna - III	Rasavtaar	-
4.	Navayasa Churna - III	Rasa Raj Mahodadhi	-

Table 3: The constituents of different variants of Navayasa Lauha

S.No.	Formulation	Haritaki	Bibhitaka	Amalaki	Slaintlii	Maricha	Pippali	Mustaka	Vidanga	Chitraka	Guduchi	Madhuyasti	Rasa	Lauha	Mandoor
1	N a v ay as a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
	Churna- I	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)				(9)	
2	N a v ay as a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+
	Churna-II	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)				(1)	(8)
3	N a v ay as a	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
	Churna-III	(8)	(8)	(8)	(7)		(5)	(1)	(6)	(3)	(2)	(4)	(1)	(9)	
4	N a v ay as a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	-
	Churna-IV	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)				(8)	

Table No.4- Form of iron used in Navayasa Lauha

S.No.	Form of Iron	Reference Text
1.	Lauha Churna	Charaka Samhita, Harita Samhita, Astang Hridaya, Kashyap Samhita, Chikitsa Kalika, Vrindamadhav, Cakradatta, Vangsen Samhita, Gadanigraha, Yoga Chintamani, Vaidya Chamatkar Chintamani, Yogatarangini, Vrihat Yogatarangini, Yogaratnakar, Vaidya Rahsaya, Kalyankarak, Yoga Chandrika, Sahsrayoga. Bhaishajaya Ratnavali, Siddha Yoga Samgraha, Rasa Tantra Saar & Siddha prayoga Samgraha, Ayurvedic Formulary of India
2.	Ayasa	Navnitkam, Vasavarajiyam.
3.	Hatayasa	Vaidya Chintamani Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar, Nighantu Ratnakar, Bavaprakash
4.	Teekshna raja	Lauha Sarvasvam, Chkitsa Manjari
5.	Krishnay asa raja	Sushruta Samhita
6.	Lauha after amritikarana	Rasa Kamdhenu.

Table 5: Dosage of Navayasa Lauha recommended by various authors

S.No.	Text	Recommended Dose
1	Rasa Pradeep, Bhava Prakash, Vrihat Nighantu	1 ratti (125mg) ? 9 ratti (1125mg)
	Ratnakar, Nighantu Ratnakar, Rasa Ratna	2 ratti (250mg) ? 18 ratti (2250mg)
	Samucchaya, Chakradatta (Nishachalakara Tika)	3 ratti? 2 masha (Kalpa karma)
2	Nishachalakara (commentary on Pandu chikitsa	4 mtti
	/11)	
3	Shivadassena (commentary on Pandu chikitsa	2 ratti? increased by 2 ratti upto 2 masha
	/11)	(Kalpa karma)
4	Abhinav Navjeev an	3 ratti
5	Rasatantra Saar and Siddha Prayoga Samgraha	1 –3 ratti /3-8 ratti
6	Rasa Jala Nidhi	6 ratti
7	Ayurvedic Formulary Of India	1 gm
8	Siddha Yoga Samgraha. by Yadav Ji	2-4 mtti
9	Rasamrita	2-4 mtti

Table 6: Anupana of Navayasa Lauha

S.No.	Anupana (Vehicle)	Reference Text
1.	Madhu (Honey) + Ghrita (Clarified Butter)	Charaka Samhita, Sushrta Samhita, Harita Samhita, Astang Samgraha, Astang Hridaya, Vangsen Samhita Gadanigraha, Vaidya Chintamani, Yoga Chandrika, Lauha sarvasvanm, Yogatarangini, Bavaprakash, Yogaratnakar, Vaidya Rahasaya, Sahasrayogam., Bhaishajyaratnawali, Rasarajasundar, Vrihat rasarajasundar ,Nighantu Ratnakar, Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar, Rasendra Sambhav, Rasa Jala Nidhi, Rasamrita, Rasa Tantra Saar & Sidha Yoga samgraha.
2.	Madhu alone (Honey)	Kashyap samhita, Chikitsakalika, Vangsen Samhita Vaidyarahasya, Vasavrajiyam, Vaidya Chamtkar Chintamani, Yogatarangini, Vrihat Yogatarangini, Rasakamdhenu, Yogaratnakar, Yoga Chandrika, Nighantu Ratnaakar, Rasa Raj Mahodadhi, Chikitsa Manjari, Ayurvedic Formulary of India.
3.	Ghrita (Clarified butter)	Vaidya Chamtkar Chintamani, Yoga Chandrika
4.	Sita+Ajaya (Sugar+Ghrita)	Kalyanakaraka
5.	Takra (Butter milk)	Astang Samgraha, Astang Hridaya, Vangsen Samhita Vaidya Chintamani, Yoga Chintamani, Vaidya Chamtkar. Chintamani, Bavaprakash, Yoga Chandrika, Sahsrayoga, Rasarajasundar, Vrihat rasarajasundar Nighantu Ratnakar, Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar, Sidha Yoga Samgrha, Rasa Padatti, Rasa Tantra Saar & Sidha Yoga samgraha.
6.	Gomutra (Cow's urine)	Vangsen Samhita Vaidya Chintamani, Yoga Chintamani, Bhavaprakash, Rasa Raja Sundar, Vrihat Rasa Raja Sundar, Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar, Nighantu Ratnakar, Ranveer Prakash.
7.	Ushnodaka (Warm water)	Ashtanga Sangraha, Ashtanga Hridaya, Vaidya Chamtkar Chintamani, Yoga Chandrika, Sahsrayoga, Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar, Nighantu Ratnakar
8.	Adraka Swarasa (Juice of Zingiber officinale)	Vaidya Chintamani, Bhavaprakash., Rasa Raja Sundar, Vrihat Rasa Raja Sundar, Nighantu Ratnakar, Rasa Tantra Saar & Sidha prayoga samgraha.
9.	Dughdha (Milk)	Siddha Yoga Sangraha
10.	Water	Ayurvedic Formulary Of India

Table 7: Therapeutic uses of Navayasa Lauha mentioned in different texts

S.No.	Rogadhikar (Specific clinical entity)	Name of the Formulation	Reference Text
1.	Pandu (Anaemia)	Navayasa Oturna	Charaka samhita, Astang Samgraha, Astang Hridaya, Harita samhita, Chikitsakalika, Vangsen Samhita, Gadanigraha, Chaknadatta, Vaidya Chamtkar Chintamani, Yogatarangini, Vrihat Yoga Tarangini, Yogaratnakar, Vaidya Rahasya, Kalyankarak, Yoga Chintamani, Sahsrayogam, Bhaishajayaratnawali, Rasarajasundar, Vrihat rasarajasundar, Vrihat nighantu Ratnakar, Nighantu Ratnakar, Siddha Yoga Samgraha, Rm., Rasa jala nidhi, Rasa Tantna Saar & Siddha Yoga Samgraha.
		Navayasadi churna	Vaidya Chintamani, Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar, Nighantu Ratnakar
		Navarasadi gutika	Yoga Chintamani.
		Vyoshadi churna	Yoga Chintamani.
2.	Sannipatika Pandu	Navayasa Churna	Rasa Raj Mahodadhi
3.	Kushtha (Skin disease)	Navayasa Churna	Kalyankaraka.
4.	Kamaala (Jaundice)	Vyoshadi churna	Vangsen Sanhita, Vrihat Nighantu Ratnakar, Nighantu Ratnakar
5.	Halimaka (Chlorosis)	Navayasa Churna	Ranveer Prakash
6.	Shotha (Swelling)	Navayasa Churna	Kashyapa Samhita
7.	Prameha pidika (Carbuncle)	Navayasa Orurna	Sushruta Samhita, Rasakamadhenu
8.	Sangrahni (Malabsorption Syndrome)	Kapha Sangrahni hara Lauha	Rasakamadhenu

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