

Efficacy of *Kumari* [*Alove Vera* (L)] on *Agnidagdha Vrana* (Burn Wound) With Special Reference to *Ayurvedic* and Modern Aspect: A Review

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Abstract

Nature has gifted numerous plants to mankind for prevention and management of diseases. *Kumari* [*ALOVE VERA* (L.)] belonging to Family Liliaceae is traditionally advocated by the Indian Ayurvedic medicine to treat a huge variety of health problems. Its burn wound (*Agnidagdha vrana*) healing action has been mentioned in Ayurvedic classics viz. Kaiyadev Nighantu, Bhavprakash Nighantu and Shaligram Nighantu. According to Ayurveda, due to its Dahaprashman (cooling), *Rasayana* (rejuvenating), Vishaghna (anti-toxic), Balya (strength providing) actions and Kledashodhan (removes kleda) actions, it helps in burn wound healing. This plant contains Lupeol, salicylic acid, Anthraquinones, Glycoproteins, Polysaccharides etc. which are accountable for speedy wound healing. It is endowed with varied pharmacological activities like antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, immune-modulatory, analgesic, anti-bacterial, moisturizing and cooling and anti-oxidant that aid wound healing. This plant has potential to cure sunburns, burns and minor cuts, and even skin cancer. The present review compiles information on Ayurvedic aspect as well as phytoconstituents and relevant pharmacological studies of *Kumari* regarding burn wound (*Agnidagdha vrana*) healing action. The present data is an endeavour to give scientific justification to the acclaimed activity i.e. its burn wound healing potential (*Agnidagdhavranapaha*) as stated in Ayurveda. It provides encouragement to investigators for conducting further research in order to develop an efficient and safe innovative chemical entity for the cure of burn wound.

Keywords: *Kumari*, *Aloe vera*, *agnidagdhavrana*, burn wound.

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INTRODUCTION

Skin burn is a global problem that may result in ugly scarring and serious handicapping. Numerous studies confirmed that burn infection is the major cause of mortality in patients with extensive burns, therefore many researchers attempted to achieve accurate treatment methods to reduce the threat of wound infections and to curtail the period of treatment of patients with burn wounds [1]. Healing of burn is still a challenge in modern medicine and there are only a few drugs capable of speed up wound healing and as alternative plants were rich sources to survey [2-6].

The use of medicinal plant either as a single drug or in combination is growing in the health care of human being. Medicinal plants can be vital source of previously unidentified chemical substances with potential therapeutic effect. The field of herbal medicine is getting popularized both in developed and developing countries in the last few decades since the herbal medicines are economical and have natural

origin with higher safety limits with lesser or no side effects.

Kumari [*Aloe vera* (L.) Burm. f. in synonym *A. barbadensis* Miller] belonging to the family Liliaceae is one of the most important medicinal plants which is often called as 'miracle plant', the 'nature healer' or 'Plant of immortality'. It has an ancient history in medicine and is recognized as 'burn tree' or 'first aid plant' [7]. Ancient physicians regarded it as a blessing to mankind. It has produced the enormous traditional role in endemic system of rules of medicine such as the Siddha, Unani, Ayurveda and Homeopathy [8]. The plant looks like a cactus with green, its shape like sharp knife, leaves that are flesh, narrowing, spinous, emarginated and filled up from a clear white viscous gummy gel [9]. This is a hardy, perennial, tropical, drought-resistant and succulent plant. It grows mainly in the dry region of Africa, Asia, Europe and America. In India it is found in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

In cosmetic the external use of aloe primarily acts as skin healer and prevents injury of epithelial tissues, cures acne and gives a youthful glow to skin. In Ancient *Ayurvedic* literature the plant Kumari is documented to possess several valuable and multi-dimensional therapeutic effects. It is a renowned Rasayana (Rejuvenating) herb which delays aging and imparts longevity, immunity and body resistance against several diseases. It is frequently used in the management of a variety of diseases such as indigestion, liver and spleen disorders, jaundice, skin disorders, wound etc. Its various formulations are prescribed as an appetite-stimulant, purgative, emmenagogue and antheimintic etc. Its efficacy in burn healing (Agnidagdhavranapaha) is stated in Ayurvedic classics viz. Kaiyadev Nighantu, Bhavprakash Nighantu and Shaligram Nighantu. It has been used for the treatment of wounds and burns for centuries [10].

The plant produces at least six antiseptic agents like lupeol, salicylic acid, urea nitrogen, cinnamonic acid, phenols and sulphur. All of these substances are known as antiseptics as they kill or control mould, bacteria, fungus and viruses, elucidating why plant has the capability to get rid of many internal and external infections. The two very effective pain-killer i.e. Lupeol and salicylic acid are present in the juice of Aloe. Aloe contains at least three anti-inflammatory fatty acids viz. cholesterol, campesterol and β -sitosterol which are highly effective in treatment of burns, cuts, scrapes, abrasions, allergic reactions. The Aloe vera leaf possesses more than 75 food nutrients, 200 chemical active compounds including 20 minerals, 18 amino acid & 12 vitamins, controls the ageing process of skin. A more recent review concludes that the cumulative evidence supports the use of *Aloe vera* for the healing of first to second degree burns [11].

This review highlights the information particularly about burn wound healing action of Kumari i.e. Aloe vera according to Ayurvedic aspect as well as it emphasizes Phytochemical constituents and various pharmacological properties of this popular and promising herb which may provide support to researchers for conducting advance research in order to develop an efficient and safe novel chemical entity responsible for its claimed traditional use i.e. its burn wound healing potential (Agnidagdhavranapaha) stated in Ayurveda.

Classical text books of Ayurveda and Nighantus were reviewed for documenting the information about Kumari. The published works on various scientific journals and web pages were consulted to review for available information about Kumari in terms of phyto-pharmacological information regarding burn healing.

Agnidagdhavran and Ayurveda

Classical textbooks of Ayurveda contain vivid descriptions of burn injury and its management. Management of burn wound depends upon the depth of the injury in conjunction with other factors common for all types of wounds. Bedside clinical evaluation plays an important role as the most widespread and cost-effective method for depth diagnosis [12].

Depth of burn wound

In Susruta Samhita Clinical features of all the types have been stated in terms of appearance, presence/absence of blisters, presence/absence and nature of pain, suppuration, extent of tissue destruction, time and nature of healing, systemic involvement etc. which specifies the depth of damage on account of thermal injury [13].

Plusta: Discoloration; Burning pain without any blisters.

Durdagdha: Blisters, severe pain, redness, suppuration, pain lasting for long interval.

Samyagdagdha: Without the features of *Atidagdha*, colour of wound like ripe palm tree fruit, neither elevated nor depressed, along with the features as mentioned above.

Atidagdha: Sloughing out, injuries of vessels, ligaments, joints and bones; fever; burning sensation; thirst; fainting; the wound heals very gradually; discoloration after healing.

The plenty of medicines have been revealed in Ayurvedic classics for burn wound care. These medicines had been used in ancient times and pre-antibiotic age most possibly with success. So there is a requirement of revalidating these preparations in terms of modern parameters and thus making them suitable and accessible for the mankind.

Ayurvedic Aspect of Kumari

The name Kumari means that the plant wishes to give the nutritious health and strength by its Rasayana (Rejuvenating) property.

The various properties of Kumari are revealed in Nighantus like Madanpal, Shodhal, Kaiyadev, Raj, Bhavprakash, Nighantu Ratnakar, Shaligram and Priya Nighantu and Nighantu Aadarsha.

The synonyms like Ambudhisrava, Vipulsrava (filled with a clear viscous gel), Atipicchila (very slimy), Mridu (soft leaves), etc. explain external morphology of the plant while some synonyms such as Ajara, Taruni, (anti-aging), Amara, Veera, Rasayani (rejuvenating), Vranghni (wound healing) etc. elucidate the pharmacological properties of Kumari. Its burn wound (Agnidagdhavran) healing action has been

mentioned in Ayurvedic Nighatus (lexicons) viz. Kaiyadev Nighantu, Bhavprakash Nighantu and Shaligram Nighantu.

Rasapanchak of Kumari

Rasa: Tikta, Madhur
 Veerya: Sheet
 Vipak: Katu
 Guna: Picchila, Sara, Guru, Snigdha
 Prabhav: Bhedan

Action on Doshas

It alleviates Vata by rather MadhurRasa; Picchila, Guru and Snigdha Guna. It alleviates Pitta by Tikta, Madhur Rasa; Sheeta Veerya and Sara Guna. It alleviates Kapha by Tikta Rasa and Katu Vipak.

Thus it is Tridoshashamak plant. Its various pharmacological actions are viz. balya (provides strength), bhedan (breaks and removes mala- unwanted substances), brihan (nutritive), Rasayan (Rejuvenating), Vishaghna (removes toxins), and Aghidagha vranaghna (burn healing).

In Ayurvedic classics, various therapeutic uses of Kumari regarding wound healing are stated. The reference that local application of juice of Kumari and cumin seeds powder definitely lessens the burning sensation occurs in Rasaratnasamucchaya.

Burn Healing and Modern science

The usual response of an organism to injury or wound is either regeneration (the complete restoration of the damaged part) or repair (the reconstruction of the injured region). The scar tissue is properly covered, by an epithelium at the site of injury. When skin is injured or wounded the dermis responds primarily to repair while the epidermis responds to regeneration; the collective response of the skin to injury is called as wound healing. Mechanisms involved in wound healing are epithelialisation, contraction, connective tissue (matrix) deposition. Epithelialisation is a process where keratinocytes migrate from the lower skin layers and divide. Contraction process involves wound contraction and narrowing or closing of the wound. In connective tissue and matrix deposition fibroblasts come into the area and produce new matrix and collagen is laid down over and amongst this amorphous material. After it the epithelial tissues may migrate over this. The matrix consists of collagen, elastin, fibronectin, laminin, hyaluronic acid, and proteoglycans. These structures and chemicals provide strength and support, allow expansion and contraction, provide a surface for cell movement, and facilitate necessary chemical reactions to occur. Wound healing generally needs support at three stages. First, improving general resistance and support mechanisms that could be achieved from rejuvenative, adaptogenic, palliative, antioxidant, and cleansing, detoxifying, buffering and lubricous activities. Second, stimulating the repair and

regenerative mechanisms to extend cell life, cell migration and cell binding, remove skin blemishes, and improve tensile strength or elasticity of the skin, improved moisture holding capacity of skin. Third, therapeutic and nutritional activities including anti-inflammatory, antiseptic and antimicrobial, protein and collagen synthesis and enhanced stability of biomembranes.

Antioxidants can interfere with the oxidation process by reacting with free radicals, chelating catalytic metals and also by acting as oxygen scavengers. Free radicals and other reactive oxygen species (ROS) are considered to be important contributory factors in the aging process. Oxidative stress also plays significant role in impair wound healing. Botanicals with anti-oxidant or free radical scavenging activity thus can play a significant role in healing of wounds [14].

Burn healing can be regarded as a particular kind of wound healing and most of the skin reactions are the similar. The conditions for burn healing differ according to the depth of the burn wound in addition to several factors can interfere with the healing process. Consequently three zones have been known in a burn, an inner zone (coagulation zone) where cell damage is irreversible, a middle zone (stasis zone) where damage is severe and an outer zone (hyperemic zone) where recovery is likely [15].

Moreover there are three degrees of burns, the first in which the epidermis only is damaged, the second where some dermal damage also occurs but where epithelial regeneration is possible and the third where both epidermis and dermis are irreversibly damaged.

1st and 2nd degree burns are known together as partial thickness burns. 2nd degree burns is the deeper injury than 1st degree burn. It involves all the epidermis and much of the corium. The deep dermal burn is of important clinical importance.

Most 2nd degree burns are characterized by blisters. They are usually accompanied by considerable subcutaneous oedema. The rate of healing is dependent upon the depth of skin destruction on whether or not presence of infection. In superficial partial thickness burns, healing usually takes place uneventfully in a period of 10 to 14 days unless infection supervenes.

Deep dermal burns are injuries that extend down deep in the corium lining of the sweat glands and their follicles. If the wound is appropriately protected it will be covered with a thin layer of epithelium in 25 to 35 days. There may be thick scarring.

It is now general knowledge that the deep burns heal with hypertrophic scars. The healing dermis microscopically presents with omnipresent myofibroblasts. These fibroblasts like cells attach to the adjacent collagen fibres. It has been assumed that the microfibrils are responsible for the burn scar contracture and collagen disorientation characteristic of hypertrophic burn scar.

Modern classification of burn depth on clinical appearance is as follows

Typical clinical appearance of burn depth:

- First degree: Involves only the epidermis and never blisters. It appears like 'sunburn' and is not included in the %TBSA calculation.
- Second degree superficial: Pink, homogeneous, normal capillary refill, painful, moist, intact hair follicles
- Second degree deep: Mottled or white, delayed or absent capillary refill, dry, reduced sensation or insensate, non-intact hair follicles
- Third degree: Dry, white or charred, leathery, insensate.

Modern aspect of *Aloe vera*

Phyto-chemical constituents of *Aloe vera*

The *Aloe vera* plant has flavonoids, terpenoids, lectins, unsaturated fats, cholesterol, anthraquinones, chromones mono and polysaccharides, tannins, sterols, salicylic corrosive, destructive regular acids, proteins, saponins, vitamins, minerals, aloin, anthrone, aloin emodin, aloetic corrosive, choline and salicylate, complex mucopolysaccharides like hyaluronic corrosive, saponins and chemical, for example, catalase, cellulase and alliinase [16].

The outermost layer of leaf of Kumari consists of 15-20 cells thick protective layer producing carbohydrates and proteins [17]. The active components of aloe comprise anthraquinones, chromones, polysaccharides, and enzymes. The anthraquinones and chromones are accountable for the anti-cancer activity, anti-inflammatory, and evacuating [18]. The elements Al, Ba, Ca, Fe, Mg, Na, P, Si etc has also been reported to be present in *Aloe vera* gel [18-20].

The bitter yellow latex of pericyclic tubules in the outer layer of the leaves possess derivatives of hydroxyanthracene, anthraquinone and glycosides aloin A and B from 15% - 40% in different investigations [21-23]. The other active principles of *Aloe* contain hydroxyanthrone, aloin emodin-anthrone 10-C-glucoside and chromones.

The bitter yellow latex containing anthraquinones and glycosides has been reported from the middle layers of leaf [17]. The parenchymatous tissue or pulp shown to have proteins, lipids, amino acids, vitamins, enzymes, inorganic compounds and small organic compounds in addition to the different

carbohydrates. There is some evidence of chemotaxonomic variation in the polysaccharide composition [24-26] 16-different polysaccharides and 12 major polypeptides (mol wt 15 - 77 kD), and various glycoproteins (29 kD in leaf gel).

The innermost layer of leaf gel has water up to 99%, with glucomannans, amino acids, lipids, sterols and vitamins [17, 26]. The other potentially active ingredients consist of vitamins, enzymes, minerals, sugars, lignin, saponins, salicylic acids, and amino acids [27-30]. It has numerous monosaccharides and polysaccharides; vitamins B1, B2, B6, and C; niacinamide and choline, several inorganic ingredients, enzymes (acid and alkaline phosphatase, amylase, lactate dehydrogenase, lipase) and organic compounds (aloin, barbaloin, and emodin) [31].

The main functional component of *Aloe vera* is a long chain of acetylated mannose [20, 32, 33]. Aloe gel is frequently commercialized as powdered concentrate. Therapeutically, it is used to prevent progressive dermal ischemia due to burns, frostbite, electrical injury and intra arterial drug abuse. *In vivo* analysis of these injuries demonstrates that this gel acts as an inhibitor of thromboxane A₂, a mediator of progressive tissue damage [29].

About 23 polypeptides are present in Aloe juice which helps to control a broad spectrum of immune system diseases and disorders.

The sterile property of *Aloe vera* is a consequence of proximity of six clean experts particularly lupeol, salicylic destructive, urea nitrogen, cinnamonic destructive, phenols and sulfur. These blends have inhibitory action on parasites, organisms and diseases. Despite the way that an extensive part of these usages are fascinating, controlled trials are critical to choose its practicality in all diseases [34].

The Anti-inflammatory activity of aloe vera gel has been exposed by various *in vitro* and *in vivo* contemplates bradykinase movements of body. The peptidase bradykinase was isolated from aloe and shown to break down the bradykinin, an inflammatory substance that induces pain [35].

Wound improving Property of *Aloe vera* gel has been credited to Mannose-6-phosphate actually, glucomannan and plant development hormone gibberellins connects with development variable receptor of fibroblast and invigorate its action and proliferation for expansion collagen blend its topical and oral organization of aloe as indicated by Hayes [36].

Favonoids and phytosterols of *Aloe vera* promote Epithelialisation for wound healing process

with increased capillary formation & fibroblast proliferation enhancing the rate of epithelialisation.

Research work done on Burn healing activity of Aloe

- Aloe vera is best recognized for its soothing and healing effects on burn and other wounds. Even if burn wound healing was one of the chief indications for use of *Aloe vera* gel in several animal and clinical studies, there are few studies comparing the efficacy of this gel and SSD in the treatment of burns in animals [37, 38]. Silver sulfadiazine is regularly used to control the microbiologic flora within burn wounds; however, silver sulfadiazine has been known to slow down healing in some instances because of its cytotoxicity towards human keratinocytes and fibroblasts [39]. When silver sulfadiazine was used with aloe preparations, these effects were reversed [38].
- Aloe vera gel extracts were compared with silver sulfadiazine, salicylic acid cream and plain gauze occlusive dressing. It was observed that Aloe vera gel extracts permit quicker healing of burn wounds [37]. Aloe vera could expose the actions of both anti-inflammation and wound healing promotion when applied on a second degree burn wound [40]. Aloe vera treatment of wounds in diabetic rats may improve the process of wound healing by influencing phases like inflammation, fibroplasia, collagen synthesis and maturation and wound contraction. These effects may be because of the reported hypoglycemic effects of the aloe gel [41].
- A review of four clinical trials evaluating the effect of Aloe vera on burn wounds demonstrated that aloe vera significantly shortened the wound healing time (by approximately eight days) compared to control. They reported that it may be an efficient treatment for first and second degree burns [42].
- *Aloe Vera* was studied for burn wounds by routine dressing by *A. Vera* extract every 3rd day in chemically produced burn on healing subjects. The wound healing time in addition to bacteriological control was significantly in Aloe group [43].
- Another study illustrated that an aloe cream reduced the healing time in patients with burn injuries compared to silver cream. It might have better efficacy over silver sulfadiazine cream for treating second-degree burns [44].
- The aloe vera gel extract permitted faster healing of burns, and re-established the vascularity of burn tissue of a guinea pig [37, 45].
- In an animal experiment, sixteen rats were randomly assigned to one of two groups, each group of 8 rats. A deep second-degree burn on the lower back and 3rd degree burn on upper back of each rat were created. Burns were dressed daily with aloe vera extract in group 2 and silver sulfadiazine in group 1. Response to treatment was assessed by digital photography during treatment until day 32. Histological parameters (PMN, epithelialisation, fibrosis and angiogenesis) were assessed after biopsy of scar at the end of research. The study explained that wound healing was more visible in aloe vera group. Moreover the speed of healing in aloe vera group was better than silver sulfadiazine group [46].
- Hotplate burns to guinea pig skin healed more speedily after topical aloe gel application and interestingly, the bacterial count was reduced by 60% (81, 109). An another study revealed healing activity towards gamma-radiation burns; but only if applied quickly, when it produced more quick healing than controls but only as peak reaction levels were reduced. Here it was wonder that aloe gel affected the induction of the skin reaction but not the later healing phases. In a similar trial conducted on mice, differences were observed in the effect on first, second and third degree burns. Gel preparations delayed the inflammatory response and accelerated the recovery time for first and second degree burns and epithelialisation was rapid. Third degree burns proved more stubborn. A synergism was noted between the gel and the cream base used. Elsewhere, partial thickness burns were observed to heal more quickly when treated with aloe gel, compared with vaseline, both growth of epithelial cells and organization of fibrovascular and collagen tissue being stimulated [47].
- The Aloe gel has been used for the management of radiation burns and radiation ulcers [48], and complete healing has been seen in two radiation burns patients [49]. The fresh gel was more efficient than the cream [49, 50] as Aloe gel-treated lesions healed quicker (11.8 days) compared to burns treated with petroleum jelly gauze (18.2 days) by *Fulton* [51]. The 27 patients with partial thickness burns have been treated with Aloe gel in a placebo-controlled study [52].
- A review illustrated that the cumulative evidence supported the use of *Aloe vera* for the healing of first to second degree burns [53].
- In a study of twenty-seven patients with partial thickness burn wound, they were treated with aloe vera gel compared with vaseline gauze. It revealed the aloe vera gel treated lesion healed faster than the Vaseline gauze area. The average time of healing in the aloe gel area was 11.89 days and 18.19 days for the Vaseline gauze treated wound. Statistical analysis by using t-test and the value of $P < 0.002$ was statistically significant. In histologic study, it showed early epithelialisation in the treated aloe vera gel area. Only some minor adverse effects, such as discomfort and pain were encountered in the 27 cases. This study showed the effectiveness of aloe vera gel on a partial thickness burn wound, and it might be beneficial to do further trials on burn wounds [54].
- This study showed the clinical usefulness of aloe vera gel for the treatment of partial thickness burn

wounds. From the histopathological point of view, aloe vera gel can stimulate rapid growth of squamous epithelium and organize reformed dermal fibro-vascular and collagen tissue. Moreover, less inflammatory cell infiltration might indicate the antiseptic property of aloe vera gel as has been previously recognized. These findings support previous investigations. These findings were not seen in the Vaseline gauze treated area. Adverse effects, such as transient discomfort or pain were considered less significant. No allergic reaction or dermatitis was found during the study in contrast to the findings of some investigators. Evidence of beneficial effect associated with the use of aloe gel was sufficient to warrant implementation of further trials on burn wounds [54].

DISCUSSION

Healing of burn wounds remains a challenge to modern medicine, although many antiseptics have been discovered. Burn management necessitates significant length of hospital stay, high-priced medication, several operative procedures and long-lasting period of rehabilitation. This makes burn care an expensive system and attempt should be made to offer a shorter inpatient care for burn patients. First degree and second degree superficial can be correlated with *Plusta while* Second degree Deep and third degree wound can be correlated with *Samyadagdhaand and Atidagdha respectively*.

Kumari has potential to cure sunburns, burns and minor cuts, and even skin cancer. Owing to its therapeutic properties like wound and burn healing, *Aloe* is now used in a variety of commercially available topical medications for wound healing and skin care. The clear gel of *Aloe* has an outstanding ability to heal wounds, ulcers and burns by forming a protective coating on the affected areas and accelerating the healing process.

The activities of *Aloe vera* like antiseptic [55], anti-inflammatory [56-58] immune-modulatory [59-61], analgesic [62], anti-bacterial [63], moisturizing and cooling [64] and anti-oxidant [65] aid wound healing.

Mechanism of *Kumari* in *Agnidagdha* wound healing

Kaiyadev Nighantu, Bhavprakash Nighantu and *Shaligram Nighantu* have illustrated efficacy of *Kumari* in burn wound i.e. *Agnidagdhavranapaha*. According to *Ayurveda* the action of drugs is interpreted on the basis of *Rasapanchaka* that exhibits the drug action.

Rasa: Tikta (bitter) rasa absorbs the fluid and slimy material from wound by reason of *Vayu Mahabhoota predominance* and enhances wound healing. It vacates space on account of *Aakash Mahabhoota* and passes through even to miniature

channels due to *Sookshma Guna*, thus helps the drug to reach at cellular level and remove toxins after *bhedan karma* of *Kumari*.

Madhur Rasa helps to boost the *Dhatubala* (strength of tissues), and *ojas* i.e. essence of *Dhatu*. The *Rasayana* (rejuvenating) property of *Kumari* helps to regenerate new tissues and supports the nourishment of *Dhatu* at the region of wound and accelerates wound healing.

Veerya: Sheet veerya helps to reduce burning sensation and provides soothing and cooling effect.

Vipaka: Katu vipaka pacifies vitiated *Kapha and pooya (pus)*.

Guna: Kumari performs *Sandhaniya* (wound healing) activity due to *Snigdha* and *Picchila* gunas heals chronic wounds by *vranaropan* action. *Sara guna* helps to remove the *mala* and *kleda* from burn wound.

In *agnidagdha vrana*, pain and redness occurs due to vitiated *Vata* and *Pitta*. *Kumari* alleviates *vata* and *pitta*. Hence reduces pain and redness of the wound. Due to its explicit *Rasapanchaka*, *Kumari* performs burn wound healing action.

Mechanism of *Aloe verain* burn wound healing

Wound healing is a dynamic process which takes place in 3 phases. The first phase is inflammation, hyperaemia and leukocyte infiltration. The second phase includes removal of dead tissue. The third phase of proliferation comprises epithelial regeneration and formation of fibrous tissue [66].

A more recent review demonstrates that the increasing evidence supports the use of *Aloe vera* for the healing of first to second degree burns [67].

Burn patients are more predisposed for infection due to suppressed immunity. Burn wound is a fertile land for the growth of various microorganisms. The plant leaves have numerous vitamins, minerals, enzymes, amino acids, natural sugars and other bioactive compounds with emollient, purgative, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, antifungal, antiseptic and cosmetic values for health care.

Healing of burn wound is really dependent on the angiogenesis which is the mainstay in the granulation tissue formation [68].

The glycoprotein promotes cell proliferation, as a result *aloe* improves wound healing by enhancing blood supply and increased oxygenation [69, 70]. Growth of new blood capillaries (angiogenesis) and tissue regeneration in the burn tissue for a guinea pig has been reported, however, no specific constituents

were identified [71]. Moreover, a low molecular weight compound from freeze-dried gel stimulated angiogenesis in chick chorioallantoic membrane, and a methanol-soluble fraction of the gel stimulated proliferation of arteries in endothelial cells and induced them to invade a collagen substrate [72]. Extracts of *Aloe vera* [73], showed promotion of angiogenesis around wound site.

Aloe cream is imperative in wound healing in burn animals. The antimicrobial, cell proliferation and inflammatory effects may be the mechanism of aloe action in burn healing.

In full-thickness skin burn, aloe illustrates beneficial effect by lessening the inflammation significantly and providing a more mature granulation tissue which could speed up healing and might produce a sound well-remodelled scar.

The anti-inflammatory effects of aloe can contribute to resolving the inflammatory process induced by burn injury [74].

Wound healing was observed by creating burn wound following a well-established method [75]. It was reported that aloe possesses potential burn and wound healing activity and emodin played the major role in mediating these activities.

Thus in burns and leg ulcers *Aloe vera* appears to speed up the healing of damaged epithelial tissue by providing essential micronutrients, anti-inflammatory effect, antimicrobial effect and stimulation of skin fibroblasts [76].

The wound healing property of *Aloe vera* gel has been attributed to Man-nose-6-phosphate [77]. In fact, glucomannan and plant growth hormone gibberellins interacts with growth factor receptors of fibroblast and stimulate its activity and proliferation that increases collagen synthesis in topical and oral administration of *Aloe* according to Hayes [78]. It too increases synthesis of hyaluronic acid and derma-tan sulfate in the granulation tissue of a healing wound [79]. Acemannan is regarded as the chief functional component of *Aloe vera* and is composed of a long chain of acetylated mannose [80-82]. This complex carbohydrate increases speed of wound healing and decreases radiation induced skin reactions [83, 84]. Macrophage-activating potential acemannan may stimulate the release of fibrogenic cytokines [84, 85]. Direct binding of acemannan to growth factors and their stabilization may result in promotion of prolong stimulation of granulation tissue [83].

The *Aloe vera* gel play chief role in stimulation of the complement linked to polysaccharides, hydration, insulation, and protection. Application of fresh gel to normal human cells *in vitro*

promoted cell growth and attachment. The wound healing potential was due to a high molecular weighted polypeptide in healing of rat's excision wounds [86].

The probable mechanism are providing necessary material for healing, enhancing blood flow to burn area, decreased inflammatory response, and reduced rate of infection. It accelerates the flow of blood towards the wounded area. It is the best wound dressing ever discovered [87]. In 1998 Chitra *et al.* showed that *Aloe* not only accelerates healing but also prevents injured surface from getting infected [88].

Thus Whole-leaf fresh juice (aloin or barbaloin, tannins, resins, polysaccharides) or mucilaginous gel (glucomannan, acemannan, sterols, glycoproteins) decreases the risk of infection and accelerates wound healing by stimulating fibroblast proliferation, deposition of collagen, angiogenesis and production of growth factors. All these valuable effects were revealed by several experimental *in vitro* (NCTC2544 human keratinocytes) [89] or *in vivo* models (mice, Wistar or Sprague-Dawley rats, Hartley guinea pigs, rabbits, domestic pigs) of full-thickness skin cuts, burns and frostbites [90, 91], and by randomized clinical trials, made on hundreds of volunteers [92, 93].

Thus the study provides a scientific rationale for the traditional use of these plants in the management of burn wounds.

CONCLUSION

Kumari helps in Agnidagdha vrana healing by Dahaprashman (cooling), Rasayana (rejuvenating), Vishaghna (anti-toxic), Balya (strength providing) and Kledashoshan (absorbing kleda), actions. Tikta rasa and bhedan action of Kumari helps to remove kleda from wound while its sheet veerya reduces burning sensation. Madhur rasa and rasayana action of Kumari facilitate revival of new tissues and sustain the nourishment of Dhatus at wounded area hence hastens burn wound healing. The cumulative evidence tends to support that aloe vera might be an efficient interventions used in burn wound healing for first to second degree burns. In burn wound, the probable mechanism of *Aloe* are providing essential material for healing, increasing blood flow to burn area, promoting healthy granulation tissue, increasing the rate of epithelialisation, decreased inflammatory response, and declining rate of infection by its phyto-constituents like lupeol, salicylic acid, anthraquinones, glycoproteins, polysaccharides, flavanoids, phytosterol etc. It accelerates burn wound healing by stimulating fibroblast proliferation, deposition of collagen, angiogenesis and production of growth factors. The activities of *Aloe vera* like antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, immune-modulatory, analgesic, anti-bacterial, moisturizing and cooling and anti-oxidant aid burn wound healing. The above gathered data gives explanation about therapeutic efficacy of Kumari

regarding burn wound healing action which has been ascertained by several research scholars using the modern pharmacological experimental models. Thus the study validates that the significance of the plant Kumari has been recognized and documented since ancient time owing to high merit of its variety of chemical compounds, which hold significant medicinal properties that are able to heal burn wounds. Hence, it offers a scope for advance research and more well-designed clinical trials to investigate the therapeutic applications of this inexpensive and marvel drug with less adverse effects and properties like reduced period of healing and decreased rate of hypertrophic scar for the welfare of burn wound patients.

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