

ΑΗΙΡΗΝΑ

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Opium poppy



# INTRODUCTION

Botanical Name : *Papaver somniferum*

Family : Papaveraceae

Ahiphena /Opium has two useful parts-

ONE is the fruit latex exudate which is used as a narcotic for moderate to severe pain, but its misuse causes addiction and the OTHER is

The poppy seeds which are used to prepare poppy seed oil having numerous benefits.

Crude opium contains  
morphine(10%), codeine (0.5%) , thebaine  
(0.3%), papaverine (1%) and narcotine (6%)

# MORPHOLOGY

Ahiphena / Opium is an annual herb that grows up to the height of 100 cm.





# STEM AND LEAVES

stems and leaves are covered with small and soft hairs



# FLOWERS

Flowers have 4 white and red petals



# FRUITS

fruit is round in shape





# LATEX AND SEEDS

when the herb is wounded then the plant bleeds white latex.



# RASAPANCHAKA

Rasa - Tikta and Kashaya

Guna - Rooksha , Laghu and Vyavayi

Veerya - Ushna

Vipaka - Katu

Karma - Latex: Balances Kapha dosha but increases Vata and Pitta dosha, Poppy seeds increase Kapha dosha but decrease Vata dosha.

# Medicinal uses of Ahiphena

## Latex

Atisara. > Diarrhea

Anidra. > Insomnia

Shoola. > Pain

Kasa. > Cough

## Seed

Kusta. > Skin disease

Daruna. > Dandruff

Dourbalya. > Debilitating  
diseases



# AHIPHENA SHODHANA :

- > The latex is dissolved in water, filtered.
- > Heated in mild heat till total water evaporates.
- > This paste is triturated with ginger juice for 21 times.
- > Dried under shade and preserved.

(Rasa Tarangini 24/237 239)

# INTOXICATION

Raw opium is widely cultivated in certain parts of the world and can be drunk, swallowed or smoked.

Acute intoxication causes

1. Drowsiness
2. Slurred speech
3. Papillary constriction

Severe intoxication may cause respiratory and central nervous system depression, which may lead to death

# DOSAGE

Exudate: 30 to 50 mg

Poppy seeds : 1-3 gm

Poppy seed oil: 1 to 4 drops

During acute pain : 0.2gm

Fatal dose: more than 2 gm

Fatal period : 8 - 12 hrs



# MANAGEMENT

- Acute opioid intoxication of mild to moderate degree usually does not require treatment.
- Patients with sign of respiratory depression, stupor or coma need ventilator assistance.
- Naloxone , a pure narcotic antagonist will reverse respiratory depression and other manifestations of an opioid overdose.

# POSTMORTEM FINDINGS

- The post mortem appearances are not very characteristic, but signs of asphyxia are prominent.
- The smell of opium is noticed as soon as the chest is opened.
- The intravenous addict would show linear needle track scars overlying the veins of the elbow, forearms, back of hands and lower limbs .
- When fresh injection site is not noticed nasal swabs should be collected to identify heroin snuffed by the addict.

# MEDICOLEGAL ASPECTS

- HOMICIDAL - Because of its bitter taste and characteristic smell it is rarely used as a homicidal poison.
- SUICIDAL - Opium is commonly used as suicidal agents, as they cause peaceful, painless death in sleep.
- ACCIDENTAL - Overdose may occur in addicts, in children or due to therapeutic misadventure.
- CATTLE POISON - It is used for doping race horses.



THANK

YOU