

TOPICAL USE OF ANACARCIN FORTE(R) OIL IN VITILIGO

(A Preliminary Report)

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Summary

Topical application of Anacarcin Forte (R) Oil was tried in 10 cases of vitiligo. Seven cases showed excellent results. Side effects like intense itching, vesication and pustulation was seen in two cases. One case showed urticarial rash.

It is well known that photosensitization with residual pigmentation develops in skin after contact with certain plants. This is called phytophotodermatitis¹. Croton oil, babchi (*Psorale corylifolia*) bergamot oil etc have been used for local application in vitiligo since long. All these have irritating, rubeficiant, vesicant and photosensitizing actions². The local action of these skin irritants depends on the chemical property of the drug, the concentration in which it is applied, the time given to act and the sensitiveness of the skin to the drug and sun³.

'Anacarcin Forte Oil' contains active principles of *Semicarpus anacardium* nuts made with refined ground nut oil.

Semicarpus anacardium commonly known as marking nut or washerman's nut is termed in vernacular as 'Bibba'.

Semicarpus anacardium Linn (*Anacardiaceae*), the marking nut tree, is a deciduous tree of the sub Himalayan tract

extending from Sutlej in the west ascending to an altitude of 3500 ft. and as far in the east as Assam. It is found throughout the hotter parts of India. The pericarp of the fruit contains a bitter and powerful astringent which is used throughout India as a substitute for marking ink. The juice of the pericarp of the nut is used in indigenous medicine both externally and internally. It is a powerful counter irritant and a vesicant and has been employed as a local application in rheumatism, sprains and skin diseases. The pericarp contains 20% of the oil and other substances like semicarpol, bhilawanol, anacordol, cardol, anacardic acid, etc⁴.

Material and Methods

Ten patients with vitiligo were included in the study. They had a total of 27 patches ranging from 2 cm. to 5 cm. in diameter. The age of the patients; 3 males and 7 females ranged from 8 to 45 years. The duration of white patches varied from 3 months to 4 years.

The patients were instructed to apply the Anacarcin Forte oil in the night and expose the area to sun at 8 a.m. in the morning.

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Results :

There was itching and erythema within 3-4 days of application. Within a week there was appearance of black dots in some cases and black tanning effect was seen in one case.

Small patches got pigmented within 2-3 weeks and bigger patches took 6-12 weeks to get repigmented. Out of 10 cases, 7 got repigmented; while 3 showed only erythema and oozing but no repigmentation.

Acknowledgment

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of Anacarcin Forte Oil for conducting the above clinical trials.

References

1. Kalber R : Phytophotodermatitis, Brit J Derm, 54: 193, 1942.
2. Behl PN: Practice of Dermatology, Arnold Heineman India, New Delhi, 1972.
3. David JC, Iswariah V & Guruswami MN: Pharmacology & Pharmacotherapeutics, P. Varadachary and Co. Madras 1966.
4. Chopra RN, Chopra IC, Handa KL : Indigenous drugs of India, UN Dhur & Sons Pvt Ltd, Calcutta 1958.

Announcement...

Annual Postgraduate Course and Workshop

The 3rd Annual Postgraduate Course and Workshop in Medical Mycology (Dermatomyiology) will be held from September 15-17, 1980 at University of California, San Francisco, California.

The course in dermatomyiology is being offered for dermatologists, clinical pathologists, medical mycologists, and other persons interested in the current status of medical mycology.

Enrollment for this program will be limited and is acceptable for Category I credit towards the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award and the Certification Program of the California Medical Association. For further information please contact Extended Programs in Medical Education, Room U-569, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94143 or call (415) 606-4251.

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