

UTERINE CANCER AND ITS MANAGEMENT IN UNANI MEDICINE**Maqbool A. Khan, Zulfa Nooreen*, Mohd. Tariq, Mohd. Naime and Jamal Akhtar^a**

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Cancer (Sartan) is not a new disease in Unani system of medicine. A study of classical literature of Unani medicine reveal that Unani physicians right from Buqrat 360 B.C. down to Shaikh Bu Ali Ibne Sena (1037 A.D.) and Hakeem Mohammad Ajmal Khan (1927) were not only aware of cancer and its dangerous effect on human being but they tried to treat it in their own stride. This paper discusses the findings of ancient Unani physicians and research potential in herbal and Holistic medicine.

The Unani pathy is not new. It is well known all over the world that allopath is borne out of the wedlock between the Unani medicine and Western technological development. Hence it is natural that almost all diseases, their signs and symptoms as well as the threat they posed to the human being are same.

Cancer (Sartan) is one of the most dangerous, debilitating and killer disease which has baffled the physicians of all medical systems of all ages and all over the world. The allopathic physicians have for long blamed herbal medical systems for not providing any treatment for such deadliest disease but a survey of classical and ancient literature of Unani medicine reveal that they were well versed with the cancer and they treated patients of cancer with different herbs and shrubs and they even performed surgery when required in the course of treatment. The Unani medical system attribute the occurrence of the disease to the misbalance of humours and almost all physicians have agreed that cancer is caused by purification of *khilte sauda* (Black bile).

Rhazes (Raazi) the great Unani physician of Arabic era writes in his treatise AL HAWI Fil Tib. "Sartan is caused by *khilte sauda*. If it is hot then ulceration will occur. The reaction of all these inflammation is excessive heat or excessive cold. Veins are full of it (*sauda*) and its maximum part spread in hot inflammation as the colour of secreted *khilt* is green and black. If the lesion is small and ulcerative as well as small without danger and the purgation is possible it should be treated by Fasad (Venesection) and hot drugs used to wipe it out."

At another place he writes "the cause of *Sartan* (Cancer) is blood with black bile that is why its colour is black which is hot on palpation. If it is ulcerative then it is hot on palpitation indicative of being dangerous. He further point out that all physicians are of the view that cancer is caused by excess of *sauda* and this occurs due to hot temperament of liver. As putrefied blood is produced in liver due to unhygienic food and spleen fails to absorb it from liver and the body forces it to lower extremities when purification occurs."

Aghlooqan who is considered the first Unani physician who named this disease as Sartan says that the shape of this disease resemble sartan as the vessels spread on both sides of lesion just as the legs of sartan the animal. Another Unani physician of B.C era Anteelash says "It is round and has deep rooted vessel like leg." The gradation of cancer which is considered the achievement of modern medicine has been initially done by Unani Physicians. Rhazes writes.

There are two types of Hot inflammations which resemble sartan

- 1) Senseless
- 2) Sensitive

He further explains and says "Sartan is a round inflammation with deep roots blackish in colour, Hot on palpation very painful spreading slowly and ulcerating, terrible and fearful, which is cured only by surgery. Rhazes describes cancer as the killer, He writes in his book Kitabul Mansoori as under: Ulcerative cancer is a bad lesion whose sides are outward and swollen, the colour is reddish green. The largest size may be of watermelon size, sometimes it happens on pulmonary organs or throat and kills the patient".

Signs and Symptoms

The cause of *sartan* is *saudavi* blood hence its colour is black. Rhazes says: - The diagnosis of cancer is difficult and physicians get confused as the cause of cancer is flow of *saudavi*

hepatic blood to the affected part. The ancient physicians had observed that women outnumber men in this disease.

They analyzed it and documented their research and wrote that "cancer mostly occurs in women as their bodies are soft and accept the fuzlat (waste product) easily". Hakeem Anteelash is quoted by Rhazezs as follows "I have observed that if some lesions appear on the neck and throat and the diagnosis of *sartan* is doubt full". Keep your hand for long time on the affected part, if it is cancer it will be very hot". Uterine cancer or *sartan-e- Rahim* has been described by Unani physician at length.

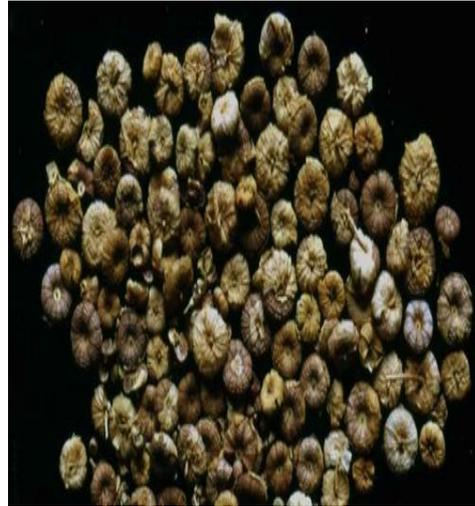
Raazi Says: Uterine cancer is a hard inflammation whose root is as hard as stone. It is reddish in colour mostly occur on adnexa due to which pain is unbearable. Pain extends to whole abdomen backbones and thighs, patient cannot allow touching it. It gives very bad smell and yellow water flows out. It has no treatment but surgery". At another place he says sometime *sartan* is with ulcer and sometimes without ulcer but it accompanies pain, burning and inflammation in adnexa. Some drugs aggravate the pain. In case of ulceration blackish bad smell fluids come out.

Another Unani physician says: uterine cancer accompanies inflammation blackish and bad smelling fluid comes out of adnexa. Another Unani physician is quoted by Raazi "it is a hard inflammation and called 'Jawarsiya'. The pain is penetrating and unbearable.

Line of Treatment

The Line of Treatment based on humoral theory; hence munzij and mushilat must be used. Sometime venesection is useful in the beginning. The decoction of afteemoon as *mushil-e-sauda* is advised by almost all Unani Physicians of repute. It is very important to note that Unani Physicians in general and Rhazezs in particular has emphasized that only oral drugs are not enough to cure this disease hence they have kept all options open including surgery.

They have advised the patient to sit in the decoction of Methi and Khubbazi.



Methi (*Trigonella foenum-graecum* Linn) Khubbazi (*Malva sylvestris* Linn.)

They have prescribed a paste of

Kazbaratulbir

Afyon

Zafran (saffron)

Gokhru

Duckfat



Afyon



Zafran



Gokhru

Another paste consists following drugs

Mifteenaj

Yellow part of egg

Zafran

Ajwain

Raughane Gul

Mom

Both prescriptions may be used as Huqna also Zafaran and Opium may be mixed and used as inner tablet. Another Paste may be prepared and used to reduce pain:-

Asfeedaj

Gil-e- Armani

Aqaqiya

Use Mushil-e-sauda for excretion of sauda from body

Use diuretic drugs & diet.

It is also said that every kind of milk is beneficial if used as Huqna in the adnexa.

Especially if mixed with Tutia maghsool another decoction that may be used as Huqna-

1. Decoction of masoor.
2. Milk of donkey
3. Water of barg-e-gauzaban

Rhazes has very clearly mentioned in his treatise Al Havi that if cancer is not responding to oral drugs and local application it must be operated upon and taken out. He says that there is no need to fear as women dose not die from it.

Diet Restriction

All kind of food that may produce sauda in the blood like

Masoor.

Brinjal

Big wild animals

Black Wine

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