

BASANT, a Polyherbal Formulation Prevents Sexually Transmitted Infections, Cures Vaginosis and Maintains Vagina Healthy

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Abstract

Briefly described are the properties of a Polyherbal formulation BASANT, which prevents sexually transmitted infections: gonorrhoea, chlamydia, Candida, HIV. It not only prevents the entry of HPV-16 in cervical cells, but is also amazingly effective in eliminating HPV-16 from infected cervical cells on path of progression to carcinoma of cervix, restoring to normalcy the Pap smear. It is highly effective for treatment of recurring episodes of Vaginosis and restoring healthy vagina.

Introduction

Through a Journal of such unusual name, we would like to bring to the notice of the readers, a Product developed by us which is unique in both preventing sexually transmitted infections and maintenance of healthy vagina. It is named BASANT.

BASANT is a Polyherbal formulation composed of 95% pure curcumin (diferuloyl methane), purified extracts of Amla (*Emblica officinalis*), Aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis*) and Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) leaves along with pharmacopoeially approved excipients. It is packaged in capsules easily insertable in the vagina.

BASANT has inhibitory action on a wide spectrum of genital pathogens: *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, all strains of WHO and those resistant to various antibiotics such as Penicillin, Tetracycline, Nalidixic acid and Ciprofloxacin [1]. It has profound inhibitory action against *Candida glabrata*, *Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* isolated from women with vulvo-vaginal candidiasis, including 3 strains resistant to azole drugs and amphotericin B [1]. BASANT inhibits *Chlamydia trachomatis*, whether present in free-state or within a cell [2].

Inhibitory action on HIV

The ability of BASANT to inhibit HIV has been documented by a variety of investigations. At 1000 fold dilution, Gustavo Doncel at CONRAD observed that it inhibits totally this virus in 2 types of cells as hosts. Prof. Manoj Pастey at the University of Oregon, USA has reported that BASANT exercises inhibitory action against various HIV strains entering the blood lymphocytes employing either CXCR4 or CCR5 receptors [3]. Dr. Smita Kulkarni at the National Institute of Virology, Pune observed that BASANT inhibits HIV-1 replication in Epi vaginal explants model.

BASANT exercises both Preventive and Therapeutic action against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

HPV-16 and HPV-18 are amongst the most dominant strains of HPV, which lead to carcinoma of cervix, the major reproductive tract cancer of women. John Schiller at the National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda USA observed that 2 ingredients of BASANT namely Amla (*Emblica officinalis*) and Aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis*) inhibit the transduction of HPV-16 in Hela cells at concentrations far below those that are cytotoxic and those used in the formulation [1]. BASANT inhibits the entry of the highly pathogenic strain of HPV-16 in cervical cells. What is further amazing is that BASANT eliminates HPV-16 from infected cervical cells on path of progression to carcinoma of cervix till the stage that virus is not yet integrated into the host genome. The virus is expelled and Pap smear is rendered normal by 30 night intake of BASANT capsule [4].

A clinical trial was conducted at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh along with the Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology of the Indian Council of Medical Research. One hundred fifty nine women coming for various

types of treatment to the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinic were examined clinically by visual inspection of cervix and by staining with acetic acid. Cervical scrapings were collected from the ecto-cervical region and endo-cervical canal to prepare Pap smears. 35 Women who had inflammatory cervix and abnormal Pap smear were enrolled. Out of these 19 women were positive for HPV-16. Eleven of these women gave written consent to undergo intra-vaginal treatment with BASANT. They were advised to insert a capsule of BASANT in the vagina every night before going to bed for 30 days, excluding the days of menstruation. Table 1 given below summarizes the observations.

Most amazing was the observation that every woman (11/11) who used BASANT had no HPV-16 in their cervical cells. Pap smear was rendered normal in each case.

A word on Probiotics

Would you believe that while the pH of the body is 7.4 and is rigorously maintained at 7.4, the pH of a healthy vagina is around 4.5. This is made possible by co-existence of a family of microbes, called Lactobacilli which co-exist with endometrial cells of the vagina. Lactobacilli make and secrete D- and L-lactic acid locally, which renders the pH of the vagina acidic. The pH of the vagina goes above 4.5 only with the demise of Lactobacilli enabling infections in the vagina.

We isolated around 200 strains of Lactobacilli from vagina of women with their consent and characterized these [5]. All lactobacilli even belonging to the same species do not make high amounts of lactic acid. Some are high producers, others

Table 1: Pre and post treatment with BASANT of HPV-16 positive patients [4]

Patient No.	Age	Parity	HPV-16 Pre-treatment	HPV-16 Post-treatment
1.	42	3+0	+VE	NEGATIVE
2.	27	4+0	+VE	NEGATIVE
3.	35	3+0	+VE	NEGATIVE
4.	28	1+1	+VE	NEGATIVE
5.	45	3+0	+VE	NEGATIVE
6.	35	4+0	+VE	NEGATIVE
7.	30	2+1	+VE	NEGATIVE
8.	45	2+0	+VE	NEGATIVE
9.	38	5+2	+VE	NEGATIVE
10.	35	3+1	+VE	NEGATIVE
11.	38	3+1	+VE	NEGATIVE

are low producers even within the same species [6]. On basis of meritorious properties, we identified and selected 3 strains of lactobacilli. These have been patented and deposited in the International Depository. These are: *L. salivarius* TRF # 30, *L. fermentum* TRF # 36, and *L. gasseri* TRF # 8. In order to make these available to those in need, these have been passed onto M/s Microbax Hyderabad. Vikas Rajurkar (Email: vikasrajurkar@microbax.com) can be contacted to procure these probiotics supplied in lyophilized form with stabilizers.

BASANT cures recurrent episodes of Vaginosis

Vaginosis is prevalent in about 30% of women in cities and in about 50% of women in rural locations in India [7, 8]. Even in USA, 29% of women suffer from it [9]. It is manifested as abnormal

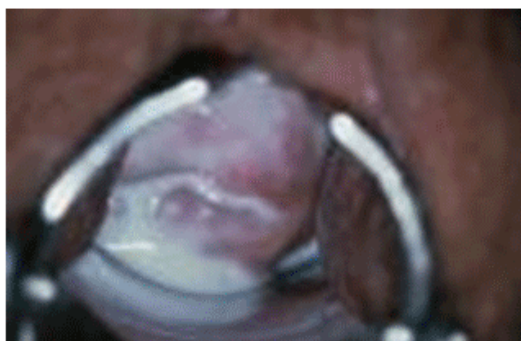
vaginal discharge with presence of Clue cells and the pH of the vagina is above 5. At times foul odour emanates from the vagina.

Intra-vaginal intake of BASANT for 7 nights cures 70% of women suffering from it. Combination of BASANT with 3 Probiotic strains of meritorious properties isolated by us, raises the cure rate to 95%. Nearly every woman recovers from Vaginosis [10]. Figure 1 illustrates the relief brought by the combination of BASANT and Probiotics strains.

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(a) Relief from abnormal vaginal discharge

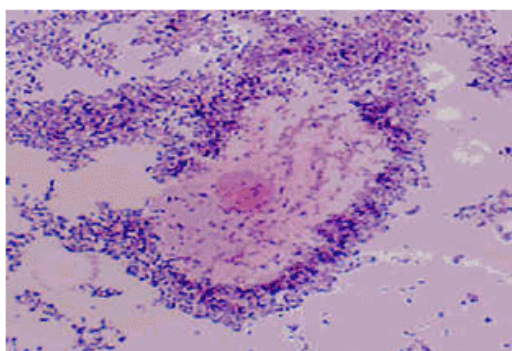


On Enrollment

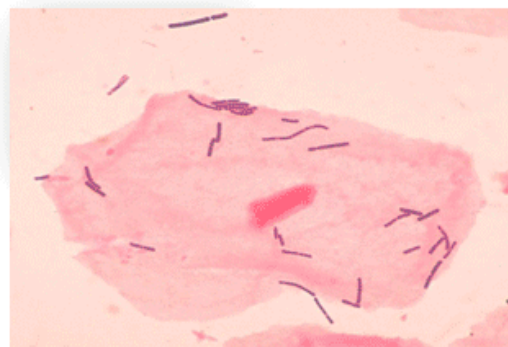


After Treatment

(b) Disappearance of Clue cells



On Enrollment



After Treatment

(Lactobacilli colonised)

(c) Healing of fishy odour

Fishy Odour
(After KOH addition on slide)
On Enrollment



No Fishy Odour
(After KOH addition on slide)
After Treatment

(d) pH of vagina restored to acidic range

pH > 5
On Enrollment



pH < 4.5
After Treatment

Figure 1: An illustrative representation of a typical woman receiving treatment with combination of microbicide BASANT alone or along with Provag-Health Probiotics strains [8].

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