

A Literature Review on Mutalazma Bad Az Ingta-e-Tams (Post-Menopausal Syndrome) in Unani System of Medicine

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Abstract:

Sinn-e-yaas (Menopause) is the age at which there is natural cassation of menstrual periods. It is defined as the permanent cessation of menses. However, the manifestations that occur around the time of menopause are caused by the underlying ovarian changes, rather than by the absent of menstruation. All women who live beyond the age of 55-60 years and many young agers experience a period of transition from reproductive to non-reproductive life. Postmenopausal syndrome is a common condition that affects women during the transition from reproductive age to menopause. Unani System of Medicine is based on principles of natural healing and emphasizes the importance of balancing the four humours: blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile. The whole human body is divided in to four age groups, which are considered to carry their particular mizaj. Unani system of medicine is enriched with the concept of ehtibas-e-haiz (amenorrhoea) but there is no exact description of menopause, nevertheless it may revealed under ehtibas-e-tams and can be correlated with Sinn-e-Yaas (age of natural termination of menstruation). It is believed that, ehtebas-e-haiz (stoppage of menses) in women of this age occurs naturally due to change of mizaj. Symptoms are : Hot flushes, excessive sweating, dysuria, oliguria, dryness of vagina, Indigestion, anorexia, gastritis and ascites, epilepsy, headache, paralysis, hysteria, palpitation, fatigue, cough, asthma, backache, neck pain. As per Unani Physicians, Mutalazma bad az ingtae tams (Post-menopausal syndrome) can be managed with the drugs possessing the properties like Muhalil (anti-inflammatory), Musafi-e-khoon (blood purifier), Dafa-e-Tashanuj (antispasmodics), Muqawiyat reham (uterine tonics), Monawwim, Musakkin.

Keywords: Mutalazma bad az ingtae tams, post-menopausal syndrome, mizaj, unani drugs.

Introduction:

Sinn-e-yaas (Menopause) is defined as the permanent cessation of menses. By convention the diagnosis of menopause is not made until the individual has had twelve months of amenorrhoea. Menopause is the age at which there is natural cassation of menstrual periods. All women who live beyond the age of 55-60 years and many young agers experience a period of transition from reproductive to non-reproductive life. Postmenopausal syndrome is a common condition that affects women during the transition from reproductive age to menopause. Menopause is not just cessation of menstruation it is "Depletion of Ovarian follicles" leading to decrease in ovarian hormones. Menopause is characterised by the menstrual changes such as oocyte depletion and subsequent reduction in ovarian hormone production. However, the manifestations that occur around the time of menopause are caused by the underlying ovarian changes, rather than by the absent of menstruation.¹ The condition is characterised by a variety of symptoms including hot flashes, vaginal dryness, insomnia, mood changes and osteoporosis. Modern medicine offers various treatment to manage these symptoms. Traditional systems of medicine such as Unani offer a holistic approach to managing postmenopausal syndrome. It is an ancient healing system that originated in Greece and was later adopted and developed by Islamic scholars. It is based on principles of natural healing and emphasizes the importance of balancing the four humours: blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile. The whole human body is divided in to four age groups, which are considered to carry their particular mizai.² Unani system of medicine is enriched with the concept of ehtibas-e-haiz (amenorrhoea) but there is no exact description of menopause, nevertheless it may revealed under ehtibas-e-tams and can be correlated with Sinn-e-Yaas



(age of natural termination of menstruation). Basic fundamentals of Unani system divide human life into four stages which are as follows:

1. Sinn-e-Namu (up to 30 years of age, Har Ratab Mizaj)

2. Sinn-e-Shabab (30-40 years of age, Har Yabis Mizaj)

3. Sinn-e-Kahulat (40-50 years of age, Barid Yabis Mizaj)

4. Sinn-e-Shaikhukhat (above 50 years of age, Barid Yabis Mizaj) 3

The age group of 35-60 years is known as sinn-ekahulat in which mizaj becomes barid (cold) and yabis (dry). In this age, production of ratubat-e-unsurya are decreased, to that extend that they are insufficient to maintain Hararat-e-unsurya and all the quwa (power) starts deteriorating⁴. It is believed that, ehtebas-e-haiz (stoppage of menses) in women of this age occurs naturally due to change of mizaj⁵. It was the Hippocrates (460-377BC) who firstly postulated the concept of disease is due to the imbalance of humors^{6,7,8,9}. He mentioned in his book Tabiat-ulinsaan (Human Nature) Khilat-e-Sauda (Black Humour) is barid and yabis and elderly person are barid and yabis by temperament so it is dominant in this age group^{4,10}. Tabaie sin-e-yaas (Natural Menopause) is attained at the age of 40 years, sometimes 60 years. The earliest reference of menopause come from Ebbers Papyrus a series of Egyptian text 1500 BC¹¹. Aristotle says menstruation normally ceases at the age of 40 years¹². Unani medicine recommends a combination of dietary modification life-style changes and herbal remedies to manage the symptoms of post-menopausal syndrome. The Unani medicine emphasize the consumption of foods that are rich in phytoestrogen such as soy, chickpeas, lentils and flaxseeds etc. These foods contains compounds that mimic the effects of oestrogen, which can help alleviate hot flashes and other symptoms associated with menopause.

Actiopathogenesis:

In Unani Medicine, the pathogenesis of general diseases has been attributed to three factors that is mizaj (temperament), tarkeeb (structure) and ittesal (continuity of tissues). Abnormalities of these factors are considered as: su-e-Mizaj (altered temperament),

su-e-Tarkeeb (altered structure) and tafarrug-e-Ittesal (discontinuity in tissues) respectively^{13,14}. Mizaj is a specific and distinct state of an individual reflecting neuro-endocrine, normal menstruation genitometabolic and somato-environmental equilibrium at the optimum functional level of adjustment¹⁵. Unani medicine, as is well known, based on the Hippocratic humoral theory. This theory supposes the presence of four humours in the body which is: blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile. The mizaj of individual are expressed by word damwi (sanguine), balghami (phlegmatic), safrawi (choleric) and saudawi (melancholic) according to the dominancy of the humour. Every person is supposed to have a unique humoral constitution which represents his healthy state and any change in this state causes illness of the person. The severity of the disease depends directly upon the change in equilibrium from mizaj¹⁶. Most of the Unani scholar are of the opinion that change in the temperament towards the barid and yabis (sauda) is the leading cause of ehtibas-e-tams (amenorrhea) at menopause.

Symptoms: According to Ibn-e-sina following sign and symptoms occur during menopause¹⁷: Vasomotor symptoms: Hot flushes, excessive sweating^{18,19} Genitourinary disorders: Dysuria, oliguria & dryness of vagina¹⁹. Gastrointestinal disorders: Indigestion, anorexia, gastritis and ascites ²⁰ CNS disorders: Epilepsy, Headache, Paralysis, Hysteria²¹ Cardio-vascular disorders: Palpitation, fatigue^{18,19} Respiratory system disorders: Cough, Asthma²¹ Musculoskeletal system: Backache, neck pain.¹⁹

Post-menopausal bleeding most women this happens around age 51, although it can vary from about ages 47 - 55. Some women find their periods stop quite suddenly and in others, the changes happen over the years with the periods becoming gradually lighter and/or some periods being missed occasionally. Once a woman has not had a period for twelve months, she is said to be menopausal (or post-menopausal). The menopause happens because the ovaries are no longer producing eggs or large amounts of the female hormones called oestrogen and progesterone that leads to changes such as endometrial atrophy (a thinning of uterine lining), vaginal atrophy, fibroids, or endometrial polyps. Vasomotor instability or menstrual irregularity to menstrual cessation, weight gain, skin and hair changes, genital prolapse, urogenital atrophy,



osteoporosis and fracture, cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, late psychological symptoms, sexual disorders, dementia and cognitive decline. Hot flush is characterised by sudden feeling of heat followed by profuse sweating. Oestrogen deficiency produces atrophic epithelial changes in genito-urinary organs. This may cause dyspareunia and dysuria. The urinary symptoms are – urgency, dysuria, recurrent urinary tract infection and stress incontinence. Oestrogen is often associated with decreased sexual desire and is thought to protect the function of central nervous system. Dementia and mainly Alzheimer disease are mere common in postmenopausal women.^{1,22}

Management:

As described, alteration of mizaj of body is one of the fundamental factors which make body to stop physiological cyclical bleeding process accompanied with stressful symptoms²³. In management of symptoms of menopause, our main motto is how to facilitate tabiyat for attaining the physiological mizaj of patient. Every human being has a specific Mizaj through which organs and systems of an individual perform his functions properly. Internal and external factors influences the human body leading to Su-e-Mizaj (altered/pathological temperament) that ultimately affect the whole body or a specific organ in the form of disease. The Unani principle of management of disease is to correct the altered temperament. Therefore, before commencing any treatment, Mizaj of a patient or organ has to be evaluated.24

Menopausal symptoms can be corrected by following approach.

- 1. Ilaj bil-Ghiza
- 2. Ilaj bit-Tadbeer
- 3. Ilaj bil-Dawa

Ilaj-bil-ghiza (Dietotherapy): Post-menopause occurs at the age of sinn-e-kahulat and that time temperament to be cold and dry. During menopause hot & moist diet is recommended for correction of temperament. Thus use of that diet (ghiza) which has hot and moist temperament. Gram (Cicer arietinum Linn): It is hot in temperament, Isoflavones are important components in chickpea seeds and sprouts. They contain at least the following 8 phytoestrogens: biochanin A, formononetin, genistein, biochanin A-7-o-beta-D-glucoside, calycosin, trifolirhizin, onion and sissotrin. Which exhibits strong estrogenic effects, hyperlipidemic activity including stimulating uterine growth and preventing bone loss.^{25,26,27} Seed contains pan gamic acid which has anti-stress, anti-hyperlipidemic properties.²⁸ Hence useful in postmenopausal depression and prevents cardiovascular disorders.

Honey: it is hot in temperament and contains flavonoids and has anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory, vasodilators, anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory and thrombotic properties.^{29,30}

Soy: Soy foods are a unique and abundant source of isoflavones. Isoflavones are part of a group of plant based chemicals called phytoestrogens. Oestrogen plays a role in preserving bone strength. That's why risk of developing osteoporosis increases during menopause but soy may be helpful for preserving bone health in those whom gone through menopause.

Ilaj-bit-tadbeer (Regimenal therapy):

Patient should take complete rest. At menopausal age a vast variety of free radicals are present in the body which is harmful. Motadil Riyazat (moderate exercise) is advised to elder people to overcome this situation. International menopausal society recommended at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week, it produce musakhin effect to body and it expels harmful substances from body, reduce hot flushes, enhance immunity, improves mood and quality of life and prevent chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and osteoarthritis etc.³¹

Dalak motadil (moderate massage) with hot oil is recommended by Unani physician in postmenopause.³² Study conducted by Oleivira et al. suggested that therapeutic massage is beneficial for improving subjective sleep quality, depression and anxiety in post-menopausal women. It produce taskheen in the body like roghan zaitoon, roghan badam, roghan narjeel etc. International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)Volume: 07 Issue: 05 | May - 2023Impact Factor: 8.176ISSN: 2582-3930

Hijama is also indicated in obese women. Natool, hammam and inkabab also recommended.³¹

Ilaj-bil-dawa (Pharmacotherapy):

Phytoestrogens: It also called dietary oestrogens are a diverse group of non-steroidal plant derived polyphenolic compounds. Which exhibits structural similarity and mimic the effect or modulate the actions of endogenous oestrogens usually binding to oestrogen receptors.³³ In vivo study suggested that phytoestrogens can affect the regulation of ovarian cycles, promotion of growth, differentiation and physiological functions of female genital tract, pituitary, breast, several other organs and tissues³³. According to British Menopausal Society 2013 phytoestrogens consumption provide relief from perimenopausal vasomotor symptoms such as hot flushes, night sweats³⁴.

In modern system of medicine, the drugs used for the management of Mutalazma bad az inqtae tams (Postmenopausal syndrome) have several limitations. Most of these drugs having potential adverse effects and producing only symptomatic relief.

In view of the above, it is evident that there is a need to develop a medicine from the herbal source which would be safe, less costly, more effective, easily available and efficacious for the treatment of Mutalazma bad az inqate tams (Post-menopausal syndrome). As per Unani Physicians, Mutalazma bad az inqtae tams (Post- menopausal syndrome) can be managed with the drugs possessing the properties like *Muhalil* (anti-inflammatory), *Musafi-e-khoon* (blood purifier), *Dafa-e-Tashanuj* (antispasmodics), *Muqawiyat reham* (uterine tonics), *Monawwim, Makin*.

Following are the list of Unani drugs which possess different types of phytoestrogens and used in alleviating post-menopausal symptoms.

Punica granatum

 Anar/Pomegranate (Punica granatum): It is a nutrient dense fruit rich in phytochemical compounds.³⁵ Some plants contains distinct families of phytocompounds, which are structurally similar to steroid hormone. These compounds are termed as phytoestrogens.^{36,37} Phytoestrogens have captured major research and clinical attention due to its effectiveness in the prevention of peri-menopausal and menopausal symptoms, over hormone replacement therapy (HRT).³⁸

Asparagus racemosus



2. Satavar (Asparagus racemosus): Asparagus mainly racemosus known for its phytoestrogenic properties. The major active constituents of Asparagus racemosus saponins which are present in roots. It has antioxidant, anti- stress, anti-diarrhoeal, anti-dyspepsia, anti-ulcerogenic, and Cardio-protective actions.28,33





3. Badiyan/saunf/Fennel (Foenaculum vulgare): It has properties posses anti-oxidant, antiinflammatory, anti-thrombotic, anti-diabetic, hepatoprotective. In vivo study has shown that ethanolic extract of foenaculum vulgare possesses osteoprotective effect in posmenopausal women.^{39,40}

Trigonella foenum



4. Methi/Fenugreek (Trigonella foenum): Fenugreek broad range has a of pharmacological profile but also it has antidiabetic, antispasmodic, hypo-lipidemic, immunological, antibacterial, anthelmintic, anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antioxidant activity. Fenugreek is used to ease child birth as well as it helps to increase the milk flow of mother. The consumption of both fenugreek seed powder and extract is associated with the reduction of both the frequency and intensity of hot flashes.41,42 Egyptian women are still taking Fenugreek for menstrual pain and tourist use it as hilba tea to remove stomach problem. As medicinal plant it shows its activity against allergies, appetite / loss of catarrh, bronchial, cholesterol, diabetic retinopathy, gas, gastric disorders, lung infections, mucus excessive, throat/sore, abscesses, anaemia, asthma, boils, body odour, bronchitis, cancer, swollen eyes, fevers, gallbladder problems, heartburn, inflammation, sinus problems, ulcers, uterine problems etc. A study in India showed that Fenugreek seed is used to reduce the blood sugar and other harmful fats.^{43,44,45}

Linum usitatissimum



5. Katan/Flax seeds/Linseed (Linum usitatissimum): Flaxseed is one of the richest of sources of phytoestrogens to reduce menopause complaints of menopausal women.⁴⁶ To consume phytoestrogen-rich soy products and diet products containing flaxseed 145 women suffering from menopause in during the 12- weeks shows significant reductions in menopausal symptoms of women.47

Nardostachys jatamansi





6. Sumbul-ut-teeb (Nardostachys jatamansi): Sumbul-ut-teeb is used as farzaja (vaginal suppository) for both kasrat-e-tams (menorrhagia)⁴⁸ and ihtibas-e-tams (amenorrhoea) and is helpful in maintaining pregnancy.^{49,50}

Pharmacological studies also reported its antioxidant activity, hepato and renal protective properties.^{51,52} This drug also contains phytoestrogens. It helps in relieving vaso-motor-symptom in post-menopausal women This drug also possess Emmenogague, Antispasmodic, Stomachic, Diuretic, Depressant of CNS, Tonic, Deobstruent, Laxative, Aromatic adjunct, Antiseptic, Antiarrhythmic, anticonvulsant, hepatoprotective, anti-diabetic, and Hypotensive antifungal properties.53 Night sweats occur due to the action of heartrat-e-gharizia on the morbid material which accumulates in the body due to cessation of menstruation. It has munaqqi action hence excreted morbid material from the body and its muqawwi jigar property it processed the food to form akhlat-e-salha (good quality) and decreased the production of morbid material. hence sweating was relieved.49,50,54

Conclusion: Menopause is the natural process which influences the fluctuation in physiological events lead to various problems in elderly women known as menopausal syndrome. Long-term hormonal deficiencies in post-menopausal women affect various organs of the body. Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is the most common preferred treatment option in modern medicine but it has so many side effects. Unani System of medicine is enriched with herbs containing phytoestrogens. These herbs manage the menopausal syndrome symptomatically with suitable results without any side effect. But evidence based study need in future for confirming the claim.

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