

**TREATMENT OF ECZEMA WITH INDIGENOUS DRUG  
MANJISTHA - RUBIA CORDIFOLIA LINN.  
(A PRELIMINARY STUDY)**

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Twenty-one patients of different types of eczema were treated with 35% ointment of Manjishtha (*Rubia Cordifolia* Linn.) in white petroleum jelly. There were three drop outs. Diagnosis was done by clinical observations. Assessment of the response was done by evaluating the gradations of the signs & symptoms as 0 = absent, 1 = mild, 2 = moderate & 3 = severe. Sum total of the gradations of the signs & symptoms was termed as severity index. Basal severity index was  $9.86 \pm 51$  (S.E.) which dropped to  $3.72 \pm 12$  (S.E.) after two weeks of topical treatment. The difference is statistically significant. (  $P < .05$  by 't' test ) Maximum improvement was observed in exudation, secondary infection and itching. Allergic side effects were observed in one patient who was known allergic to number of drugs. Controlled trial of the ointment is essential to confirm the findings. Manjishtha ointment with different strength and with oral treatment requires to be studied. Study of oral treatment of Manjishtha without topical use might also be interesting.

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