INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AYURVEDA360



PEER-REVIEWED
BIMONTHLY JOURNAL



www.ayurveda360.in/journal

ISSN
PRINT:
3048-7382
ONLINE:
3048-7390

2025
VOLUME 1
ISSUE 6
MAYJUNE



CANCER-ARBUDA

JOURNAL OF AYURVEDA360

Publisher

AYURVEDA
360

E-ISSN: 3048-7390 PRINT ISSN: 3048-7382 VOLUME 1 ISSUE 6 MAY-JUNE 2025

www.ayurveda360.in

DOI: 10.63247/3048-7390.vol.1.issue6.8

Integrative Role of Ayurveda in Cancer Management: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Introduction:

Cancer is a multifactorial disease characterized by uncontrolled cellular proliferation and metastasis. Conventional therapies such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy, though effective, are often associated with significant side effects and quality-of-life concerns. *Āyurveda*, the traditional medical system of India, offers a holistic approach to health that may complement modern oncology in both preventive and therapeutic contexts.

Methods:

A narrative review was conducted by critically evaluating classical *Āyurvedic* texts, including *Caraka Saṃhitā* and *Suśruta Saṃhitā*, along with contemporary scientific literature available in peer-reviewed journals, online databases, and institutional repositories. Particular focus was placed on descriptions of conditions analogous to malignancies (*Arbuda*, *Granthi*), and relevant therapeutic interventions.

Results:

Classical texts describe *Arbuda* as a progressively enlarging, non-suppurative, deep-seated mass involving *Māṃsa*, *Rakta*, and deranged *doṣas*. Preventive regimens such as *Pañcakarma*, *Rtuśodhana*, and adherence to *Dinācaryā* and *Ritucaryā* are emphasized to eliminate *sañcita mala* and maintain doshic balance. Several *Āyurvedic* herbs and formulations demonstrate

anticancer potential, and therapies may alleviate side effects of chemotherapy or radiotherapy. **Discussion:**

Integrating $\bar{A}yurveda$ into cancer care offers a personalized and patient-centric model focused on enhancing vitality, immunity (ojas), and overall well-being. While preliminary evidence supports these interventions, rigorous clinical trials and pharmacological studies are required for scientific validation. A multidisciplinary, integrative approach combining $\bar{A}yurveda$ with conventional treatment could contribute meaningfully to comprehensive cancer care. **Keywords:** Malignancy, Arbuda, Integrative Medicine, Ojas, Ayurveda

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR	HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE?	TO BROWSE
Dr. Chhote Khan, MD Scholar, Department of Kriya Sharir, National Institute of Ayurveda (Deemed University), Jaipur, Email Id: ckhano321@gmail.com	Khan, C., Gurawa, M. K., Kiran, Prasad, M., & Gurao, R. (2025). Ayurveda for cancer management – a review. International Journal of Ayurveda360, 1(6), 494-503. https://doi.org/10.63247/3048-7390.vol.1.issue6.8	

Manuscript	Review	Review	Review	Final Updated
Received	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Received
11/04/2025	18/04/2025	26/04/2025	01/06/2025	11/06/2025
Accepted	Conflict of Interest	Funding	Ethical Approval	Plagiarism Checker
12/06/2025	NIL	NIL	NIL	11%

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