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SCIENTIFIC VALIDATION AND QUALITY CONTROL OF *KUSHTA*

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Kushta is the finest powder form of the medicinal preparations obtained by the calcinations of metal, mineral and animal origin drugs. *Kushta* is derived from Persian word *Kushtan* which means 'to kill'. Due to its small particle size, it is rapidly absorbed in to human body and leads to instant therapeutic actions. However, the major drawbacks of this preparation are lack of evidence based on its mechanism of action, standard profile and quality and safety aspect. The aim of this study is to explore the mechanism of action and to disclose the quality control parameters of *Kushta* to get standard and quality product. Data were gathered from Unani classical texts, scientific journals and databases such as MEDLINE, PubMed, and Google scholar. As per the reported data, there are so many herbo-mineral formulations available in market for chronic disorders. Therefore, standardization of *Kushta* is utmost necessary to confirm its identity and to determine its quality, purity safety and effectiveness for the acceptability of the product. This could be done by evaluating with classical tests along with modern scientific analytic techniques, such as classical parameters like finger test, fineness test etc, as well as on modern parameters like bulk density, tapped density, hausner's ratio, carr's index, pH, loss of weight on drying, total ash, acid insoluble ash, water soluble ash, extractive value and loss of weight on ignition, etc. With the advent of nano-technology, the current belief is that during calcinations the metal acquires nano particle size which is responsible for its mode of action and there is reason why the same metal is given trituration with different set of herbs to be used in different disease conditions. Though, there are certain issues to be explained like its toxicity, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, etc.

Keywords: *Kushta*, nano-technology, standardization