

**MERCURY LEVELS IN THE URINE OF PATIENTS TREATED
BY METALLIC PREPARATIONS OF AYURVEDIC MEDICINES**

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The ayurvedic drugs known as "Rasa" medicine are preparations that contain a substantial amount of mercury. Ramabana Rasa (15% Hg) and Mrutyunjaya Rasa (28% Hg) were chosen for this study, as they are two popularly prescribed drugs for coughs, colds, and fever of adults and children.

Urine samples of the patients were collected on consecutive days after the administration of the drug. A sample collected from each patient before the first dose was considered as the control. Mercury was not detected in the control and in any of the samples collected on the first day. All the samples collected on the second day contained mercury. (mean value 0.07 ppm) and on the third day the level increased substantially. (mean value 0.73 ppm). The results were almost identical for both drugs. Analysis of faeces collected on the first day after administration of the drug showed a high level of mercury. The daily dose of each drug prescribed for all patients was equal.

The dithizone extraction method was used to estimate the mercury levels in the urine and faeces.

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