

Ancient Native medicine for Leukemia in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Leukemia is a haematological malignancy. At the time it is being treated by Chemotherapy in conventional medicine. Chemotherapy was introduced in to cancer treatment armament only in 1963. In Sinhala native and Traditional medicine, treatment and possible cure for *leukemia* was there according to the evidence. Sinhala native medical system comes down mostly through generations in family lines of native physicians probably since the King *Rawana* era. Mostly this traditional knowledge came down by oral transfer from teacher to student. After many years of oral tradition, ola leaves were used to store this knowledge. However it is difficult to determine the exact time these ola leaves were produced. It may be safely concluded that ola leaves came in to use more than two hundred years ago. Ola leaves contain many valuable formulae from various medical traditions. One such formula for the disease called "*Le Suda*" or "The Blood of White" is considered as a treatment for modern day *Leukemia*. The medical terminology of the ancients is somewhat difficult to understand in today's knowledge context, but when studying closely one may understand the resemblance of clinical pictures described in ancient texts to modern day clinical descriptions. On this basis we can conclude that the "*Le Suda*" and "*Pola Rath Pith Paanduwa*" was the ancient description of modern day *Leukemia*, the malignancy of the blood forming cells in bone marrow. The ancient herbal formula for the treatment of this disease presents as a cure. The key ingredients of this formula have been studied scientifically in recent years and identified as having significant anti cancer and immunomodulator properties. Though the scientific data shows these properties only now, ancient native physicians knew the cause and cure of blood malignancy of Leukemia long before even the word '*leukemia*' came in to the western medical terminology.

Key words: Leukemia, *Le Suda*, *Pola Rathpith Panduwa*, Sri Lankan Traditional Medicine

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