



Imad al-Din Mahmud: The pioneer of addiction treatment in Iranian Traditional Medicine

Farzaneh Ghaffari^{1*}, Mohsen Naseri^{2,3}, Fatemeh Emadi^{2,3}, Fatemeh Alijaniha³ Abdalali Moosavizadeh²

1. Department of History of Medicine, School of Traditional Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

2. Department of Iranian Traditional Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Shahed University, Tehran, Iran.

3. Traditional Medicine Clinical Trial Research Center, Shahed University, Tehran, Iran.

*Corresponding author E-mail: f_ghaffari@sbmu.ac.ir

Background: Iranian Traditional Medicine (ITM) roots back to nearly 10,000 years ago, and it has a great potential for solving some of the present medical problems, as shown in some recent researchs.

Hakim Emaddodin Mahmood-Ben-Masood Shirazi has been a well-known physician of ITM in sixteenth century in a family particularly famous in medicine, and lived most of his life in Mashhad, Iran though he practiced medicine in India for a long time. Because of his competence and his proficiency in medicine, he became Court Physician to King Tahmaseb, one of the Safavid kings in Iran. He was confronted with the social new problem of opium addiction in Iran.

The aim of present study is to introduce an Iranian sage, Emaddodin and his valuable treatise, Afunieh discussing about opium and treatment of opium addiction based on the author's personal experiences and his innovation of designing long-acting sustained-release formulation of opium.

Method: Review- library research

Conclusion: Hakim Emaddodin Mahmood Shirazi was one of the famous Persian proficient physicians in the Safavid era who wrote important treatise Afyunieh on opium. He has completely explained the opium in the view of botanical subjects, pharmacological effects, side effects, opium

Abstracts of ASC2016

10th

Annual International Addiction Science Congress

Razi Convention Center, Tehran, Iran

September 14 - 16, 2016



IUMS



USWR

addiction, clinical signs and symptoms of addiction, different method of detoxification, detoxificant drugs and many other aspects of this matter. Hakim Emaddodin in his Afyunieh treatise has discussed that there are three methods for the treatment of opium addiction.

The first one is prolonging the opium consumption intervals. The second is regular reduction of Opium dose while the last method, namely: the best method according to Afyunieh's author would be replacing the opium with opium-like or unlike drugs and, then, tapering off the drugs.

According to him, withdrawal of opium is essential in terms of both wisdom and religion. But since its sudden quittance will be accompanied by many losses for the addict, it is necessary to quit it gradually. Emadoddin has recommended opium conversion to the use of other materials like Hyocyamus Niger and Datura Stramonium which are good substitutes for opium according to traditional medicine scientists.

He described some patients who cannot abstain and want to fast during Ramadan (the month of fasting in Islam) and withdrawal syndrome may occur in the fasting time and solved the problem with two new long-acting formulations for these patients. The first one is a sustained-release oral formulation consisting of opium, almond oil and bees wax. The patient can use without withdrawal syndrome. The second one is a rectal preparation (suppository) consisting of opium, tragacanth, myrrh, castorium. He expressed that the latter formulation is used when withdrawal syndrome occurs in day of fasting, but its chronic use causes anal sphincter dysfunction.