

# SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF AYURVEDIC GOLD MEDICATION *SUVARNA BHASMA*, IN WISTAR RATS

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## ABSTRACT

*Suvarna bhasma* (SB) contains gold and lead, which are highly potent metals and are toxic in their crude form. This study evaluated the safety profile of the medication. *Suvarna bhasma* was administered for 90 consecutive days orally at three doses (10.23 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, 40.92 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 102.3 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight) to wistar rats. Clinical observations, feed and water consumption, and body weight changes were noted during the study period. On the 91<sup>st</sup> day, hematological, biochemical and histopathological changes were studied. There was a significant decrease in body weight of rats at a low dose (10.23 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) at fourth week, which could not be correlated with feed and water consumption findings. Thus, change was not considered as a treatment-related effect. *Suvarna bhasma* showed no evident untoward effect in haematological, biochemical and histopathological parameters in the 90 day-subchronic toxicity study (OECD 408 guidelines) and was safe in Wistar rats.