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AML-E-KAI (CAUTERIZATION) IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN SCIENCE

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Unani system of medicine emphasizes the different kinds of treatment modalities in order to treat and to prevent the diseases. One of such modalities is Aml-e-kai (Cauterization). Aml-e-kai is a medical process that is used to treat certain ailments by causing burn or sear of body tissues using a hot iron, electric current, fire or a caustic agent. Though it is an ancient medical practice, it is still in use in modern medicine on the tissues to close wounds or to stop bleeding, or to remove part of the body. The aim of this review is to analyze the classical literatures and modern scholarly articles to provide ample knowledge and to justify its uses mentioned in the classic texts in the light of modern science. This review was done through the information available in the authentic classical texts of Unani medicine, scientific literature about cauterization, based on Scielo, PubMed, Medline and Scopus databases. For the search in databases, following descriptors were used: Aml-e-kai, Cauterization, scholarly articles on cauterization, etc. Gathered data was analyzed and it was observed that the cauterization is used in modern medicine with great frequency but the methods have been changed when compared with traditional methods. It is usually done either by electric or chemical cauterization. According to Unani scholars, kai also corrects fasād-e-mizāj. Therefore, it is recommended in many diseases like non-healing ulcers, migraine, chronic headache, melancholia, liver abscess, cancers, paralysis, piles, destruction of remnant after excision of warts, etc. In modern science, its effectiveness is proven in conditions like Seborrheic keratoses, Molluscum, Small angiomas, Sebaceous hyperplasia, Pyogenic granulomas, Hemostasis of vessels in surgery, Vasectomy, Punctual occlusion, etc. Therefore, it is concluded that the cauterization still has vital role in treating disorders as in ancient period.

Key words: Aml-e-kai, Cauterization, Non-healing ulcers, Hemostasis