INTRODUCTION :

Piles is a condition wherein there is prolapse of the veins situated in the rectal canal. Piles are known as haemorrhoides. This condition is now a days being exposed more and more.

One of the reason for more number of cases is of course better methods of diagnosis and the tendency on the part of the patients to consult the docters at an earlier stage.

Even then the problem of piles is very acute and disturbing. Since piles are found of various degrees and of various aetiological types and since they are not easy to treat only by medicines, surgical methods are taken as equally important.

But, in the early stages piles can definitely be treated with medicines and the surgical requirements can be avoided. It cannot be said with certainty that the piles can be treated only by internal and external medicines alone. Everything depends upon the age, the sex, the condition, the degree of prolapse, the complications, the inflammation and the sepsis at the site and so many other factors. Many types of piles are complicated with the simultaneous presence of cardiac conditions, diabetes, paralysis.
and many other systemic and metabolic diseases. While treating piles, either by surgical or the medical means, one has to take into consideration all these factors before finalising the line of treatment.

The condition of piles is not lethal. It does not kill the patient or the life is not in danger, at the same time it is so disturbing that it definitely affects the behaviour of the person and alters his or her personality. This culminates into the loss of many useful man hours and productivity. This may reflect in the loss of the income of the family and the happiness of the family may be lost.

A person suffering from piles looses blood per rectum unknowingly and a chronic sufferer is invariably an anaemic patient. The exact aetiological factors of piles are not fully known but there is certainly a hereditary element.

Ayurved, the ancient science of medicine of India, has a detailed information and description on piles. According to Ayurvedic samprapti, piles are produced because of many dietary and behavioural factors. These are discussed at length in the Sushrut samhita and many other Ayurvedic texts. But the most important discussions are from Sushrut samhita.
According to the Modern surgical sciences, piles are produced because of the anatomical defect in the veins which traverse the rectal region. These veins are in connection with the systemic veins on one side and in connection with the portal system on the other. When there is a portal hypertension then the backpressure and the back flow of the blood leads to produce the tension on the thin venular walls and they bulge. Since the mucus membrane of the rectal canal is not able to support and withstand the pressure, the veins bulge and the bulging ultimately turns into a 'loop' and these loops then get the nomenclature as "piles" or the haemorrhoids.

Whatever the surgical treatment is mentioned in the Sushrut samhita, is still unchanged even today and the surgical removal is advocated in case the medical treatment is unsusscessful or the patient is unsuitable for the surgical process.

On this background, and on the claims made in the Ayurvedic texts about the herbal medical methods to control the bleeding piles (Haemorrhoides) an attempt here is made to find out if the Ayurvedic claims made about a medicinal plant 'Achyranthes aspera ' or "Apa Marg". Apamarg is a very common perennial plant found all over India and is readily available.
If this plant is burnt and the white ash is dissolved in plenty of water and the water is allowed to stand then the clear supernatant water contains a water soluble salt (Kshaar) which is collected by slow evaporation of the water and then this used to control or cure the condition of the piles.

Since the plant is readily available, the kshaar procedure is simple and easy to make and since there is very need to find out alternative, cheap, easy, effective remedy for the problem of piles, this study is undertaken to scientifically evaluate the use of the plant Achyranthes aspera and its kshaar is used in the injectible form to control or cure the piles. Part of this study is devoted to the toxicological aspect of the plant and the part of the study is devoted to the experiment and clinical studies.