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Case Study

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# AYURVEDIC MANAGEMENT OF VOCAL CORD NODULE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KAPHAJA SWARBHEDA: A CASE STUDY

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## INTRODUCTION

Vocal cord nodule is a type of solid Non-Neoplastic Tumour-like mass occurring on the superficial edge of vocal cord symmetrically. It occurs at a junction of anterior one-third and posterior two-third of vocal cord as this is the area of maximum vibration and is subjected to maximum trauma.<sup>[1]</sup> These nodules occur as a result of vocal trauma resulting from chronic vocal abuse or misuse. Vocal nodules affect mostly the people in the profession that require excessive speech demand like teachers, singers, actors, vendors and school-going children.

The patient with vocal cord nodule complaint of hoarseness of voice associated with vocal fatigue and pain in neck due to increased efforts required to speak.

Trauma to vocal cord causes pathologic changes in the submucosal space, including oedema and haemorrhage, which go through hyalinization and fibrosis. A nodule is formed due to hyperplasia of the overlying epithelium.

Different Acharyas has mentioned different types and number of Swarabheda. Acharya Charak has described Vataja, Pittaja, Kaphaja, Raktaja, Kasa Vegajanya and Peenasa Janya Swarabheda in Rajyakshma Chikitsa Adhyaya<sup>[2]</sup> and again in 26<sup>th</sup> chapter of Chikitsasthana mentioned 5 types of Swarabheda.<sup>[3]</sup> Acharya Sushruta, Vagbhatta, Madhava & *Sharangdhar* has described 6 types of *Swarabheda*, *i.e Vataja*, *Pittaja*, *Kaphaja*, *Sannipataja*, *Medaja & Kshayaja Swarabheda*. *Swarabheda* is elaborately explained by our ancient *Acharyas* especially in the *Sushruta Samhita*.<sup>[4]</sup> *Kaphaja Swarabheda* is recognized by *Kricchta Madam Shane Vadati*.<sup>[5]</sup> (difficulty in speaking) due to *Kapharudha Kantho* (throat is blocked by *Kapha*) this can be taken as the hoarseness of voice occurring in the vocal cord nodule.

Causative factors of *Swarabheda* include *Atiyucchabhashana*, *Adhyayana*, *Visha Sevana*, *Geeta Gayana*, *Atisheeta Sevana*.<sup>[6]</sup> *Doshas* get vitiated from above causes and get seated in the *Swaravaha Strotas* and affects the *Swara*.

The Samanya Chikitsa Siddhanta of Swarabheda includes Snehana, Vamana, Virechana, Basti, Nasya, Avapidana, Mukhadhavana, Dhoomapana and Avaleha.<sup>[7]</sup>

According to *Aacharya Sushruta, Kaphaja Swarbheda* should be treated with *Katu Rasa Pradhana Dravya*. Keeping this in context, the drug-treatment protocol was selected having *Katu, Swarya* and anti-inflammatory properties.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Case study

A 27 year old female patient came to *Shalakya Tantra* OPD with the chief complaint of Hoarseness of voice since six months associated with pain in throat.

#### History of present illness

The patient was well before six months then she started complaining of hoarseness of voice. She took allopathic treatment for six months but got no relief. Then she came to the *Shalakya Tantra* OPD for Ayurvedic management on September 2019.

There was no past history of Hypertension, Diabetes mellitus, Thyroid disorder or any other disease.

#### **Personal history**

Diet	-	Vegetarian
Appetite	-	Good
Bowel	-	Regular
Micturition	-	Normal

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Sleep	-	Regular
Addiction	-	No addiction to smoking or chewing tobacco

Occupational History- Patient is teacher by profession since last two years.

Taking classes for 6 hours a day.

#### **On examination**

Nose - No abnormality present

Ear - No abnormality present

Throat - Congestion was present

## Diagnosis

Patient came with already diagnosed Vocal cord nodule and has taken allopathic treatment for the same for six months but did not get relief. Further assessment was done on the basis of symptoms and *Doshas* involved, and it was diagnosed as *Kaphaja Swarabheda*.

## **Treatment protocol**

## 1. Aushadha

Sr. no	Drugs	Dose (twice a day)	Route	Anupana	Duration
1.	Sitopaladi Churna Yashtimadu Churna Kapadia Bhasma Tankan Bhasma	3 gm 1 gm 250 mg 250 mg	Oral	Madhu	For 3 months
2.	Kanchnaar Guggulu Arogyavardhini Vati	2 tab (500mg) 2 tab (500mg)	Oral	Kanchanar Kashaya	For 3 months
3.	Rasayan Ghan Vati	2 tab (500 mg each)	Oral	Godugdha	For 3 months
4.	Eladi Vati	One tab twice a day	Oral		For 3 months

On 3<sup>rd</sup> visit, *Naradiya Lakshmivialasa Rasa* in the dose of 250 mg was added with the first combination, and *Marsha Nasya* with *Anu Taila* was added on 4<sup>th</sup> visit in addition to the above treatment.

- 2. Vihara- Complete voice rest was advised
- 3. Ahara- Amlaki, green vegetables, milk was advised

Apathya- Achaar, Dahi, Besan, the cold drink was strictly restricted

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#### **OBSERVATION**

There was a significant improvement in the chief complaint after the treatment of 15 days. The treatment was continued for four months. On laryngoscopy examination, complete resolution of the vocal cord nodule was obtained, and complaint of hoarseness of voice and pain in throat was completely resolved.

## DISCUSSION

In present study the cause of vocal cord nodule is due to the overuse of voice because of the profession of the patient. The Hoarseness of voice or *kricchta vadati* can be caused due to obstruction of the throat with *Kapha*. The treatment protocol was designed in keeping in mind the *Kapha Padhanata* in the pathology of the disease.<sup>[8]</sup> *Kaphaja Swarabheda* is recognized by *Kricchta Madam Shane Vadati* (difficulty in speaking) due to *Kapharudha Kantho* (throat is blocked by *Kapha*) this can be taken as the hoarseness of voice occurring in the vocal cord nodule. Also the histology, shape, colour of the nodules resembles properties of *Kapha* (fibrosed, oedematous, grey-white appearance). *Katu Dravya* is prescribed by *Sushruta* in the treatment of *Kaphaja Swarabheda*.

Sr. no.	Drug	Properties
01.	Sitopaladi Churna	It is anti-tussive, analgesic, anti-inflammatory and anti-
		oxidant rich formulation.
02.	Yashtimadu	It possess Kanthya/Swarya as well as soothing effect that
	Churna	will improve the quality of voice as well as voice tone. <sup>[9]</sup> It is
		Rasayana and Snigdha. It has anti-oxidant, anti-
		inflammatory, anti-ulcer, anti-spasmodic and expectorant properties. <sup>[10]</sup>
03.	Kaparda Bhasma	It has Katu Rasa, Katu Vipaka, Ruksha, Teekshna Guna and
		Kapha-Vata Shamaka. It has expectorant and also Rasayana
		properties. <sup>[11]</sup>
04.	Tankan Bhasma	It has Katu Rasa, Amla Vipaka, Tikshna, Laghu, Ruksha
		Guna, Ushna Virya. It is used as Kaphavilayanartha
05.	Nardiya	It contains Abhraka bhasma which is Tridoshashamaka and
	Lakshmivilasa	Rasayana.
	<i>Rasa</i> <sup>[12]</sup>	
06.	Madhu	It has Madhura, Kashaya Rasa, Katu Vipaka. It is Yogavahi,
		Srotoshodhaka, Vibandhahara and Kapha-Pitta Shamaka
07.	Kanchnaar	Guggulu is Kashaya, Katu Rasa, Ushna Veerya, Katu Vipaki
	Guggulu	and has Ruksha, Laghu & Deepana properties. It is anti-
		inflammatory, expectorant, rejuvenating, analgesic.
08.	Arogyavardhini	It contains Kutaki as main ingredients which has Tikta Rasa,
	Vati <sup>[13]</sup>	Katu Vipaka and Bhedana properties. It is anti-inflammatory
		and expectorant.
09.	Rasayan Ghan	It contains Guduchi, Gokshura & Amalaki. It has anti-

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	Vati	inflammatory, rejuvenating, expectorant,	
		immunomodulatory, astringent, Tridoshahara properties.	
10.	Eladi Vati	It helps to relieve cough and has soothing effect on throat.	
11.	Anu Taila	It is <i>Tridoshashamaka, Katu Vipaki</i> . It is helpful in reducing recurrent inflammation that restricts the reoccurrence of the nodule.	

## RESULTS

Significant improvement was observed in the symptoms and with the Ayurvedic therapy vocal cord nodule completely resolved.

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Before treatment: Vocal cord nodule on the left vocal cord



After treatment: Vocal cord nodule resolved Completely

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