

A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF OJUS IN VISHA PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT

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Article Received on
02 Sept. 2022,

Revised on 23 Sept. 2022,
Accepted on 13 October 2022

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr202214-25954

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ABSTRACT

Agada tantra deals with toxicological aspects of Ayurveda and their treatment. The term visha means something that produces vishaada. Ayurveda describes visha dravyas are of herbal, mineral, and animal in origin. Ten gunas of Visha are opposite to that of ojus. Hence, visha dravya produces its effect by its action on ojus. Visha may cause marana immediately, so only rasayana chikitsa is an option to bring back the patient to normal. Among ashtanga, rasayana is explained only after agada tantra because rasayana chikitsa is essential for fulfilment of visha chikitsa. Most of the agadas also have rasayana property like dooshivishari agada, murvadi agada etc.

KEYWORDS: Agada tantra, ojus, visha chikitsa, agada, rasayana chikitsa.

INTRODUCTION

Agada tantra deals with the toxicological approach in ayurveda. Visha is the substance that causes vishaada to the world.^[1] Vishaada is one of the manasika vikara which means visha affects both sareera and manas. Tikсна, ushna, ruksha, visada, vyayayi, asu, laghu, vikasi, sookshma, avyaktha rasa, anirdesh rasa are the 10 gunas of visha.^[2] These 10 gunas are just opposite to that of ojus. Hence, visha dravya produces its effect by its action on ojus. Ojus is the essence of saptha dathus. As per sarangadara, ojus is the upadathu. According to Sushruta, ojovisramsa, ojovyapat, and ojokshaya are the three vikritis of ojus.

Sandhi vislesa (looseness of joint), gatra sada (weakness of the body), dosa cyavanam (aggravated dosas move away from their normal seats), kriyasannirodha (kriyanam kayavak manasadinam sannirodha) (hindrance to all movements of body, mind) are the lakshanas of

ojoiramsa. Stabdhagurugatrata, Vata sophya, Varnabheda, Glani, Tantra, and Nidra are the lakshanas of ojoyyapath. Murcha, Mamsakshaya, Moha, Pralapa, and Maranam are the ojokshaya lakshanas.^[3]

MADYA VISHA

Laghu, ushna, tikshna, sukshma, amla, vyavayi, asu, ruksha, vikasi, visada are the gunas of Madya.^[4] These gunas are opposite to the ojo guna. Tiksnadi gunas of madya directly affect ojus after reaching hridaya (ojo sthana) and cause samksobha by vitiating the 10 gunas of ojus. Based on the affliction of ojus, there are 3 stages explained in madatyaya. During the 2nd stage, ojus is mildly afflicted and produces symptoms like muhur smriti muhur moha, and yuktaayuktha pralapa. In the 3rd stage, ojus are entirely afflicted to produce symptoms like mada moha avruta mana, marana, etc. these lakshanas are ojokshaya lakshanas.^[5]

DUSHI VISHA

Visha which on exposure to the pragvata, ajeerna, seetabra, divaswapna, and ahitasana; gets vitiated and further vitiates the dathus is called a dushi visha. Murcha, moha, and dhathu kshaya sukra kshaya are the dushi visha lakshana that indicates ojo kshaya. Exposure to the nidana like pragvata, ajeerna, divaswapna, ahitasana, etc vitiates ushna, teekshna, sookshma, vikasi guna of visha and produces symptoms like a mandala, kota, etc and further affects the dathus and ojus causes the death of the patient.^[6]

While coming to the treatment of dushi visha, swedana, sodhana, and rasayana therapy are mentioned. After proper sareera sodhana, rasayana therapy is given in dushi visha which is essential for the vitiated ojus. Dushi vishari agada is one among agada having rasayana property and it is administered only after proper sareera sodhana.^[7]

GARA VISHA

Gara visha is a samyogaja visha of poisonous and non-poisonous substances. They are slowly metabolized in the body, show their effects after some time, and hence do not kill the person instantly. Gara visha produces both sareerika and manasika lakshanas which indicates ojokshaya and ojoyyapat like dinavak, durbala vivarna, etc.^[8]

Hritsodhana with tamra choorna and madhu is the main treatment of garavisha. Because hridaya is the sthana of ojus. After hridaya sodhana the patient should be given one shana matra of swarna bhasma.^[8]

STHAVARA VISHA^[9]

According to Charaka, visha is classified as sthavara and jangama. Sthavara visha have 8 visha vegas. In the 5th vega, Ojo vyapat lakshana is seen (vaivarnya), and in the 6th to 8th vega ojo kshaya lakshanas are seen.

VIRUDHA AHARA

As per the Acharya Charaka, murcha and mrityu have been mentioned in virudha lakshana which is the ojkshaya lakshana. In treatment, after proper sareera sodhana, tamra bhasma with madhu should be given for hrid sudhi. This indicates the importance of protecting the ojus in visha chikitsa as it resides in hridaya.^[10]

CONCEPT OF HRIDAYAVARANA

Hridayavarana is the procedure that protects the hridaya from the adverse effect of visha.^[11] Visha dearranges the tridoshas (kapha, pitha, vata) and their asayas and then reaches the heart. From there it spreads all over the body causing the death of the patient. So Acharya Charaka mentioned that hridayavarana has to be done initially.^[12] Ghrita is the ideal drug for the hridayavarana and also includes other dravyas like payas, gomaya rasa, madhu, ajeya ghrita, amrita ghrita, etc.^[13] It is the specific treatment for protecting the ojus which is situated in hridaya.

CONCLUSION

While analyzing the different vishas like Madhya, sthavara, jangama, dushi visha, gara, virudhahara, etc, ojo kshaya lakshanas are clearly seen. So basic treatment in visha has been rasyana after proper sareera sodhana. Most of the agada (antitoxic formulations) in visha chikitsa have rasayana properties like dushivishari lehya.

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