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CRITICAL REVIEW OF VAMANAKARMA (THERAPEUTIC EMESIS) PROCEDURE IN PANCHKARMA

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ABSTRACT

Panchkarma (Samshodhana) is specially indicated for the treatment of BahuDosha. Which include Vamana (therapeutic emesis), Virechana (therapeutic purgation), Basti (enema therapy), Nasya(nasal drug therapy), Raktamokshana (bloodletting therapy). Vamana is indicated in the disorder of Kapha, dominancy of Kapha-Pitta and Kapha-VataVikara, VamanaKarma indicated when Kapha and Pitta become Utklishta and comes in Aamashaya which is the main site of Kapha. Before Vamana Purva Karma (preparatory measures) i.e. Bahya Snehana (External oleation), Abhyantar snehapan (internal intake of medicated oil or ghee) and Sarvanga Swedana (Whole Body Sudation) are given to the patient. These procedures further helps in removing toxic materials from the body. In ayurvedic practice VamanaKarma is a difficult procedure and required critical care during and after therapy.

Keywords: Vaman, Snehan, snehapana, swedan, Samsarjankrama

INTRODUCTION

According to Acharya Charaka and Vagbhatta, *Vamana* is included in *Langhana Upakrama*¹. The act of expelling the impurities i.e. vitiated *Doshas* through the upper channel (mouth) is known as *Vamana* (emesis). While *Sharangadhara* describes the same in other words as the process in which, '*Apakwa*'

Pitta and Kapha are forcibly expelled out through the upward route. Here the word "Apakwa" literally means "undigested or unriped". When Pitta is undigested or unriped, it metamorphoses into 'Vidagdha state', which is one of the sets of Ajirna in that condition also Vamana is indicated. All are well

concerned that Vamana helps to remove all sorts of derangements regarding Kapha and also for Pitta because of its Sthana, but the question arises that why "Apakva" mentioned, because systematic Panchkarma always deal with elimination of PakvaDosha which come from Shakha to Koshtha. The behind this reason may be the UtklishtaAvastha of AamashayasthaDosha, for that one should not wait for Pakva, and it should be expelled out by VamanaKarma⁴.

According to Vagbhatta⁵, *Vamana* is indicated in the disorder of *Kapha* and in the dominancy of *Kapha-Pitta* and *Kapha-VataVikara*, in the following conditions as:

- Excessive increase in the levels of *Kapha*.
- Aggravation of *Kapha* in its own sites.
- *Kapha* combined with *Pitta* or Vata, which is present in a small proportion.
- *Vata* or *Pitta* invading the sites of *Kapha*.

Thus, the indications for *Vamana Karma* are wide, because it can be applied in such type of *Doshika* condition present in any type of disease.

VAMANAKARMA PROCEDURE:

The main procedure can be classified as:

- 1. Purva Karma
- 2. Pradhana Karma
- 3. Pashchata Karma

PURVAKARMA:6

1. *Sambhara Sangraha*: Tubs, washbasins, measuring flasks, measuring glass, towel,

bowls, rubber catheter, spoons, hot plate, pitchers (small and big) etc

a. VamanaDravya:

- Vacha (Acoruscalamus) powder: 2 gm
- *Madanphala (Randiadumatorum)* powder : 4gm
- Rock Salt: 5gm
- Madhu (Honey): 15ml
- **b.** *VamanopagaDravyas: VamanopagaDravy as* are the supportive *Dravyasto* the process of vomiting.⁷
- Milk: 1.5 ltr.
- MadhuyashthiKwatha: 1.5 ltr.
- Lavanodaka: 1.5 ltr.
- **2.** *AturaSiddhata*: Patient should be prepared with the following therapies as *PurvaKarma*.
- a. *Deepana& Pachana: Deepana* and *Pachana* should be carried out with *Dravyas* like Panchakola *Churna* until the appearance of *NiramaLakshanas* of *Doshas* and *Malas*.⁸
- b. Abhyantara Shodhanartha Snehapana: The therapy, which produces the fluidity & moistness in the body and makes the body soft &unctuous, is called as the snehana. It is an essential part in Panchkarma treatment, which helps in dislodging the harmful substances from the body tissues⁹.A person, who is undergoing Snehana, should take Aahara that is Drava, Ushna, Anabhishyandi, Naatisnigdha, and without mixing too many substances, in moderate quantity¹⁰. The Sneha, which will be digested in 24 hours, 12 hours and 6 hours, is called as Pravara, Madhyama and

HrasvaSnehaMatra respectively¹¹. Shodhana purpose, the Sneha should be taken after the complete digestion of previous night meal¹². In accordance to the Koshtha, 3 days, 5 days and 7 days of required Snehapana is for Mridu, Madhyama and KruraKoshtha respectively. Generally, after 7 days Snehapana should not be continued as the body become accustomed to Snehapana (Satmyata) and Doshotklesha may not take place¹³.

Symptoms of Samyaka-Snigdha: Vatanulomana, Agni Deepti, Snigdha (unctuous) & Asamhata (loose) Purisha, Mruduta (softness) and Snigdhata (unctuousness) of the body are the features of Samyaka Snigdha. 14

3. Abhyanga & Svedana:

Abhyanga: In the content of *PurvaKarma Abhyanga* is considered as *Sakala Dehabhyanga*.

The patient to whom *Vamana* is to be administered should be subjected to the Abhyanga and Svedanaa for 2 or 3times.¹⁵

Svedana: The therapy which produces *Sveda* (perspiration), and relieve *Stambha* (stiffness), *Gaurava* (heaviness) *Shita* (cold) is known as Svedana. ¹⁶

4. Dietetic regimen before *Vamana*: Diet in the previous night of *VamanaKarma*.

The meat of the animals of *Gramya*, *Anupa* and *Audaka* origin and milk and *Dadhi*, *Masha*, *Tila*, *Guda*, etc. should be given for *Shleshmotklesha*. ¹⁷ Arunadatta mentioned that this diet helps *Doshas*, which are provoked

due to proper *Snehana* and *Svedana* to move towards *Koshtha* due to their similar nature. This diet also has the property to excite *KaphadiDosha* (*Kaphotklesha* and to minimize the pain and produces the vomiting with much less effort. 19

PRADHANA KARMA:

PradhanaKarma starts from the period of oral administration of VamanaDravya and completes with the stopping of VamanaVega. It can be classified under the following three divisions.

- (A) Administration of Vamana Yoga- Before VamanYogaAakanthapana is performed by Yavagu or milk or Ikshurasa. Aacharya Charaka, described 355 Vamana-Yogas, among them Madanaphala -133, Jimutaka-39, Ikshvaku- 45, Dhamargava- 60, Kutaja- 18 and Kritavedhana- 60 Yogas. The Yoga is indicated according to the Dosha, Dushya, Avastha and Vyadhi.Madanaphala is the best among all VamakaDravyas because of its Anapayitya property (Devoid of complications). 20 Madhu and Saindhava are to be mixed with all *VamanaYoga* for Liquifying disintegrating the Kapha-Dosha.²¹, and Dosage of MadanaphalaPippali is taken to according the patients "Antaranakhamushti" Pramana.²²
- **(B) Observations during** *Vamana*. After giving *VamanaYoga*, patients should be under observation for a *Muhurta* (48 minute). During that time, *Svedana* should be done to the person with hand.

Table 1: Dosha Avastha during Vamana karma procedure

Symptoms	Process (due to changes in	Factors (producing changes)	
appeared ²³	Dosha)		
Sweating	Doshas are liquefied	Due to hot and penetrating properties, the Doshas are fragmented	
		and then exuded through major and minor channels.	
• Pilling of	Doshas moving towards	Due to hot property, Doshas exude and move towards Koshtha.	
hairs	Aamashaya	These <i>Doshas</i> travels through channels just like water, which flows	
		through vessels, smeared by oily material without sticking to it.	
• Discomfort in	Enters in the Aamashaya	These Doshas enter the Aamashaya by Anupravana Bhava.	
abdomen			
Nausea,	Urdhvagaman of Doshas	After excited by Udana Vayu, due to the Agni and Vayu	
 Salivation, 	towards mouth from stomach.	predominance of drug and self-tendency to move upwards, they	
		start to move in upward direction.	

VamanaKarma should be continued, until the appearance of *Pitta*. VamanaKarma should be considered successful which is accompanied with elimination of *Pitta* in the end²⁴. After appearance of the symptoms of proper *Vamana*, if any part of the medicine was left in the body, it should be eliminated by continuing vomiting until the occurrence of lightness in the body and thinning of the *Kapha*. ²⁵

Observations (C) regarding four criteria: Vamana is the Samshodhana processes carried out to remove the morbid Doshas mainly Kapha and Pitta from body. To assess the quantity and nature of the vitiated Doshas and to assess the effects achieved after Samshodhana, Charaka at first definite coined some parameters Chakrapani categorized them by naming as: Aantiki, Vaigiki, Maniki and Laingiki criteria.²⁶

Antiki criteria: As per classical text, PittantaVamana is one of the criteria of proper Shuddhi. "Appearance of Pitta" can be perceived directly by the greenish yellow coloured vomitus and indirectly by *Tikta* or *KatuAsyata*, *Urodaha*, *Kanthadaha*, *Netradaha* etc.²⁷

Vaigiki **criteria:** This criteria is based on the number of *Vega* (projectile vomiting). Three types of *ShuddhiHina*, *Madhyama*, *Pravara* are described based on number of *Vega* like 4, 6 and 8 respectively. Noticeable difference is observed in the nature of *Vega* in different patients; hence, they must be defined as *Vega* and *UpaVega* based on Quantity, Force and Time etc.²⁸

Maniki criteria: This is the quantitative measurement of the vomitus. It is defined as Hina, Madhyama and UttamaShuddhi for 1, 1 ½ and 2 Prastha respectively. The word "Prastha" indicates only quantity. But looking at the Panchabhautika constitution of Kapha i.e. Parthiva and Apya Mahabhuta Pradhanatva. It is to be measured by both weight and volume. Hence, the quantitative

measurement for different *Shuddhi* may be defined as follows.

According to Chakrapani 1 *Prastha* = 13 ½ Pala = 54 Tola = 540 ml.

Laingiki criteria: The signs and symptoms of SamyakaVamanaKarma can be considered Criteria'. under *'Laingiki* Chakrapani undoubtedly declares that 'LaingikiShuddhi' is the best among all the criteria. Kale Pravrutti, YathaKrama: KaphaPitta VataDoshaHarana, Cha Avasthanam, Swayam HrudayaParshwaShuddhi, MurdhaShuddhi, StrotoShuddhi, IndriyaShuddhi,Laghuta, Karshya, Daurbalya, KanthaShuddhi, KaphaSamsravaSthiti, AnatiMahati Vyatha.²⁹

PASHCHATA-KARMA:

After the completion of *VamanaKarma*, The person should be looked after carefully till subjected to normal diet. During that period person should be kept on special dietetic and behavioural restrictions, which are considered as *PaschataKarma*.

Dhoompana: Afterwards one is advised to inhale the smoke from any one of the three types of smoke i.e. *Snaihika*, *Vairechanika* or

Upashamaniya, which will be suitable to individual. Then the mouth should be cleaned with warm water. This smoke will help to separate *Kapha* that is sticked to Strotasas.³⁰

Code of conducts: (i) Loud speeches, sitting & standing in one position for long duration, long walks should be avoided. (ii) Exposure to excessive cold, heat, dew, flowing winds, long journey and sleeplessness in the night, sleeps during daytime, to retain strong urge or provocation of the urges should be avoided.

SamsarjanaKrama: As the SamshodhanaKarma cleanses the whole body in general and AnnavahaStrotas in particular, eliminates the large quantity of Dosha and involves various procedures so the Agni is weakened and the person is devoid of strength, to bring the Agni back to normal state gradual kindeling is to be done with specific diet of Samsarjan Krama.³¹

SamsarjanaKrama:

It is based on the type of purification done by *VamanaKarma*. The duration is 3, 5 and 7 days for *Avara*, ³²*Madhyama* and *PravaraShuddhi*, respectively. ³³

Table 2: Peyadi Sequence" advised as Aahara regimen is as follows:

Days	Annakala	PravaraShuddhi	MadhyamaShuddhi	AvaraShuddhi
I day	Morning	-	-	-
	Evening	Peya	Peya	Peya
II day	Morning	Peya	Peya	Vilepi
	Evening	Peya	Vilepi	KritakritaYusha
III day	Morning	Vilepi	Vilepi	KritakritaMamsarasa
	Evening	Vilepi	AkritaYusha	Normal Aahaara
IV day	Morning	Vilepi	KritaYusha	-
	Evening	AkritaYusha	AkritaMamsarasa	-
V day	Morning	KritaYusha	KritaMamsarasa	-

	Evening	KritaYusha	Normal Aahaara	
VI day	Morning	AkritaMamsarasa	-	-
	Evening	KritaMamsarasa	-	-
VII day	Morning	KritaMamsarasa	-	-
	Evening	Normal Aahara	-	-

DISCUSSION

VamanaKarma, the first measure amongst Panchkarma has been considered as the best line of treatment for the Kaphaja disorders.

Sushruta asserts that just like the flower, fruits and branches, which are destroyed at once as soon as the mother tree is rooted out, the diseases originated due to excessive Kapha are subdued after the elimination of Kapha through the process of Vamana. A person who undergoes timely VamanaKarma will be prevented by following diseases like Kasa (cough), Upalepa (stickiness in the throat), Swarabheda (hoarseness of voice), Atinidra AasyaDaurgandhya (sleepiness), Tandra, (foul smell in mouth), KaphaPraseka, VishaUpasarga (afflictions produced because of toxins) and GrahaniDosha.

According to Ayurveda the vitiated and increase Dosha move with Ama from Koshtha to Shakha (Dhatu) or MadhyamaRogamarga and settle in different Dhatu, Avayava, Strotas resulting in to the Dosha-DushyaSamurchhana (Amalgation of Dosha and Dushya) and producing the various sign and symptoms of diseases. Doshas can be brought back to Koshtha from Shakha by producing increase in their volume by liquefication, making them free from Aama, cleaning the mouth of channels & regularising the movement of *Vata*.

The stepwise procedure of PuravaKarma starts with Pachana, which makes the DoshaNirama and bring them to Koshtha. According to Hemandridue to Snigdha, DravaGuna of SnehaDravya it causes Vriddhi and Vishyandana of Dosha (volumetric increase) resulting in to Utkleshana of Dosha. This type of *Utkleshana* was carried out by Sneha in all over body i.e for Koshthagata, SrotolinaDoshas³⁴.Snehana Dhatugata, cleanses the channels by dissolving the accumulated Mala and regulate the activity of Vata. 35 Due to Swedana the Doshas will be further liquefied and disintegrated in to smaller particles causing free flow of Dosha from Shakha to Koshtha. Swedana procedure using hot steam increases the local skin blood flow thereby enhancing the exchange process. It is known that the fat soluble toxic substances are stored in the body fat. Fat in human body is largely located below the skin and inside abdomen around the mesentery of During various Panchkarma procedures, exposure of skin and gut mucous membrane (which are very close to the fat stores) to a large quantity of oil seems to be a logical and ideal procedure. Repetition of these procedures over several days will largely remove the toxic wastes by concentration gradient. During procedure the dosage of all SamshodhanaDravyas depends upon individual person. The dosage should be the

one which eliminates of the morbid *Doshas* and does not produces symptoms of *Ayoga* and *Atiyoga*. ³⁶

CONCLUSION

Panchkarma therapy is believed to impart radical elimination of disease causing factors and maintain the equilibrium of Doshas. To eliminate the deranged Kapha, Vamana should be given with proper method with drugs not antagonist to Vata. The proper VamanaKarma Procedure with PurvaKarma and PashchatKarma help in vitiated and stagnant Kapha to expel out from the system, thus patient attains ease and body channels (srotas) are purified which help to cure the diseases from its root.

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