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A REVIEW ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOOLASTHANA OF SROTAS WITH REFERENCE TO EMBRYOLOGY

Sakshi

Assistant Professor, Dept. of *Rachna Sharir* SGAS & H, Tantia University, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, India

Email: drsakshi54@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

From the beginning of the mankind the science of *Ayurveda* has been flourishing into our lifestyle. The flows in knowledge of *Ayurveda* have risen to a higher level. Reproduction is one of the life processes which maintain the continuation of life further. To attain a healthy progeny, the internal body system must be in good state and healthy condition. *Srotas Sharir* is the integral part of human system and any disturbance at this level leads to *Dosha-Dusya Sammurchna* and eventually to the pathology (whether embryological). Embryological development of organs or body tissues may lead to malformations. Those organs which are *Moolasthana* for any *Srotas* will lead to various diseases of the respective *Srotas*. Thus this work has been put forward to get an evaluation of *Moolasthana of Srotas* with its development from both sciences. A comparative evaluation of the developmental process regarding the *Moolasthana* of *Srotas* is considered.

Keywords: Srotas, Moolasthana, Rakta, Mamsa, Dhatu, Vayu, Prana, Embryology

INTRODUCTION

Srotas is defined as channels or structure through which *Sravana Karma* (exudation) of *Dhatus* take place at a very slower movement. The word "*Parinamamapdhapmanama*" refers to the circulation of fluids from one site to the other.¹*Acharya Sushruta* describes that *Srotas* are channels of the body having originated from vacant hollow spaces and later spread into entire body.² *Srotas* are 13 in number ac-

cording to Acharya Charaka and 11 pairs according to Acharya Sushruta and as per Acharya Kashyapa, referred Srotas as Sukshuma (Nabhi, Romkopa) and Mahan (head & lower body parts). Acharya Charaka mentioned many synonyms related to word Srotas as Sira (vein), Dhamani (artery), Rasyani (lymphatic channel), Nadi (duct), Panthan (passages) etc.

SROTOMOOLA:

Every *Srotas* is elucidated with the area of origin as any infection will lead to alteration in the normal physiology. The *Moolasthana* are responsible for the well being and carrying vital functions of the *Srotas*.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROOT ORGANS OF THE SROTAS:

Acharya Sushruta has demonstrated the development of organ in the chapter IV entitled 'Garbha vyakarna' in Sharir Sthana. He has mentioned the origin of Twacha, Yakrit-Pleeha, Antra, Guda, Vasti, Vrikka, Hridaya and Vrishana.³ Each one of them is described as follows. When fertilization or combination of Shukra- Shonita takes place, fetus develops very rapidly through process of transformation. The seven layers of skin formed similar to the different layers of skim on surface boiled milk occurs.⁴ The modern embryology says that the integumentary system develops at 6th week of IUL from surface endoderm and underlying mesoderm.⁵ The development of Yakrit –Pleeha takes place via Rakta Dhatu.⁶ The liver develops from endodermal hepatic bud of foregut, mesenchyme of septum transversum and vitelline, umbilical veins with in septum transversum.⁷ Spleen is mesodermal in origin and develops from dorsal mesogastrium close to stomach. The splenic tissue condenses between two layers of mesogastrium.⁸

The *Antra, Basti* and *Guda* of fetus develop from *Rakta, Kapha* and digested by *Pitta* and *Vayu* enters into.⁹The intestine develops from the endoderm, the distal par of duodenum, jejunum, ileum, colon upto right 2/3rd of transverse colon from midgut. Remaining 1/3rd of the transverse colon, descending colon, sigmoid colon develops from hindgut. Rectum develops from endoderm cloaca, a blind pouch of hindgut.¹⁰ Urinary bladder develops from urogenital sinus. The epithelium is derived from vesico- urethral canal (endoderm). Trigone epithelium is mesodermal.¹¹

The Vrikka formed as essence of Rakta, Meda.¹² The kidneys develop on either side of vertebral column. Develop from nephrogenic cord and by ureteric bud.¹³ Vrishna arises from the Prasada part of Mamsa, Rakta, Kapha & Meda.¹⁴ Genital system develops from intermediate mesoderm, part of cloaca & ceolomic epithelium of mesoderm. Initial development is similar for both sexes and later on converts in definitive stage.¹⁵Hridaya is made from essence of Rakta and Kapha. Dhamanis are attached to the heart for flow of Prana.¹⁶

It develops from the primitive heart tube (cardiogenic area of embryo). Mesenchymal cells in cardiogenic area condense to form 2 angioblastic cords which canalized to form heart tube.¹⁷ The table listed below gives a comparison to the development of these organs.

S.NO	NAME OF THE ORGAN	RELATED SROTAS	AYURVEDIC VIEW	MODERN EMBRYOLOGICAL VIEW
1	Twacha (skin)	Mamsavaha Srotas	Combination of <i>Shukra-Shonita</i> under influence of transformation	Develops from surface ectoderm & underlying mesoderm
2	<i>Yakrit</i> (liver)	Raktavaha srotas	From Rakta	Endodermal hepatic bud of fore- gut
3	Pleeha (spleen)	Raktavaha srotas	From Rakta	Mesodermal origin from dorsal mesogastrium
4	Antra (intestine)	Purishvaha Srotas	From essence of <i>Rakta</i> , <i>Kapha</i> under act of <i>Pitta</i> & <i>Vayu</i>	Endodermal in origin. Dual origin from midgut and hindgut.
5	Basti (urinary bladder)	Mutravaha Srotas	From essence of <i>Rakta</i> , <i>Kapha</i> under act of <i>Pitta</i> & <i>Vayu</i>	Urogenital sinus (some part from endoderm & mesoderm)
6	Guda (rectum)	Purishvaha Srotas	From essence of <i>Rakta</i> , <i>Kapha</i> under act of <i>Pitta</i> & <i>Vayu</i>	From Endoderm cloaca, blind pouch of hindgut
7	Vrikka (kidneys)	Medovaha Srotas	From <i>Rakta</i> and <i>Meda</i>	Definitive kidneys develop by metanephros
8	Vrishana (genitals)	Shukravaha Srotas	From essence of <i>Rakta</i> , mamsa, Kapha& Meda	By intermediate mesoderm, part of cloaca
9	Hridaya (heart)	Pranavaha, Rasvaha Srotas	From essence of <i>Rakta</i> & <i>Kapha</i>	Mesenchymal cells in cardiogen- ic area

Table 1: Illustrating the comparison in development of *Srotas*

CONCLUSION

From the above text, we observed that development of *Moolasthana* of the mentioned *Srotas* in *Ayurveda* is far different from the modern embryology. But in case of some organs a diminutive similarity can be studied. Basically, in *Ayurvedic* text the development of organs has *Rakta Dhatu* in common. This shows the importance of blood which is the carrier of *Prana* to the entire body. Embryology gives reference to liver as important haemopoietic centre which begins at 6 week of IUL, later on done by spleen and bone marrow.¹⁸ In case of liver development, the reference of vitelline and umbilical veins present within septum transversum gives relation to the involvement of *Rakta* (blood). Similarly the *Hridaya* (heart) develops from *Rakta* & *Kapha*. In development of heart we examined that heart tube is separated from myoepicardial mantle by cellular gelatinous connective tissue which is termed as "Cardiac jelly".¹⁹ This can be close to the *Kapha* mentioned by *Acharya Sushruta*. Thus, at last here the development of *Moolasthana* of *Srotas* from

Ayurvedic view and contemporary science is concluded.

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