

International Ayurvedic Medical Journal, (ISSN: 2320 5091) (August, 2017) 5(8)

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

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#### 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.<sup>1</sup>*Acharya Sushruta* describes that *Srotas* are channels of the body having originated from vacant hollow spaces and later spread into entire body.<sup>2</sup> *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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> The modern embryology says that the integumentary system develops at 6<sup>th</sup> week of IUL from surface endoderm and underlying mesoderm.<sup>5</sup> The development of Yakrit –Pleeha takes place via Rakta Dhatu.<sup>6</sup> The liver develops from endodermal hepatic bud of foregut, mesenchyme of septum transversum and vitelline, umbilical veins with in septum transversum.<sup>7</sup> Spleen is mesodermal in origin and develops from dorsal mesogastrium close to stomach. The splenic tissue condenses between two layers of mesogastrium.<sup>8</sup>

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

The Vrikka formed as essence of Rakta, Meda.<sup>12</sup> The kidneys develop on either side of vertebral column. Develop from nephrogenic cord and by ureteric bud.<sup>13</sup> Vrishna arises from the Prasada part of Mamsa, Rakta, Kapha & Meda.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup>Hridaya is made from essence of Rakta and Kapha. Dhamanis are attached to the heart for flow of Prana.<sup>16</sup>

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.<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup> 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".<sup>19</sup> 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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# Source of Support: Nil Conflict Of Interest: None Declared

How to cite this URL: Sakshi: A Review On Development Of The Moolasthana Of Srotas With Refernce To Embryology. International Ayurvedic Medical Journal {online} 2017 {cited August, 2017} Available from: http://www.iamj.in/posts/images/upload/3026\_3030.pdf