

International Ayurvedic Medical Journal, (ISSN: 2320 5091) Volume 6, Issue 1, January, 2018

AN APPRAISAL ON VATA DOSHA VAISHAMYA LAKSHANAS

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ABSTRACT

Vata, Pitta and *Kapha* are basic fundamental factors essentially responsible for maintenance of health in normalcy and causes diseases on vitiation. *Vata* is most important factor among *tridosha* as it is the only *dosha* possessing *chala guna. Vata dosha* is responsible for functions like *utsaha* (enthusiasm), *uchvasa* (expiration), *nisvasa* (inspiration), *cheshta* (activities of the body) *vega pravartana* (regulation of natural urges) *samyakgati of dhatu* (regulation of proper nourishment and functions of the *dhatu*) and *patutva* of *chakshuradhi-indriya* (regulates functions of sense organs). Various *vatakara aharaja* and *viharaja nidanas* (causative factors) connected to *Vata dosha* leads to vitiation of *Vata* at *dravyataha*, *karmataha* and *gunataha* attributes resulting in *vaishamya* of *Vata dosha* manifesting as *vruddhi*, *kshaya* and *prakopa*. These *vaishamya* states manifest with different *lakshanas*. Hence, a review of these *lakshanas* from *Samhitas* along with meaning from their commentary yields better understanding and clinical application. Hence an attempt is made to analyse *Vata dosha vaishamya lakshanas*.

Keywords: Vata, Tridosha, Vaishamya lakshanas

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda theory and practice revolves round the concept of *tridosha*. These *tridoshas* along with *dhatu* and *mala* carry out all biological processes in the body. In Ayurveda *shareera* is considered as confluence of *doshas*, *dhatus* and *mala*. Among these *tridosha* commands prime importance as they are primary and essential

constitutional factors of human body. These fundamental factors maintain the integrity of the human body. The *tridosha* viz *Vata*, *Pitta*, and *Kapha* results in the harmonious wellbeing of the human body in their state of equilibrium and their disequilibrium leads to ill health or even death. Among the *tridosha*, *Vata* is unique, because it possesses *chala guna*. It is responsible for the movement of all body entities and it controls every action of the body. Though *Pitta* and *Kapha* are ascribed with independent actions, it is *Vata* that initiates their actions. *Pitta* and *Kapha* in their own *abode* can act or vitiate the *dhatu* but do not have the ability of moving from one place to another and thereby vitiating the *dhatu*. It is noteworthy that *Vata* is responsible for all movement in the body including propulsion of *Pitta* and *Kapha*.

Vata dosha is panchabhautika in nature and is formed by the predominance of vayu and akasha mahabhuta. According to Astanga Hridaya and Astanga Sangraha the gunas of vata dosha are ruksha (dry), laghu (light), sheeta (cold), khara (rough), sukshma (subtle) and chala (mobile). Charaka mentions vishada (clear), daruna (severe) and parusha (harsh), while Sushruta Samhita has attributed only ruksha, laghu, sheeta and khara guna. Sthanas of vata dosha are pakwashaya, kati, sakthi, srotras, asthi and sparshanendriya. Vata dosha is responsible for functions like utsaha (enthusiasm), uchvasa (expiration), nisvasa (inspiration), cheshta (activities of the body) vega pravarthana (regulation of natural urges) samvakgati of dhatu (regulation of proper nourishment and functions of the *dhatu*) and patutva of the chakshuradhi-indriya (regulation of functions of sense organs).

Vata dosha vaishamya leads to alteration either in the normal functions of *Vata* or its qualities and manifests with *lakshanas* (sign and symptoms). The *vaishamya* of *Vata* can occur either as *vruddhi*, *kshaya* or *prakopa* and each manifest with specific *lakshanas*.

AIM and OBJECTIVES:

To review Vata dosha vaishamya lakshanas mentioned in Sushruta Samhita, Astanga Sangraha and Astanga Hrudaya in the light of commentaries, Charaka Samhita and dictionary for specific understanding and practical clinical application.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

This article is based on review on *Vata dosha vaishamya lakshanas* from *Ayurvedic text* such as *Sushruta Samhita*, *Astanga Hridaya* and *Astanga Sangraha* along with meaning from commentaries. *Ayurveda* dictionaries like Amarkosha, Monier Williams, Ayurveda Mahashabda kosha and *Charaka Samhita* have also been consulted to reveal and understand the concept of *Vata dosha vaishamya lakshanas*.

DISCUSSION

Vata Vruddhi Lakshanas:

Vruddhi is defined as quantitative and qualitative increase in the doshas. Vata vruddhi brings about augmented Vata functions and qualities. Vruddha vata lakshanas as enlisted in Sushruta Samhita, Astanga Hridaya and Astanga Sangraha includes karshya, karshneya, ushnakamitwam. Lakshana enlisted commonly by Astanga Hridaya and Astanga Sangraha is kampa. Lakshana enlisted commonly by Astanga Hridava and Sushruta is pralapa. Lakshanas enlisted commonly by Astanga Sangraha and Sushruta are gatrasphurana and nidranasha. Other than above mentioned lakshanas, Sushruta has mentioned vakaparushya, alpa balatwam and gadha varchastwam and Astanga Hridava has cited sakridgraha, aanaha, balabhramsa, nidra bramsa, indriya bhramsa, bhrama and dinata. Further Astanga Sangraha adds sanjna nasha, bala upaghata, indriya upaghta, asthishoola, majja sosha, mala sanga, adhmana, aatopa, moha, dainya, bhaya and shoka as Vata vruddhi lakshanas.

Karshva refers to emaciation or thinness. Avurveda-rasayana defines karshya as 'krushatwam' meaning lean¹. Dalhana clarifies karshya as mamsa kshava (loss of muscles)². Thus karshya is emaciation. Karshneya is defined by Hemadri as 'krushna varnatwam' referring to black colour³. Dalhana states 'karshneya krishnatwam shareere' meaning blackish discoloration of the body. Ushnakamitwa can be split as ushna and kamitwa, ushna refers to hot and kamitwa refers to desire. Ayurveda-rasayana comments usnakamitwa as 'unsnabhilasha' (desire for warmth). Kampa refers to tremor⁴. Ayurveda rasayana defines kampa as 'vepathu', Amarkosha mentions kampa and vepathu as synonyms referring both as tremor⁵. Astanga Sangraha has mentioned gatranam kampa instead of kampa, Indu comments gatranam kapma as 'sarvanga-chalanam' (movements in whole body)⁶. Thus *kampa* can be understood as tremor. Pralapa indicates incoherent speech. Amarkosha defines pralapa as 'anarthakam vacha' (meaningless talk). Hemadri comments on pralapa as 'asambadha pralapa' referring to irrelevant speech⁷. Thus, *pralapa* is understood as irrelevant speech.

Gatrasphurana comprises two words *gatra* and *sphurana*, *gatra* refers to body and *sphurana* refers to act of trembling, throbbing or pulsation. While commenting on difference between *garta kampa* and *garta sphurana*, *Indu* comments that '*sphurana*, *gatra ekadesha swalpa chalanam*' (mild movements in any one part of the body)⁸. Thus it means localized flickering movements in the body. *Nidra nasha* is loss of sleep⁹. *Astanga Hridaya* has mentioned *nidra bhramsa* instead of *nidra nasha*, *Arundatta* comments that *nidra bhramsa* means *nidra*

nasha. In lakshana Vakaparushya, parushya means roughness or harshness¹⁰. Dalhana comments as 'vacana karkashvam' referring to harshness in speech. Alpa balatwam refers to little strength or feeble. Dalhana interprets it as 'utsaha hani' (decreased enthusiasm)¹¹. Gadha varchastwam refers to firm or hard faeces. Word gadha means firm. Amarkosha defines gadha as more in quantity. Varcha is the synonym for pureesha (faeces). In Shakritgraha, shakrit is a synonym of pureesha (faeces) and graha refers to hold, stasis. Hemadri explains shakritgraha as pureesha rodha (retention of faeces)¹². Mala sanga mentioned by Astanga Sangraha also has similar meaning. Aanaha refers to suppression of urine, constipation¹³. Amarkosha defines aanaha as 'bibandha', a disease where there is mala and mutra sanga (retention of faeces and urine). Hemadri comments it as 'badha udarata' $(retention in abdomen)^{14}$.

Balabhramsha word is formed by bala and bhramsha, Amarkosha defined bala as synonym of parakrama (valour), shaurya (bravery), shakti (strength). Dalhana interprets bala as utsaha (enthusiasm)¹⁵. Bhramsha means to fall, decline. Arundatta comments bala bhramsha as 'prano-upaghato bhramsha', whereas Hemadri refers bala bhramsha to bala nasha. Thus, it can be understood as decrease in vitality. Astanga Sangraha has mentioned Bala upaghata instead of balabhramsha. Indriya bhramsha is interpreted as loss of function of sense organs. Amarkosha defines indriya as both inanendriya and karmendriva. Astanga Sangraha has mentioned indriva upaghata instead of indriva bhramsa. Bhrama refers to giddiness. Amarkosha defines bhrama as bhranti and mithva-mathi (delusion)¹⁶. Ayurveda-rasayana explains it as 'chakra-rudhsyay-eva', here chakra refers to wheel, in state of bhrama, person will feel rotatory movements like a wheel¹⁷. Dinata refers to depressed, sad, and miserable¹⁸. Hemadri comments dinata as 'mlanatwam' (langour). Sanjna refers to consciousness; sanjna nasha can be understood as loss of consciousness. Asthi shoola can be understood as pain in bones. Majja sosha can be taken as dryness of bone marrow, majja refers to marrow and sosha refers to drying up. Adhmana refers to blowing, inflation. Charaka defines it as symptom that results due to accumulation of vavu or filled with vavu¹⁹. Thus it can be understood as distension of abdomen due to air. Aatopa as defined as Charaka as symptom of disease, characterized by guda - guda sound in the udara (abdomen)²⁰. Thus it can be understood as intestinal sounds. Moha as mentioned by Amarkosha is synonym of *murcha* (loss of consciousness)²¹. Dainya refers to depression, miserable state. Bhaya refers to fear. Shoka refers to sorrow, anguish.

Vata Kshaya Lakshanas:

Kshaya refers to quantitative and qualitative decrease in dosha. Vata kshaya lakshanas mentioned commonly by Sushruta, Astanga Sangraha and Astanga Hridaya is Anga saada. Lakshanas commonly mentioned by Astanga Sangraha and Astanga Hridaya is Sanjna moha. Alpavakatwam and Apraharsa are mentioned commonly by Astanga Sangraha and Astanga Hridaya. Other than above lakshanas, Sleshma vruddhi amaya is mentioned by Astanga Hridaya. Astanga Sangraha has added lakshanas like Praseka, Aruchi, Hrullasa, Alpa chestata and Agni vaishamya. Manda Chestata and Mudha Sanjnata are mentioned by Sushruta.

Anga saada is explained by Arundatta as angasya saada further as 'kriya-swa-asamrthyam' and kayika karma is defined as chesta. Hemadri clarifys that angasya saada refers to 'shrantatwam iva', referring to state of tiredness²². Thus angasva saada can be taken as state of physical exertion disabling to carry out other activities. Alpa bhasitam ehitam²³ is the phrase consisting of alpa bhasitam and alpa ehitam. Sarvangasundara states that bhashitehitam consists of bhasitam and ehitam referring to alpa vacana (less speaking) and alpa chestatwam. Hemadri further elaborates in bhashitehitam alpam. Bhashitam refers to vachika karma (act of speaking) and ehitam refers to kavikam(body functions). Thus it can be understood as state which refers to tendency of less speaking and less working. Alpa vakatwam mentioned by Sushruta and Astanga Snagraha is analogous to alpa bhasitam.

Sanjnamoha can be taken as state of delirium. Moha is defined as a state of bewilderment, perplexity, distraction. Arundatta refers sanjnamoha as 'sambido-abhava' (lack of understanding), Hemadri explains sanjna as budhi (intellect) and moha refers to 'vivechana akshamatwam' referring to impairment of thinking²⁴. Sushruta has mentioned mudha sanjnata instead of sanjnamoha, which has similar meaning. Apraharsha is explained as atushti by Dalhana²⁵. Tushti refers to satisfaction and atushti refers to displeasure, discontent. Hence, Apraharsha can be taken as state of lack of pleasure, or feeling of discontent. With decrease of Vata, Sleshma vruddhi amaya can be witnessed. Arundatta and Hemadri comments, that the condition is characterised by agnisaada (indigestion). *praseka* (excessive salivation). Praseka means flowing froth, oozing²⁶. Charaka defines it as lalasrava (salivation). Thus it can be understood as excessive salivation.

Aruchi is stated by *Astanga Hridaya* as '*anna abhilasha abhava*'²⁷. Hence it can be taken as aversion or dislike towards food. *Hrullasa* is

defined by Sushruta as 'hridayasya utklesha*nam*' 28 . Thus, it can be taken as state of nausea. In Alpa chestata, Alpa is defined as 'yathochitapramana- hinam' (less than normal), chesta refers to kriva (work). Thus, it can be understood as making little effort or inert²⁹. Agni vaishamya can be taken as altered function of agni or impaired digestion as vaishamva refers to inequality, disproportion³⁰. Manda Chestata is explained by Dalhana as 'manda kava vvaparata'. It is also further explained as 'sakala prakruta vata kriyanam alpata' referring to decrease in all the activities that prakruta vata would result³¹. Thus *Manda chestata* can be taken as slowness in activities. Mudha Sanjnata word consists of mudha and sanjnata, Mudha refers to perplexed, confused. Mudha sanjnata is commented by Dalhana as 'nashta smayaka jnana', referring to destruction of samyaka (correct) inana (intellect). It can be understood as state of delirium.

Vata Prakopa lakshanas:

Prakopa is a vitiated state of dosha ready to move out from its normal place. Dosha prakopa lakshanas are mentioned in Astanga Hridaya. Vata prakopa lakshanas mentioned in Astanga Hridaya includes Sramsa, Vyasa, Vyadha, Swapa, Saada, Ruk, Toda, Bhedana, Sanga, Angabhanga, Sankocha, Varta, Harshana, Tarshana, Kampa, Parushya, Saushirya, Shosa, Spandana, Vestana, Stambha, Kashaya-rasata, Varna syava-aruno-api.

Sramsa means is to get loose from, to fall, drop, and slip off. Sarvangasundara defines sramsa as 'hanuwadi-sandhi-bhramsa' (dislocation of jaw joint and other joints). Ayurveda rasayana defines that sramsa refers to saithilyam (looseness). Charaka explains it as 'kinchit-swasthana-chalanam' (slight movement from its own place). Vyasa is understood as severing, separation, division. Amarkosha defines vyasa as synonyms of vigraha, vistara means spreading. Ayurveda rasayana defines it as 'Asankochatwam' (not contracting)³². Vyadha refers to pierce; Amarkosha defines it as chedana (cutting). Sarvangasundara defines it as 'tadanamiva mudgaraadina'(striking by hammer). Ayurveda rasayana defines it as ' suchi vidhasyeva vyatha' pain like pricking by needles. Swapa can be understood as numbness. Amarkosha defines swapa as synonym of nidra (sleep). Sarvangasundara defines swapa as 'karmany-achaitanyam' (loss of sensation). Ayurveda rasayana defines it as 'sparshaajnanam'(inability to sense)³³.

Saada refers to decay, loss and exhaustion. Sarvangasundara defines it as 'anganam kriyaswa-asamarthyam' (inability to function). Ayurveda rasayana defines it as 'swa-karyaakshamatvam' (inability to work / function). Charaka opines it as 'daurbalyam' (weakness) ³⁴. *Ruk* is understood as pain. *Ayurveda* rasayana defines it as 'shula' (pain). Sarvangasundara defines it as 'satatam shula' (continuous pain). Toda refers to pain. Sarvangasundara defines it as 'vicchinnam shula' (separating type of pain). Avurveda rasavana defines it as 'tottreneva vyatha' (pain like beaten by stick)³⁵. Bhedana refers to breaking pain. Hemadri defines bhedanam as 'bhidya- manasya- vyatha (splitting type of pain $)^{36}$.

Sanga refers to coming together, conflict, and war. Amarkosha defines it as meeting. Ayurveda rasayana defines it as 'avarodha' (obstruction). Sarvangasundara explains it as 'mutrapureeshadeh–swa-aashyayobhyo-anisaaro vaakasanga dayashca' (obstruction to movement of urine and faeces from it place, difficulty in talking)³⁷. Angabhanga comprises of Anga and bhanga. Sarvanagasundara defines anganam as

'jangho-uru-prabhitinam' (calves, thighs and refers *'churnaeba*others); bhanga to angabhanga' (break into pieces). Sankocha refers to contraction. Ayurveda rasayana defines it as 'a-prasaaryatwam'- inability to extend, Sarvangasundara defines it as sankocha of siradinam (contraction of vessels) Varta derived from Vrutta meaning round. Ayurveda rasayana defines varta as 'pinditwam' (nodular formation). Sarvangasundara defines varta as 'pureeshadinam pindikaranam', nodular formation of stool³⁸. Harsana as defined by Sarvangasundara is 'romanam-urdhwi bhava', referring to horripilation. Tarsana refers to 'trit' according to Sarvangasundara, further Hemadri clarify it as 'pipasa', referring to thirst. Amarkosha defines it also as synonym of extreme desire³⁹. Kampa means to tremble, shake. Arundatta comments kampa as 'ativepana', further clarifying Hemadri explains kampa as 'chalanam'⁴⁰. Sushruta explains vepathu refers to 'gatrakampanam'. Thus it can be understood as tremors. Parushya refers to roughness, harshness⁴¹. Sarvangasundara defines parushya as 'parusatvam', while Ayurveda rasayana defines it as 'rukshanam'. Charaka mentions it as one among 80 types of vata vyadhi characterized by twak kathinya (harshness of skin).

Saushiryam is defined in Ayurveda rasayana as 'sa-randhratwam' (porous), Hemadri allocates

asthanam (bones) for saushiryam⁴². Thus, it can be understood as porous state of bones. Shosha can be understood as drying up or desiccating. Hemadri defines shosa as shosanam. Ayurveda rasavana defines shosa as 'shuskata'. Spandana is defined as throbbing; vibration⁴³. Sarvangasundara defines it as 'spandanam kinchit chalanam' (faint movements). Vestana is defined as enclosing, a band. Hemadri defines it as 'grathanamiva angasya'; Sarvangasundara defines vestana as 'valanam'44 (turning, moving round in a circle)⁴⁵. Stambha refers to stiff, rigid⁴⁶. Sarvangasundara describe sthambha as 'bahu uru janghadinam sankunchanadhya abhava' (absence of contraction movement in hands, thighs and calves. Hemadri refers it as *'niskrivatwam'* (absence of function)⁴⁷. *Amarko*sha defines it as synonym of pillar and rigidity⁴⁸. Kashavarasata word is formed by kashava and rasata. Kashava refers to astringent taste. Arundatta defines it as 'kashavarasa- aaswadatvam' (feeling of astringent taste in mouth), Hemadri explains as 'rasantareapi kashaya grahanam' (feeling of astringent taste in mouth)⁴⁹. Varna-svavo-aruno-api defines svava and aruna varna, Svava refers to kapisa (dark brown) and aruna refers to ishad rakta (slightly reddish).

The above mentioned *Vata vaishamya lakshanas* can be assessed in patients through questionnaire. Patient needs to be assessed primarily by evaluating with two response option either as *lakshanas* present or absent for following questions.

Lakshanas	Questionnaire
Karshya	Has there been decrease in weight?
Karshneya	Do you feel your complexion has changed blackish?
Ushnakamita	Do you feel like taking warm food/ drinks?
	Do you feel like staying warm?
Shakritgrha/ Mala sanga	Do you feel constipated?

Gadha varchastwam	Do you feel your stool has become hard?
Aanaha	Do you feel difficulty in passing stool?
	Do you feel difficulty in passing urine?
Adhmaana	Do you feel distension in abdomen?
Aatopa	Do you feel gurgling of intestines?
Kampa	Do you have tremors?
Gatra sphurana	Do you feel flickering in any part of the body?
Alpabalatwam	Do you feel there is decrease in your strength?
Bala upaghata	Do you feel there is complete loss of strength?
Bala bramsa	
Nidra bramsa/ Nidra nasha	Do you have complete loss of sleep?
Indriya bramsa/ Indriya upaghata	Do you feel there is decline in sense of vision/ hearing/smell/taste/touch?
Pralapa	Is there irrelevant talking?
Bhrama	Do you feel dizzy?
Vak parushya	Is there hoarsness in voice?
Sangya nasha/ Moha	Has there been any fainting episodes recently?
Asthi shula	Do you feel pain in bones?
Dainya	Do you feel depressed?
Bhaya	Have you been feeling more scared recently?
Shoka	Do you feel more sorrow recently?

2.VATA KSHAYA

Lakshanas	Questionnaire
Angasada	Do you feel difficulty in doing the work?
Alpa ehitham	Do you feel you do less work these days?
Alpacheshtatah	Has your effort in doing works decreased?
Mandhacheshta	Is there decrease in your working speed?
Alpabhashithm	Do you speak less?
Alpavakatwam	Do you speak in incomplete sentences?
Sanjamoha	Are you aware in doing the work?
Mooda sanjatah	Do you feel confused while doing the routine work?
Sleshma vrudhi aamaya	Do you have decreased appetite?
	Do you have excessive salivation?
Praseka	Do you have excessive salivation?
Aruchi	Do have aversion towards food?
Hrullasa	Do you have nausea?
Agnivaishamya	Do you have improper digestion?
Apraharsha	Do you feel happy while doing work?

VATA PRAKOPA

Lakshanas	Questionnaire
Samsra	Do you have prolapse?
	Do you have hernia?
	Is there dislocation of joints?
Vyasha	Is there flaccidity in muscles?

Sankocha	Do you have contraction in muscles?
	Do you have difficulty in extension?
Vyadha	Do you have piercing type of pain?
Ruk	Do you have continuous pain?
Toda	Do you have splitting type of pain?
Bhedana	Do you have cracking type of pain?
Swapa	Do you have feeling of numbness?
Saada	Do you feel any of your body part is not functioning?
Sanga	Do you have retention of urine?
	Do you have retention of stool?
	Do you have difficulty in speaking?
Angabhanga	Do you have any fractures?
Varta	Do you pass stool in nodular form?
Harsana	Do you feel horripilation?
Tarshana	Has your thirst increased?
Kampa	Do you have tremors?
Spandana	Do you feel pulsatile sensation in any part of body?
Parushya	Do you feel roughness in the body?
Sosha	Has there been decrease in muscle mass?
Vestana	Do you feel tight sensation?
Stambha	Do you feel stiff?
Kashaya rasata	Do you feel astringent taste in your mouth?
Shyavaarunoapi varna	Have you noticed blackish/reddish discoloration?

CONCLUSION

Vata is prime among *tridoshas*. *Sharangadhara* explains importance of *Vata dosha* over *Pitta*, *Kapha*, *mala* and *dhatus* with a simile of rain occurring only in places where clouds are carried by air. Even though *Pitta*, *Kapha*, *mala* and *dhatus* are vitiated, they become lame i.e not able to cause disease unless moved or displaced by *Vata*⁵⁰.

In normalcy *doshas* maintains health of an individual and if undergoes vaishamya (vitiated) it manifests with *lakshanas* of *vruddhi*, *kshaya* and *prakopa*. *Vaishamya* of *Vata dosha* occurring as *vruddhi*, *kshaya* and *prakopa* manifests sign and symptoms which portrays alteration of its *dravyataha*, *gunataha* or *karmataha* attributes. Increase in *sheeta guna* of *Vata* leads to manifestation of *ushnakamita*, increase in *chala guna* leads to manifestation of *kampa*. Presence of apraharsha indicates decrease of utsaha karma of vata. Vata is responsible for sensation, but alteration i.e prakopa of Vata can manifest in wide range of pain sensation as ruk, toda, bhedanavath, chedanavath etc. Normal contraction and expansion of muscles is contributed by prakruta vata leading to proper movements. But if altered can lead to vyasa or sankocha.

The *lakshanas* manifested by *Vata vaishamya* contains symptomatology connected to digestive system, musculoskeletal system, sleep, colour of skin, temperature regulation etc and psychological factors including attributes connected to state of mind, enthusiasm, happiness, fear etc. Analysis of *Vata dosha vaishamya lakshanas* signify dysfunction of various body systems influenced by *Vata dosha*.

Above review on *Vata dosha vaishamya* aids in better contextual understanding of *Vata dosha*

vaishamya lakshanas for the purpose of precise, specific clinical application. Thereby aids in better treatment planning and management.

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Source of Support: Nil Conflict Of Interest: None Declared

How to cite this URL: Ajantha Et Al: An Appraisal On Vata Dosha Vaishamya Lakshanas. International Ayurvedic Medical Journal {online} 2017 {cited December, 2017} Available from:

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