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MANAGEMENT OF GRIDHRASI WITH KUPILU: A CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Vatavyadhi comprises of many conditions with predominance of vatadosha. Gridhrasi being one important among the Vataja conditions. It has received its name from word "Gridhra" means vulture because the ailing person feels pain as if bitten by a vulture or the posture and gait of patient resembles like a vulture because of excessive pain felt. It is classified into two forms i.e. Vataja and Vatakaphaja according to predominance of dosha. Ayurveda has advocated Vatajaupakrama especially Abhyanga, Kativasti, Vastikarma, Swedana, Agnikarma etc. as the treatment procedures. There are many drugs that are prescribed for the said condition. They have opposite qualities to that of Vata. Among the preparations, the Vishatinduka Vati is extensively used, the active ingredient of which is Kupilu. Thus, the action of Kupilu should be assessed for the said condition.

Keywords: Gridhrasi, Sciatica, Kupilu, Strychnus Nux Vomica, Vata Vyadhi.

INTRODUCTION

Gridhrasi is a disease of Vataja origin. Due to indulgence in the Vatakaraka nidana, there is vitiation of Vata that also particularly Apana Vata which creates trouble at Sfigpradesh followed by Kati, Prishta, Uru, Janu, Jangha, Pada¹. Sometimes, it is Kapha that is viciated and thus causes the obstruction in the movement of Vata. Hence, an Avaranajanya pathology leading to the pain and stiffness of the lower back along with other Kaphaja features like Aruchi, Tandra and Gourava². Here Ama also plays an important role in pathogenesis and the condition of Agni seems to be diminished. The day today routines of modern society are source of degeneration, Vatavriddhi and Agnimandya, Avarana etc. so the disease concept study will be useful for present day.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

To study Literary aspects of *Gridhrasi* and the possible mode of action of drug *Kupilu* in its management.

DISEASE DESCRIPTION:

There are eighty types of *Vatavyadhi*, amongst which the *Gridhrasi* is one important one³. The disease is described in *Brihat-trayi*, *Laghu-trayi*.

NIDANA:

Vata gets vitiated by two ways viz. *Dhatukshaya* and *Margavarana*⁴. So, the various *Vata prakopaka hetus* are divided likewise.

The particular causative factors of *Gridhrasi* are not mentioned in the classics. The general causes of *vatavyadhi* are considered as the causes of *Gridhrasi*.

The *Vata prakopaka hetus* found in different *samhitas*^{5 6 7} are written as under:

Aharaj Causes:

Ruksha, Sheeta, Laghu, Khara, etc. are the inherent properties of Vatadosha. In Gridhrasi, it is manifested by the stiffness produced in the Kandara of the leg as Rukshaguna is Kathinyakara. Rukshaguna affects the Asthigata sneha i.e. Majjadhatu in Gridhrasi. Stambhana is the karma of Sheetaguna. Laghuguna is exactly opposite to Guru guna and does Lekhana karma. Charak has stated that Atiyoga of Katu rasa causes pain in limbs, Prishtha etc. along with Kampa, Toda, Bheda etc⁸. Tikta rasa when used exclusively, by virtue of its Ruksha, Khara, Vishadaguna affects Rasa, Rakta, Mamsa, Meda, Asthi and Majja dhatu and produces Vatavyadhies. Kashaya rasa also has Khara and Vishada guna and produces Stambhana and Vatavyadhies when consumed excessively⁹

Viharaj Causes:

Ativyavaya causes Apanavata prakopa which is the main culprit in Gridhrasi, while Vegavarodha, Ratrijagran and Divaswapan are other factors.

Manasika Causes:

In conditions of *Shoka, Chinta, Bhaya* etc. *Vata* is vitiated ¹⁰.

Miscellaneous Factors:

Excessive emaciation due to other diseases leads to *Dhatukshaya* which in turn provocates *vata*. If *Ama* is produced by *Agnimandya* and it combines with *Vata*, the *Vata samshrishta ama* is capable of producing many *Vatavyadhies*¹¹. Thus, when *Apana vata* is combined with *Ama, Gridhrasi* may be produced. *Vata* gets vitiated by the *Avarana* of other *doshas*, *dhatus* etc. It produces obstruction to the normal *gati* of *vata*.

SAMPRAPTI:

Because of the *samprapti vishesh*, the same *nidanas* produce different *vatavyadhies*. This is because the presentation of the disease changes according to the *sthana* where *dosha-dushya sammurchhana* takes place¹².

This *Dhatukshaya* results into the aggravation of *Vata* and this vitiated *Vata* fills up the empty *Srotasas* ultimately causing *Vatavyadhi*¹³. The second type of *samprapti* takes place by *Santarpana* causing

Margavarodha. Here Kapha is found as Anubandhi dosha along with vata. De-arranged Jatharagni leads to formation of Ama. Ama produces obstruction to the normal gati of Vata. To overcome the resistance vata attempts to function hyper dynamically. This leads to vataprakopa. Also, when the Amasamshristavayu resides at Kati, Prishtha etc. Gridhrasi may be produced¹⁴.

Acharya *Charak* has mentioned that rogas of *snayu*, *sira and kandara* be treated like *Vataroga Chikitsa*¹⁵. Thus, from the above description involvement of *rasa*, *rakta*, *mansa*, *meda* and mainly *asthi*, *majja dhatus*, *kandaras*, *siras* and *snayus* in the disease *Gridhrasi* is obvious.

POORVARUPA:

Avyaktrupa of the lakshana themselves¹⁶.

RUPA:

Acharya Charaka has listed Ruka, Toda, Stambha and Muhuspandana as the cardinal symptoms¹⁷. To be more precise about the track of pain. Also, Sakthikshepa nigraha is added to the list of cardinal signs by Acharya Vagbhata¹⁸. Tandra, Gaurav, Aruchi, Bhaktadwesha, Mukhapraseka etc. are the lakshanas of vata-kaphaj Gridhrari¹⁹. Vitiated doshas when affect Snayu, Sira and Kandara, Stambha, Sphurana and Supti are produced²⁰. This process when takes place in lower limb, Gridhrasi is produced.

CHIKITSA:

Charaka mentions siravedha between the Kandara & Gulfa, basti (anuvasana & niruha) and agnikarma as the line of treatment for Gridhrasi²¹. Sushrut, being the master of Shalya-tantra has advised only siravedha at janu after flexion²². Siravedha four angula above or below janu is mentioned for Gridhrasi in Ashtanga Hridaya²³. The common line of treatment of Vatadosha is also applicable here. Vagbhat has stated that Sneha, Sweda, Mruda Samshodhana along with Madhur, Amla, Lavana dravyas. Veshtana, Trasana, Madya, sneha siddha with deepan and pachan drugs, mansarasa and Anuvasana basti pacify the vata²⁴. Basti stays at Pakwashaya, but due to its virya, acts on the doshas from top to toe and scabs off the doshas from kati,

prishtha, kostha etc. and removes them through anus²⁵. Snehabasti strengthens pada, jangha, uru, kati, prishtha²⁶.

DRUG DESCRIPTION: VISHMUSHTI (Seed):

Kupilu (Vishmushti) consists of dried seed of Strychnosnux-vomica Linn. (Fam. Fabaceae), a tree, upto a height of 9 to 15 m found throughout tropical parts of the country upto 360 multitude in the moist deciduous forest. Seed is poisonous and can produce ill effects²⁷.

PROPERTIES AND ACTION:

Rasa: Katu, Tikta.

Guna: Laghu, Ruksha, Ushna

Virya : Ushna, Vipaka : Katu,

Karma: Grahi, Madakaraka, Vatalam, Kaphanshaka,

Vranashodhana, Parama

Vedanahara, Rujahara, Jantunashana²⁸.

SAMPRAPTI VIGHATAN:

As we know that "samprapti vighatan meva chikitsa". As per samprapti, it is clear that the pathology is mainly two types i.e. one through pure vata-vitiation and another through avarana or margavarodha of vata by Kaphadosha. Here the Kupilu will act in a certain way. The katu, tiktaras and Katu Vipaka are Kapha shamaka along with Kshna virya which is vatakapha shamaka. Ruksha and laghu guna will check kapha while Ushna guna will check Vata kapha. The nadi-uttajekprabhav will lead to the better movement of Vatadosha across the body. The Ushna Viryacan improves the Keval Vataj condition too. In this way, Kupilu will do the samprapti vighatan. Thus, can be taken as a good drug in said condition principally.

ACTIVE PRINCIPLES:

CONSTITUENTS- Alkaloids, Indole Alkaloids, Strychnine & Brucine, Monoterpenoid Glycoside (Loganin), α , β -Colubrine, Vomicine²⁸.

PHARMACOLOGICAL & BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES:

Antinociceptive:

Nux vomica seeds extract has been used in various analgesic preparations of traditional Chinese medicine. Using tail-pressure, hotplate and acetic acidinduced writhing tests models, the intraperitoneal administration of crude alkaloid fractions (CAF) and processed alkaloidal fractions (PAF) of nux vomica seeds extract exhibited antinociception potential in mice; however, PAF showed stronger antinociception than CAF²⁹. Using the same models, the transdermal administration of modified total alkaloid fractions (MTAF) containing low strychnine and high brucine was significantly improved the analgesic activity in compared to the total alkaloidal fractions (TAF). Strychnine possessed little antinociceptive property; however, brucine and brucine N-oxide showed strong antinociceptive potential. It has been also demonstrated that the transdermal absorption of brucine of MTAF was significantly higher than brucine alone, which might account somewhat for the higher antinociceptive potential of MTAF. Therefore, it has been postulated that antinociceptive potential of nux vomica seed extract might be due to a synergistic effect of low-level strychnine with brucine and brucine N-oxide which might attributed by the inhibition of cyclooxygenase (COX) and monoamine oxidase activities 30 31.

Anti-inflammatory:

A number of different solvent extracts from different parts of S. nux vomica have shown anti-inflammatory activity in different test models. Mitra *et al.* reported the significant anti-inflammatory activity of raw and purified seed extract of this plant against formaldehyde induced hind paw edema in rats³². In a more recent study, the MTAF of nux vomica seeds extract with a low strychnine content showed 1.8 times higher anti-inflammatory potential than that of total alkaloid fraction (TAF) at the dosage of 1 mg/kg body weight against xylene-induced ear edema in rats. Alkaloids of nux vomica seeds such strychnine, brucine and brucine N-oxide were reported as primary active compounds exhibited significant anti-inflammatory activ-

ity. Brucine and brucine N-oxide showed higher antiinflammatory potential than that of strychnine; since brucine N-oxide was found to more active than that of brucine³³.

Neuropharmacological:

Nux-vomica crude extract rarely used in clinical practice, as such due to the high content of strychnine, but still it widely used in the alternative medicine system after processing. Studies showed that the subconvulsive dose of processed seed extract (125 mg/kg) significantly inhibited the pentylenetetrazole-induced convulsions and potentiated barbiturate induced hypnosis in animals and the facts are indicative of CNS depressant action of processed seed extract of nux vomica. It was also seen that processed seed extract antagonized the morphine induced catalepsy in rats which may justify the clinical use of nux vomica in muscular rigidity³⁴. Further, the brucine was found to allosteric enhancers of acetylcholine binding to the muscarinic 1 receptor by 2-fold³⁵

PRECAUTIONS:

It should be taken in indicated dosage after being processed with proper *shodhana* procedures otherwise being a poisonous substance, it can prove fatal³⁶.

CONCLUSION

In *Ayurveda*, the drug *Kupilu* has been used in practice in *Gridhrasi* so the drug was studied for its pharmacological properties and actions. There are several evident studies conducted that prove its efficacy. The sciatica is a painful condition with much prevalence in society and is treatable in *Ayurveda* system. The treatment of *Gridhrasi* in other systems of medicine is not very effective so an attempt was made to do the pharmacological study on effect of *Kupilu* on *Gridhrasi* which showed a good result principally. Further, clinical studies are required for complete evaluation.

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