ROLE OF PANCHA SHIRISHA AGAD IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DADRU KUSTHA: A REVIEW

Trupti Mahapatra¹, S. R. Inchulkar², Sangeeta Bhagat³

¹P.G. Scholar, ²Professor & HOD, ³Lecturer,
Department of Agad Tantra Evam Vidhi Ayurved, Govt Ayurvedic College, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

Corresponding Author: trupti1.mayee@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Skin is the priority of every human but in our modern era the changing of lifestyle creating various types of disorder in body including skin disorders. There is a definite increase in its incidence especially in tropical and developing countries like India due to various reasons. In Ayurveda science all kind of skin disorder are included under kustha which is classified into two types – Kshudra and Maha Kustha. Dadru is described under kshudra kustha. In modern science clinical presentation of Dadru can be compared with dermatophytosis. It’s caused by species of pathogenesis related to fungi (dermatophytes) having itching, scaling, erythema with the lesions discoid in shape. To control the effect of the disease other systems of medicine have greatly advanced, particularly in skin disorders there is no specifics medicaments for sure cure in skin disorder but symptomatic treatments like steroids are used, but they produce serious a lot of side effects in our body externally as well as internally. Ayurveda deals with the treatment which demolish the root cause by balancing the Dosha, Dhatu of body. In Charak shamita Panch shirisha Agad is described for the management of Dushi Visha (cumulative toxicity). In Agad tantra Dadru (Twak vikara) is one of the symptoms of Dushi Visha. So here an effort is made to see the review on role of Panchasirisha Agad in the management of Dadru kustha.
Keywords: Dadru kustha, Ring worm (Dermatophytosis), Pancha shirisha Agad, Dushi Visha etc.

INTRODUCTION

The skin is the largest organ of our body covering the entire body surface besides reflecting youth and aged, color and complexion. It performs multiple functions: Protection against mechanical trauma, UV light and infections, thermoregulation, conversion and excretion of fluid, sensory perception and is an organ for synthesis of Vitamin – D from sun light.1

According to Ayurveda Twak is formed by the Paka(metabolism) of Rakta Dhatu (i.e. blood).3 The Pitta situated in skin is known as Bhrajak Pitta, which absorbs drugs applied externally in the forms of Abhyanga, Parisheka and Lepana (Massage bath, dipping, paste ).4 According to Ayurveda function of Twacha can be summarized as:

- Seat of Bhrajak Pitta.
- Seat of Sparshendriya.
- Twacha is the Upadhatu of Mansha Dhatu (i.e. muscle).
- Twacha not only helps to understand touch sensation but it also covers the whole body.
- Functioning of thermostat through sweat channels (Swedavahi Shroatas).

Dadru/ Dermatophytosis: Dadru can be correlated in modern science as dermatophytosis. Dermatophytes are fungi capable of causing superficial skin infections known as ringworm or dermatophytosis. The causative fungi belong to the genera (microsporum, tricophytum and epidermophtum). They can originate from soil (geophilicy) or animals (zoophilicy) or be confined to human skin (anthropophilicy). Clinical forms of cutaneous infection include Tinea porphorisis (involvement of the body having red scaly rashes), Tinea capitis (scalp involvement), Tinea cruris (growing involvement), Tinea pedies (involvement of the feet) and Onychomycosis (involvement of nail).5

Kustha is considered as one of the Asthamahagada.6 Dadru is one of the commonly occurring skin disease which have been included under the Maha kustha by Acharya Sushruta7 and Vagbhatta7 and majority of other authors considered it among the kshudra kustha. According to Dalhana, commentary on Sushruta Shamita Dadru can be classified into two – Sita and Asita8. Dalhana interprets that Dadru mentioned by Sushruta under Maha Kustha must be Asita type of Dadru because its chronicity affects the Dhatus one after the other gradually associated with excessive pain. Dadru which is enumerated by Acharya Charaka under Khudra Kustha must be Sita type because of non-involvement of Tridosha.9 As Charaka and Vagbhata included Shritisha (Albitizia lebbeck (Linn.) as Vishaghan and Kusthagna Dravya.10 so here a review for Pancha Shirisha Agad for the management of Dadru Kustha. Based on co-relation of symptomatology, most of the scholars compared Dadru with dermatophytes though in modern perspective it comes under superficial fungal infection of the skin i.e. Ringworm. The most common dermatological manifestation affecting up to 15% of world’s population in all age groups.

Materials and Method: This paper is based on textbook of Ayurveda like Brihataryi, Laghutaryi, Kriya sharia Sharira, Kaya Chikitsa etc. along with Modern textbooks and various websites to collect information on the relevant topics.

Management: Lepa means the one which is used for external application. Medicines that are in the form of a paste and used for external application, usually applied against the hair follicular direction, this facilitates the quicker absorption of the drug potency through Romakupa (Hair roots), Swedavahini (sweat glands) and Siramukha (Blood capillaries) 11.
Sirisha (Albizia lebbeck Linn.) is one of the drugs of choice of many Yogas by different Acharyas. Acharya Charaka and Vagbhata considered it as the drug of choice for anti-toxicity. It can be given singly or combined with many other drugs. Pancha Shirisha Agad is described by Acharya Charaka in Visha Chikitsa for external application to reduced toxicity. Almost in all Ayurveda Samhita, found Sirisha as the drug of choice as Vishghna as well as Kusthaghna. The Pancha Sirisha Yoga is mainly effective because of its Prabhava (synergic action).

**Rasa Pancakh of Shirisha (Albizia lebbeck Linn.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rasa</th>
<th>Guna</th>
<th>Veerya</th>
<th>Vipaka</th>
<th>Karma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kashaya, Tikta, Madhura</td>
<td>Laghu, Rukshya</td>
<td>Anushna</td>
<td>Katu</td>
<td>Tridosha hara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to the prabhava, Sirisha (Albizia lebbeck Linn.) is used as Vishaghna. Chemical Constituents & Properties: It’s’ having the properties like anti-inflammatory, anti-histaminic, anti-fungal, anti-microbial, anodyne and restorative in the plant. Chemical constituents of the plant: the bark yields tannins of condensed type viz. D-catechin, isomers of leucocyanidine and melacacidin. It also gives beta-sitosterol. Seeds gave calcium, phosphorus, iron, ascorbic acid, histidine and valine. The flowers contain lupeol and a pigment similar to crocetin. The bark is astringent, bitter, acidic, sweet, mildly thermogenic. It’s useful in vitiated conditions of vata and pitta. skin eruptions, leprosy, leukoderma, wounds, ulcer, inflammation. The seeds are used in skin diseases like leprosy, leukoderma, and poisoning. Review of Shusruta Samhita found different yogas having Sirisha (Albizia lebbeck Linn.) as an ingredient used in Dadru. Acharya Charaka also described different Lepas as Kusthaghna as well as Vishaghna having Sirisha (Albizia lebbeck Linn.) in it.

**Mode of Action:** Lepa is Vahiparimarjana chikitsa (external therapies). This treatment method is specially meant for the Twakgata vikaras (skin disorders). The Lepa chikitsa also facilitates the expulsion of the Doshas locally hence, Pancha Shirisha Agad is used as Lepa. From the chemical composition having histidine, melacacidin, leucocyanidine, catechin, of the drug which have the properties of anti-fungal, so it can be used in skin infections. According to Modern medical science, warm & humid climate, is the chief cause of Tinea infection. Hence the shape of the lesions is not same everywhere.it differs by depending upon climate and environment.

**DISCUSSION**

There are many Agada Yogas these Yogas mainly acts because of its Prabhava(synergic action). In Ashtanga Hridayaya while explaining about Agroushadha it is mentioned that Sirisha is the best medicine for Visha(poison) and Acharya Charaka described as Lepa which act as Kusthaghna. The Lakshanas (symptoms) of Dadru can be observed like Kandu, Pidaka, Raaga, and also Rooksha, Daha, Visarpini .In this review common causative factor of this disease like The factors aggravating Some amount of mild toxin is enfeebled by intrinsic and extrinsic factor remains latent in dhatus (tissues) and labeled as Dushi Visha(cumulative toxicity) like Dooshitha Desa, Kaala (polluted land and atmosphere), Anna (toxic food), Divaswapna (day sleep). Dushi Visha on vitiation produced toxicity all over body skin is the external source so it affects the most. Today’s changed lifestyle like irregular diet, pollution, stress, hormonal changes are directly increasing toxicity level in the body which effect the skin and causes many skin diseases (Dermo fungal infection). According to Modern medical science, warm & humid climate, is the chief cause of Tinea infection. Hence the shape of the lesions is not same everywhere.it differs by depending upon climate and environment.
CONCLUSION

Dadru (dermatophytosis) requires a proper methodological treatment though it is a curable disorder of skin. In various Shamitas Shirisha described under Vishaghna as well as Kusthghna formulation. Acharaya Charaka described a chapter About Vahirparimarajaniya Chikitsa there is also description of Shirisha as a best Vishaghna and Kusthghna drug. Hence the above review concluded that Pancha Shirisha Agad may be very effective in Dadru (Dermatophytosis/Ring worm).

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