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A CRITICAL STUDY OF ANNAVAHA SROTAS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS DEVELOPMENTAL ANATOMY

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda has its holistic approach to understanding the *Purush Sharir* by different theories like *the Srotas*, the concept of *Srotas* is a unique contribution in the understanding of the anatomy of the human body. There is a description of *Srotas* by 13 Acharya Charak and 11 pairs of *Srotas* by Acharya Sushrut, both Acharyas described *Annavaha Srotas* and its Moolas. *Acharya Dhanwantari* all parts of the body formed at the same time due to *Vayu. Vayu* along with *Pitta* demarcates channels according to purpose; similarly, entering *Mamsa* (flesh) demarcates muscles. *Matrija Bhava* and *PitrajBhav* are helpful in the origin of *Annavaha Srotas*. In the classics, *Acharya* says about three Pillars of life viz *Ahara*, *Nidra* and *Brahamacarya*. *Ahara* is a basic need of all living things. Annavaha Srotas is one of the types of *Srotas* described in all important *Samhita*.

Keywords: Annavaha Srotas, Sroto Moola, Annavahidhamni, Amashaya and Vamparshava

INTRODUCTION

Ayurvedic classics proclaim "Srotomayam hi Shariram" means the living body is a channel system comprised of innumerable channels which are designed as an inner transport system for divergent functions. Srotas is used as a generic term indicating all the macro channels and pathways in a living organism. Srotas is mentioned in various Ayurvedic literature. Srotas meaning channels or pores that are present throughout the visible body as well as in "invisible" or subtle levels of the cell, molecules, atoms, and subatomic strata. It is through these channels that nutrients and other substances are transported in and out of our physiologies. In Srotas, two entities are described in terms of body organs and are described as Srotomoola (Root of Srotas). The Srotomoola can be compared with the roots of the tree. Any injury to the roots leads to the destruction of the tree similarly injury to Srotomoola can affect the whole Srotas. So Moolas can be the physiological and anatomical controlling centre of the Srotas. In the classics, Acharya says about three Pillars of life viz Ahara, Nidra, and Brahamacarya. Ahara is a basic need of all living things. Human is trying to get food every day. Ahara gives energy to the body. Acharyas describe Annavaha Srotas as especially important Vital of the body. It is Moola Sthana are Amashaya, Vamparshva and Annavahi Dhamnis. In modern literature, Annavaha Srotas can be correlated with the gastrointestinal tract. Annavaha srotas and their components deal with the transportation of food materials. The gastrointestinal tract (GIT) arises initially during the process of gastrulation from the endoderm of the trilaminar embryo and extends from the buccopharyngeal membrane to the cloacal membrane. The track and associated organs later have a contribution from all the germ cell layers.

AIM & OBJECTIVES

- To Collect, Compile and Analyse the Literature Srotas given Annavaha Srotas in Ayurvedic Classics
- To Study the Embryological Development Of GIT.
- To Study the Variation and Abnormality During Embryological Development Of GIT.

PLAN OF STUDY

- All the literature regarding Annavaha Srotas and Annavaha Srotomula will be explored to arrive at a feasible conclusion.
- Collection of the literature finds and attempt to make a correlation between Ayurved classics and modern anatomy.

NIRUKTI

The word *Srotas* is derived from the Sanskrit root "*SRU GATAU*" *Dhatu*. The term *Srotas* means secreting, filtering, flowing, moving, oozing etc.

SROTAS PARYAY [SYNONYMS]

Acharya Charak has mentioned the synonyms of Srotas are Srotansi, Sira, Dhamani, Rasayani, Rasavahini, Nadi, Panth, Marga, Shariracchidra, Samvrit, Asamvrita, Sthana, Ashaya and Niketa⁵.

Acharya Vagabhatt has described the synonym of Srotas in Ashtang Samgrah Sharir Sthan 6th chapter. These are Srotansi, Sira, Dhamani, Rasavahini, Nadi, Panth, Ayna, Marga, Shariracchidra, Samvrit, Asamvrita, Sthana, Ashyayaand Niketa⁶.

SROTAS AAKRATI:-7

Colour- According to *Acharya Charak*, *Srotas* have their colour like that *Dhatu* which transported through it.

Size- Anu (Microscopic), Sthula (Macroscopic)

Shape- Vritta (Cylindrical), Dirgha (Long), Pratana (Reticulated)

SROTAS BHED [TYPES]:-Different texts of *Ayurveda* classified *Srotas* as (Table no.-1)

Table 1

Acharya Charak ¹	Acharya Sushrut		Asthang Hridaya ²	Sharangdhar ³	Kashyap ⁴
Pranavahasrotas	Bahirmukhsrotas ⁵	Antarmukha Sro-	1.Bahirmukhsrotas	Bahirmukhsrotas	1.Mahat –9 In
Udakvahasrotas		tas/YogvahiSrotas-11	– 9 in male and 12 in	10 in male and 13	males and 12 in
Annavahasrotas		pairs ⁶	female same as Ma-	in female. Addi-	female same as
Rasavahasrotas	9 in male and 12 in	1.Pranavahasrotas	harishi Sushrut	tional Bahirmu-	Bahirmukh sro-
Raktavahasrotas	female, they are –	2.Udakvahasrotas	2.Antarmukha	khsrotas in both	tas of Sushrut
Manshavahasrotas	1. Netra-2	3.Annavahasrotas	Srotas13-same	male & female	2.SukshmaNabhi
Medovahasrotas	2. Karana-2	4.Rasavahasrotas	asAcharya Charak	named as	and Romkoop
Asthivahasrotas	3. Nasika–2	5.Raktavahasrotas		Brahmrandh.	
Majjavahasrotas	4. Mukha – 1	6.Manshavahasrotas			
Shukravaashrotas	5. Guda-1	7.Medovahasrotas			
Mutravahasrotas	6. Mutramarg-	8.Shukravahasrotas			
Purishvahasrotas	1and 3 extras12	9.Mutravahasrotas			
Swedavahasrotas	in females	10.Purishvahasrotas			
	7. Stanya-	11. Aartavvhasrotas			
	2Apatyamarg -1.				

Acharya Charak has also described Manovaha Srotas in different references.

GENERAL CAUSES OF SROTODUSHTI

Acharya charak has mentioned general causes of srotodushti in Viman Sthan 5th chapter Srotovimaniya and explained that food and conduct which is like gunas of Vatadi Doshas and opposite to Gunas of Dhatus are the causes of Srotodushti.⁷

Acharya Sushrut has not stated the general causes of Srotodushti.

Acharya *Vagbhata* has described *Srotodushti* like *Acharya Charak*.

GENRAL SYMPTOMS OF SROTODUSHTI AND SROTOVIDDHA

Symptoms of *Srotodushti* are *Atipravriti*, *Sango*, *Siragranthi* and *VimargGaman*.⁸

Acharya Sushrut has not mentioned the general symptoms of Srotodushti and Srotoviddha.

Both the *Vagbhata* unanimously agrees with *Acharva Charak* for the reason of *Srotodushti*.

ANNAVAHA SROTAS

Annavaha Srotas is obtained from two words i.e., Anna and Srotas. Anna such as Ashita, Peeta, Leedha and Bhakshya are necessary for life. Anna is essential for life existing. This Srotas of the body is the channel that carries the food undergoing biochemical changes and metabolism. According to Acharya Charak Anna is the Prana of the living being and

Varna, Prasannata, Swara, Jivana, Pratibha (imagination), Sukha (happiness), Santosh, Pushti, Bala, Medha are all dependent on Anna. ⁹Acharya Charak again mentioned Pathya and Apathy, Aahar which is not harmful to Paths of the Sharir, or Mann is Pathya and Aahar which is harmful to Paths of the Sharir, or Mann is called as Apathy. ¹⁰In the Shusrut Samhita Sharir Sthan 3rd chapter Acharya Dhanvantri said that all the parts of the body are formed at the same time due to Vayu. These are very subtle in shape, so are not easily seen through the naked eyes. ¹¹Achary Shushrut has described that the Srotas are differentiated from Vata which is associated with Pitta. ¹²

During *Jivotpati* as mentioned by *Acharya Sushruta*, *Aantra* is formed along *Guda* and *Basti* by the *Saara* of *Rakta* and *Kapha* is acted upon by *Pitta* followed by rushing of *Vayu*.¹³A detailed narration of the *AnnavahaSrotas* is available in *Charak Samhita*. *Acharya Charak* has explained 13 *Srotas* in *Srotoviman* chapter 5 of *Viman Sthan* and *Annavaha Srotas* is one of them.¹⁴ *Acharya charaka* said that *Anna* is *Prana* of the living beings and *Varna*, *Prasannata*, *Swara*, *Jivana*, *Pratibha*, *Sukha* and *Santosa* all are dependent on tha *Anna*. ¹⁵ *AnnavahaSrotas* have their origin in *Amasaya* and *vamparshva*. The symptoms of their vitiation are these-such as *Annanaabhilasha*, *Aruchi*, *Avipaka* and *Chhardi* indicate the affection of *Annavaha Srotas*. ¹⁶ *Acharya Charak* further described

in the context of the *Hikka* and *Shwasa*. In this *Vata* along with *Kapha* obstructs the *Pranavaha*, *Udakavaha* and *Annavaha* Srotas thus produce *Hikaa*.¹⁷*Acharya Sushruta* has also explained the *Annavaha Srotas* in chapter 9th *Dhamni Vyakarna* in *Sharir Sthan*. *Ashita*, *khadit*, *pittam* and *lidha* having reached the *Annavaha Srotas* are digested under the influence of the heat of Pitta within an appropriate time. The process of digestion depends on the heaviness and lightness of food intake which varies with time. ¹⁸

Food carrying channels are two with their roots being *Amasaya* and *Annavahi Dhamanis*, if injured, it causes *Addhayaman*, *Shula*, *Annadwesha*, *Chhardi*, *Pipasa*, *Andhya* and *Maran*. ¹⁹Sushruta has mentioned that when *Pitta* stays in the *Annavaha Srotas* it becomes *Vidagdha* due to *Vidahi – Avidhahi anna*. ²⁰

SYNONYMS OF ANNAVAHA SROTAS

In Ayurvedic text, there are many terms Amashaya, Annamarg, Amapakvashaya, Kostha, Paktimarga, Bhaktamarga, Mahasrotas etc. are used in the sense of Annavah Srotas. Acharya Charak described the Annavaha Srotas in the Viman Sthan, Sharir Sthan and Chikitsha Sthan while describing the pathology of Hikka due to obstruction in Annavaha Nalika. Kostha is also called Mahasrotas which includes Amashaya and Pakvashaya. Antahkostha diseases are Vaman, Atisar, Kasa, Shwasa, Udara and Jwar etc. Acharya Charak while dealing with the Trayorogamarga in Sutra Sthana has given certain synonyms representing the Kostha in the body i.e., Mahasrotas, Sharirmadhya, Mahanimna and Ama-Pakvashaya. 2,23

The Moolasthana of Annavahasrotas Acharuya Charaka has mentioned Moolasthana of AnnavahaSrotas as Amashaya and Vaama parshwa²⁴. Maharishi Sushruta has described "Annavaha dwe" which means Annavaha Srotas are two in number. Further, he mentioned Amashaya and Annavahi Dhamanies as the Moolasthana of the Annavaha Srotas²⁵. Ghanekar in his commentary had accepted the Annapranali and Kshudrantra. He explains that is Annapranali transports Anna to Ammashaya and after

that *Kshudrantra* is the place where *Anna* is transported from *Amashaya*, and it is digested.

AMASHAYA STHAN

According to Acharya Charak Amashaya is situated between Nabhi And Stana.26 The food in the Amashaya gets digested by the Agni and later categorizes Anna into Rasa and Mala like the rice grains with water kept in vessel converted into boiled rice with the help of Agni.²⁷According to Sushruta, Amashya is situated above Pittashaya because of the opposite qualities and upward motion of *Tejas* (Agni) just as the moon is opposite to the sun.²⁸Amashaya is situated below parshva²⁹.Acharya Sushruta further explained that Sushira Snayu is found at the end of Amashya. Sushira means a hard structure with Chhidra.³⁰ Between two Stana occupying the position in the chest at the Amashaya Dwara in Hridya which is the substratum of Sattav, Rajas and Tamas. Two muscles are found in the Amashaya. 31 According to Sharangdhar, Shleshmashaya is situated in Urah and below it lies Amashaya. Bhavaprakash has mentioned that Amashaya is situated below Shleshmashaya. Amashaya is located in between Nabhi and Stana. Chakrapanidatta has divided it into two parts *Urdhwa Amashaya* and *Adhoha Amashaya*.

ANNAVAHI DHAMANI

According to Acharya Shusruta Annavahi Dhamani is considered as Moola of the Annavaha Srotas. Acharya Ghanekar said that Annavah Dhamani is Annanalika and Kshudrantra. 32 According to Acharya Charak, after digestion the final essence part of Aahara i.e. Anahara Rasa is distributed to all parts of the body through Dhamanies. 33 Charak has also described Kshudrantra in the context of Kosthang, but a detailed description of its function is not available, only a description of Pittadhara Kala or Grahani is available. Kshudrantra is the seat of Pittadhara kala. 34

According to *Sushruta* part between *Amashaya* and *Pakvashaya* is indicated as *Kshudrantra*.

Bhava Prakash has used the word Pachkashya for Grahani.

✓ According to *Acharya Charak* it is situated above the *Nabhi* and below the *Amashaya*.³⁵

- ✓ Acharya Sushruta said that it is known as Pittadharakala and situated the Amashaya and above the Pakvashaya.³⁶
- ✓ According to Acharya Vagbhatta, it is situated between *Amashaya* and *Pakhvasaya*, this sixth *Kala* is known as *PittadharaKala*.³⁷

SROTO DUSHTI AND VIDDHA LAKASHANA

Annavaha Srotamsi gets vitiated due to untimely intake of excessive quantity of apathya food and impairment of Jatharagni. Symptoms of Annavaha Srotomoola Dusthi and Sroto Viddha lakashana of Annavaha Srotas are as described below. According to Acharya Charaka Annavaha Srotas have their Moolasthan in Amasaya and vamparshva. The symptoms of their vitiation are these-such as Annanaabhilasha, Aruchi, Avipaka and Chhardi indicate the affection of Annavaha Srotas³⁸. According to Acharya Shusruta Food carrying channels are two with their roots being Amasaya and Annavahi Dhamanis, if injured, it causes Addhayaman, Shula, Annadwesha, Chhardi, Pipasa, Andhya and Maran. ³⁹

Modern view: Gastrointestinal tract is one of the most important systems in the body. It delivers nutrition to all cells in the body. It consists of the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, duodenum, small intestine.

The embryology of the human digestive system and the body cavities concerns the epithelium of the digestive system and the parenchyma of its derivatives, which originate from the endoderm. During the 4th week, the three distinct regions are foreguts, midgut, hindgut. extend the length of the embryo and contribute a different component of the git. The oral cavity is formed by the breakdown of the buccopharyngeal membrane. the large midgut is generated by lateral embryonic folding which pinches off a pocket of the yolk sac. the hindgut will later be divided into a separate urogenital and rectal region that ends at the cloacal membrane⁴⁰.

VEINS OF GIT: These are -Portal Vein, Splenic vein, Superior mesenteric vein, Left gastric vein,

right gastric vein, Cystic veins, Superior Mesenteric Vein, Inferior Mesenteric Vein, Splenic Vein etc.

DEVELOPMENT OF GESTRO INTESTINAL TRACT

The whole gestation period is subdivided into 3 stages (a) Germinal, (b) Embryonic and (c) Fetal period.

- (a) Germinal Period- It extends from the 1st to the 3rd week of development and begins at fertilization. This period includes cleayage division of the zygote and formation of morula, blastocyst and its implantation, differentiation of trophoblast and chorion appearance of bilaminar and trilaminar germ disc.
- **(b) Embryonic period-** This period extends from the 4th to the 8th week and is characterized by the changes of shape and external appearance of the embryo. Each of the three germ layers undergoes individual differentiation and most of the tissues and organs of the body are formed.
- **(c) Fetal period-** It extends from the 3rd month up to termination of pregnancy. This period is characterized by the rapid growth of the fetus without much tissue differentiation and complete development of the placenta.

CADAVERIC STUDY

The dissection of the gastrointestinal tract was carried out on a human cadaver following the guidelines of Cunningham's practical anatomy, Grant's dissector and other applicable manuals. The cadaveric study was carried out on the 6 cadavers in the Department of Rachna Sharir at Pt. KLS Ayurveda college, Bhopal. With the help of dissection instruments as per dissector. The dissection work had been performed in freshly preserved male and female cadavers which were a middle-aged group. The surface marking of the thorax region and abdominal region was clear and the skin in that region was soft smooth but without glare. Give required incisions and separate the superficial skin, subcutaneous tissue, fascia, muscles etc. and reached into the GI tract. Remove GI tract structures and then further study as per dissection guidelines in detail.

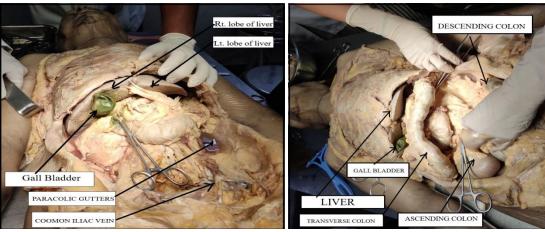


Figure 1: Abdominal cavity Dissection

Figure 2: liver, transverse colon and ascending

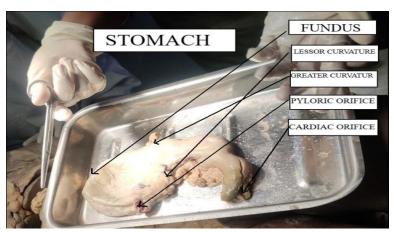


Figure 3: External features of stomach

DISCUSSION

This Discussion entitled section comprises many subheadings. Each subheading has Ayurvedic and Modern literature along with an elaborate discussion on Srotas, Srotmoola, Annavaha Srotas and Annavaha Srotas Moolas as per Ayurvedic literature from different sources. The discussion on the development of Annavaha Srotas as per the Ayurvedic literature and modern anatomy. Discussion on Sadbhavas of fetus related to the development of AnnavahaSrotas. Discussion of Utpatti of Sarvpratham Anga in Garbha, different Acharyas expressed their views in the view of Annavaha Srotas. Discussion on Bijansa is responsible for the formation of each structure in the body. Any defect in the Bijansa, Bijabhaga or Bijabhagavyav formed structure has a congenital defect in it. Here Acharya indicates that the Bijanasa

dushti form the various developmental abnormalities of the fetus. Here are the defects that take place during embryogenesis that affect the GI tract.

CONCLUSION

With the help of discussion and analysis through all possible points of view, the conclusion has been drawn. The *Srotas* can be considered as the anatomical structure of the body, which are tubes, pores, openings etc. and provide nourishment to the body. *Srotas* can be correlated with be a capillary network of the body. The function of transportation and digestion of food is regulated by a passage called *Annavaha Srotas* in modern anatomy it can be correlated with the part of Git from the oral cavity up to the ileocecal junction. The *Moolasthan* of *Annavaha Srotas* is *Amashaya* which can be correlated with the stom-

ach. The Vama Parshwa can be considered as the left hypochondrium region of the abdomen cavity. Annavahi Dhamani can be correlated with the tributaries superior mesenteric vein. The Panchmahabhuta, Akasha Mahabhut forms the lumen, Vayu Mahabhut responsible for the movement, Agni Mahabhut is the secretions like enzymes, acids, jala mahabhut is the mucus part and Prithvi Mahabhut forms the walls of the whole GIT. Garbha is formed by Matraj Bhav are responsible for the formation of the soft organs like the liver, stomach intestine etc., and Pitraj Bhav are responsible for the formation of arteries and veins of Annavaha Srotas. The part of the Annavaha Srotas simultaneously developed from the foregut and midgut. The defect in Bijansa, Bijabhaga and Bijabhagavyav leads to a congenital defect of the fetus and the same is responsible for developmental defects in the gastrointestinal tract.

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