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A CRITICAL REVIEW OF RASA PRADOSAJ VIKAR IN AYURVEDA

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ABSTRACT

The word *Rasa* derived from the root '*Ras*'. And it means 'Movement'; since it is moving constantly it is called *Rasa*¹. As per *Acarya Bhavaprakasa*, the word *Rasa* is derived from the '*Rasa*' which implies 'motions. *Rasa* is said so because in the liquid state it travels throughout the body and is in motion without stopping in the living body. To understand the nutrition of all seven *Dhatus*, three *Nyayas* have been described by *Acharya Chakrapani*. They are known as *Dhatu Posana Nyaya*. Among these first is *Ksirdadhi Nyaya* which is explained with the example of the conversion of milk into curd. Entire milk is converted into curd and curds into buttermilk, similarly, each previous *Dhatu* gets transformed into the next *Dhatu*. Second *Nyaya* which is termed "*Kedarikulya Nyaya*" describes the process with the example of irrigation of the garden by channels of water. When the *Dhatus* are extremely vitiated by the *Dosas* then it is called *Dhatu Pradosaja Vikaras*. *Dhatu Pradosaja Vyadhi* is nothing, but the group of symptoms exhibited due to vitiation of *Dhatu* by *Dosa*. The inclusion of all *Rasa* in the food helps a person to remain healthy because nourishment of the *Dhatus* takes place through this *Ahara*.

Keywords: *Dhatu, Rasa, Nyaya, Vikar, Agnimandya, Dhatu Pradosaja Vikaras.*

INTRODUCTION

A *Dhatu* is an entity that supports the body and also provides nourishment to the body. The imbalance at the level of *Dhatu* (i.e., *Vriddhi & Ksaya*) can be denoted as Dhatu Pradosaja Vikaras. When the Dhatus are extremely vitiated by the Dosas then it is called Dhatu Pradosaja Vikaras. Dhatu Pradosaja Vyadhi is nothing, but the group of symptoms exhibited due to vitiation of Dhatu by Dosa. The inclusion of all Rasa in the food helps a person to remain healthy because nourishment of the Dhatus takes place through this *Ahara*. Excessive indulgence in taking Ahara having dominancy of one or two Rasa will imbalance the conjugation of Mahabhutas in the body and the Sarira will become the shelter of the disease. In clinical practice, the basic principles need to be implemented as described in Samhita, as without proper implementation of the principles, no science can be long-lasting. Hence here an attempt has been made to implement the literary principle of rasa pradosaj vikar in ayurveda to elaborate its applied aspect. Some concepts described in the texts are described in general and need to evaluate on a practical basis to pinpoint their utility and judge their effects. One such concept of Langhana in the management of the Rasa Pradosaja Vikara is selected in this paper.

Rasa Dhatu

After the *Paka* of the *Bhutagni*, the first *Dhatu* who is formed is the *Rasa Dhatu*. As per *Acharya Susruta Nirukti*, the word *Rasa Dhatu* is: The word *Rasa* derived from the root '*Ras*'. And it means 'Movement'; since it is moving constantly it is called *Rasa*¹. As per *Acarya Bhavaprakasa*, the word *Rasa* is derived from the '*Rasa*' which implies 'motions. *Rasa* is said so because in the liquid state it travels throughout the body and is in motion without stopping in the living body².

Utpatti of the Rasa Dhatu:

The *Utpatti* of the *Rasa Dhatu* is broadly described by *Acharya Susruta* - Food composed of *Panchabhutas* (five primary elements- *Prithvi, Apa, Tejas, Vayu, Akasa*), is of four kinds (*Peya, Lehya, Bhojya, Bhaksya*), having six tastes (*Madhura, Amla, Lavana, Katu, Tikta, Kasaya*), two properties (*Sita* and *Usna*)

or eight potencies (*Sita*, *Usna*, *Snigdha*, *Ruksa*, *Manda*, *Tiksna*, *Picchila*, *Visada*), and possessing many properties when ingested undergoes digestion; after proper digestion there arises its vital essence known as "*Rasa*" which is *Suksma* (subtle), hence move through the minute channels of the body³.

Rasa Dhatu (Posya) is formed from the Annarasa (Posaka Dhatu) in Rasavaha Srotas; ⁴. Srotas are the Ayanabhuta, where the Parinamana of the Dhatus are continuously going on and Asthayi Dhatus are converted into the Sthayi Dhatus.

Rasa is of two types⁵: 1) Sthayi Rasa 2) Posaka Rasa These differences are made on the basis of whether the nourishment is being given or being taken. Usually, both the Sthayi and Posaka are described together because they flow in the body together through the same channels, hence as their channels cannot be differentiated, they are usually explained together.

• Time required for *Rasa Utpatti*⁶: The *Annarasa* remains in each *Dhatu* for the period of three thousand and fifteen *Kala*; in this manner, *Rasa* becomes *Sukra* in male and *Artava* in female in the course of one month⁷. As per the commentator *Dalhana*, the formation of *Rasa Dhatu* is completed in one day. The *Annarasa* remains present for 5 days in each *Dhatu* for the formation of that particular *Dhatu*.

Acharya Susruta mentioned that the Sthana of the Rasa Dhatu is Hridaya. With the help of the Chaturvimsati Dhamnis, it is then circulated all over the body. There is no direct reference regarding Sthana of the Rasa Dhatu available in Charaka Samhita, but in the Stroto Vimaniya Adhyaya, the Hridaya, and the Dasa Dhamanis are told as Mula of the Rasavaha Srotas⁸.

Acarya Bhaprakasa says⁹, The Sthana of the Rasa Dhatu is Hridaya, it circulates all over the body from here.

Swarupa of the Rasa Dhatu: The fundamental principles of Ayurveda are based on Panchamahabhuta theory. Certainly, the Rasa Dhatu is also composed of the Panchamahabhuta with a

narrating the treatment of *Trishna* in the same chapter (Trishna Chikitsa) Acharya Charaka stated that Rasa is a derivation of the Apa mahabhuta. In the commentary, Chakrapani clarified that due to the diminution of Rasa Dhatu in the human body the quantity of Ambu also decreases which is the main cause of Trishna. Even in Sarira Sthana¹⁰ while classifying all the biological substances under the heading of Panchabhautika dominancy or according to dominant Mahabhuta. Charaka stated that Rasa is the biological substance which is an Apya Mahabhutika dominant substance. These kinds of substances have qualities like the Drava, Sara, Manda, Snigdha, Picchila, etc. Similar qualities of Rasa are described by Acharya Bhavaprakasa that¹¹, after optimum digestion of the food that is eaten, the Sara part of the essential part of the total substrate will be absorbed and separated, this is known as Rasa. It is liquid in consistency, white in color, cold in potency, sweet in taste, unctuous, and mobile. It moves from one Srotas to another. In the Grahani Adhyaya Acharya clearly states that the Rasa Dhatu is colorless, and it gets red color after the Paka of Agni¹². ¹³After the proper digestion of the food, the Rasa Dhatu is formed which is sweet and unctuous. Karma of the Rasa Dhatu: Different Acharyas have been described as the *Karma* of the *Rasa Dhatu*¹⁴. The *Rasa Dhatu* nourishes the entire body constantly; makes it grow and supports and maintains the body through activities that are due to invisible causes. While narrating the important functions of all seven Dhatus, Vagbhata stated that the principal function of Rasa is Prinana. Commentator Arundatta remarks on the above quotation that by means of the *Srotas* of the Rasa travels throughout the body to gratify the *Indriyas* as well as *Manas*. The gratification of all the

predominance of one i.e., Apa mahabhuta. Before

Rasa Ksaya and Vriddhi: Laksana of the Rasa Ksaya and Vriddhi has been covered by almost all the Acharyas. Charaka has not mentioned the Vriddhi

organs including *Manas* is only possible when the

Rasa Dhatu is formed properly. It is also stated by

Acharya Susruta that Rasa Dhatu does the Prinana

Laksana of the Dhatus but Acharya Susruta and Vagbhata described it very well. The Laksana of the Rasa Ksaya¹⁶ shows the Laksanas of the decreased Apyamsa in the body due to which the Sosa etc. Laksanas may be found. While in Vriddhi Laksana it is said that Slema vriddhi can be taken as Rasa Vriddhi Laksana, it can be understood by Asraya-Asrayi Bhava of the Rasa and Kapha¹⁷.

Rasa Pradosaja vikara: Total 18 Vikaras¹⁸ were described under the heading of the Rasa Pradosaja Vikara. Asrddha, Aruchi, Asyavairasya, Arasajnata, Hrillasa, Guarava, Tandra, Angamarda, Jwara, Tama, Pandutva, Srotorodha, Klaibya, Sada, Krsangta, Agninasa, Valaya, and Palita. Whereas Acharya Susruta described the Rasa Doshaja Vikara¹⁹and he added the Avipaka, Angamarda, Tripta and he used the word Anna Asraddha instead of Asraddha, Pandu Roga instead of Pandutva, Margoparodha instead of Srotorodha.

Nidana of Rasa Prdosaja Vikara: The Nidana which are mentioned in the Rasavaha Srotos Dusti can be taken as Nidanas of the Rasa Pradosaja Vikara. Atisnigdha, Atiguru, and Atimatra Ahara lead to Agni Dusti which is the cause of the production of abnormal Rasa. In such a condition if the suffered person continues the intake of causative factors, there will be excessive vitiation of Dosa as they have already been vitiated earlier. These excessive vitiated Dosas when residing in Rasa Dhatu, the manifestation of Rasa Pradosaja Vikara takes place at various sites in the body according to Sthana Dusti or Kha Vaigunya. After a general description of Rasa Pradoshja Vikara, now it is time to describe all these Vikaras from a bird's view.

- *Asraddha*: Loss of desire for food though if food is ingested it can be eaten.
- *Aruchi:* Aruchi as a *Roga* described by *Acarya Susruta* and *Madhavakar*²⁰. The disapproval of food even after it has been taken in the mouth. *Acharya Madhava* has described that the feeling of proper hunger but lack of approval of food once it has been taken into the mouth can be termed as *Aruchi*.
- Asyavairsya: Word Asyavairsya is made from two words, Asya and Vairasya. Collective meaning

of the next *Dhatu*, i.e., *Rakta Dhatu*¹⁵.

denotes that the disease in which cognition of Rasa is hampered²¹.

- Arasajnyata: "Absence of the perception of taste."
- *Hrillasa*: *Hrillasa* is mentioned as *Purvarupa* and as *Laksana* in the different classics, but it is not described as an independent disease.
- *Gaurava*: *Guarava* is not mentioned as a *Roga*, but it is one type of *Laksana*. *Acharya Susruta* told the definition of the *Gaurava* that, a feeling as if the whole body is wrapped in a wet leather, accompanied by an extreme heaviness of the head, is called "*Guarava*" ²³.
- *Tandra*: The detailed description of *Tandra* as *Roga* is not found in the classics, but in symptoms, *Tandra* is found in many diseases. *Acharya Susruta* clarified the definition of *Tandra*²⁴
- Angamarda: Angamrada is mentioned as a Purva Rupa and as a Laksana in various diseases. But it is not mentioned as Roga. Angamarda is made from two words Anga and Marda. Anga means body and Marda mean grinding. Angamarda is one type of Rasa Pradosaja Vikara.
- Jwara: ²⁵Nidana Sevana leads to Agni Dusti which produces Ama form of Rasa. This Ama Rasa on one hand disturbs the normal functioning of Vayu in Amasaya and on the other hand blocks Swedavaha Srotasa. Due to the blocking of the natural path in Amasaya, Vayu spreads in the whole-body taking Agni (Amasayastha Pitta) with it. Blockage of Swedavaha Srotas creates Aswedanam. Thus, overall Santapa increases which are termed Jwara.
- *Tama*: *Tama* is mentioned in the *Vata Nanatmaja Vyadhi*.
- *Pandutva*: *Pandu* indicates a peculiar color. And *Pandutva* indicates the typical color of the *Twak*. The relationship of *Rasa Dhatu* and *Twak* has been mentioned in the *Rogabhisagjitiya Vimana Adhyaya* where *Acharya* told the description of the *Sara*. Instead of taking *Rasa Sara Acharya* had taken *Twak Sara*.
- *Srotorodha*: As mentioned earlier, the *Srotas* are the channels where the *Parinamana* of the *Dhatus* goes on continuously and *Rodha* means *Avarodha*.

- *Srotorodha* is not mentioned as *Roga* in any text, but it is one type of *Samanya Laksana* of the *Srotodusti*. ²⁶ it is told that in this state the *Srotasa* or channels are blocked only by the *Rasadi Dhatus*.
- *Klaibya*: *Klaibya* indicated here is for both males as well as females because the nourishment of all seven *Dhatus* by the *Rasa Dhatu* is similar in both sexes.
- *Sada*: Commentator *Chakrapani* told the meaning of the *Sada* is *Angavasada*. Different *Acharyas* told the different meanings of the *Anga Sada*²⁷.
- *Krisangata*: In the condition of the *Krsangata* the *Angavayava* become lean or emaciated²⁸.
- *Agninasa*: *Agninasa* could be taken as *Agnisada* or *Mandya*. Because the meaning of *Agninasa* is taken as the total loss of the *Agni* it indicates the death²⁹.

Ayatha Kala Valaya: Valaya indicates changes in shape. In which the elasticity of the skin is lost, and skin gets wrinkled, therefore taking the shape of a Valaya.

Aim & Objectives:

- (1) A detailed study of the concepts described in chapter *Rasa Pradosaj Vikara* in *Charaka Samhita*, *Susruta Samhita*, and other classical *Ayurvedic* texts.
- (2) Applied study of *rasa pradosaj Vikara* and its management through *Langhana-Pachana*.

Materials & Method:

- To fulfill the first aim of this study, the material was collected through a critical thorough study of chapter rasa pradosaj Vikara in Charaka Samhita, Susruta Samhita, and other classical Ayurvedic texts by referring to all its available commentaries and this topic was discussed with senior academicians to get a fruitful conclusion.
- All available *Ayurvedic* classical texts, journals, and research papers were referred to, and the collected references were critically assumed to frame the conceptual part of the study and to bring out its applied and practical aspects.

Management of rasa Pradosaja vikara

All types of the *Rasaja Vikara* could be treated by the *Langhana*³⁰. *Acharya* mentioned the definition of the Langhana³¹, that which causes lightness of the body is known as *Langhana*. It is one of the *Sad Upakrama* described *by Charaka*. In *Ayurvedic* classical texts word, *Langhana* is used in a wide sense. It indicates the whole procedure of producing lightness in the body and not only an effect of the drug. The process may produce lightness at various levels like *Dosa*, *Dhatu*, *Mala*, or even at *Manas* - psychological level. *Anasana*, *Apatarpana Laghubhojana*, and *Upavasa* are the synonyms of *Langhana*.

Vamana: The process of expelling morbid material through the upward tract (mouth) is called Vamana³². The Vamana Dravyas is predominant in Agni and Vayu Mahabhutas and due to their Agneya nature, they liquefy the compact Dosas and because of their sharpness, they separate the adhered Dosa located in the gross and minute channels of the entire body. Thus, the Vamana Dravyas works to eliminate the Dosa from the Urdhva Marga (mouth) of the body.

Virechana: ³³The process of expelling morbid material through the downward tract is known as *Virechana*. The *Virechana Dravyas* have a property like *Vamana Dravyas*, but they are predominant in *Prithvi* and *Jala Mahabhuta*. Due to their *Prabhava*, it moves downwards to expel the morbid material through the *Adho marga*.

Niruha Basti: ³⁴The therapy while moving in the umbilical region, lumbar region, sides of the chest, and pelvic region churns up the stool including all the other morbid matter located there, and appropriately eliminates them with ease after nourishing the body is called *Basti*. Here the *Basti* does *Dosa Nirharana* by the route of the anus. By the *Dosa Nirharana*, the lightness of the body occurs, hence *Basti* is included in the *Langhana*³⁵.

Among *Panchakarma*, *Anuvasana Basti* is not included. The logic behind it is explained by *Cakrapaniji* as³⁶, *Anuvasana* does the *Brimhana* of the body, hence it is not included in the *Langhana*.

Sirovirecana: The procedure by which the *Ausadha* is administered by is Nasal route is Known as

Nasya³⁷. The *Dosa* which is in the *Utamanga* is eliminated by the procedure of *Nasya*. It is thus included in *Langhana*. Here *Vriddha Vagbhata* also supports the opinion of *Maharsi Charaka*³⁸, By the help of *Nasya*, all the *Indriya* will be clarified and greatly strengthened.

Pipasa: *Pipasa Nigrahana* means suppression of the thirst or reducing the intake of water. Total abstinence from water is incompatible with life. *Pipasa* arises when the body needs water for its routine activity. If the urge for water is suppressed, the body fulfills the need by taking water from *Dhatus* or other substances. Thus, the water part of the body is reduced. Reduced *Jala Mahabhuta* produces *Laghuta*.

Maruta Sevana: As per Acharya Charaka Vayu has Ruksa, Sita, Laghu Suksma, Chala, Visada and Khar properties. By which it decreases the Snigdha, Guru, Sthula, Sthira, and Mridu properties of Ama and Kapha. Hence it does the lightness of the body.

Atapa Sevana: ³⁹Here Vivaswana means Surya which Sucks the Kleda or Dravtva of the Prithvi, hence the Atapa Sevan does the Sosana of the Ama, Meda, and Kapha It is clearly stated in Rigved that the sun eradicates all the disease of heart and skin.

Pachana: ⁴⁰A Panchana Dravya performs the digestion of the Ahara but does not increase the Agni. The Pachana Dravyas act only on undigested food materials at the level of Dosa, Dhatu, and Malas.

Upavasa: The *Upavasa* may be taken as a complete or partial restriction of food intake. Through the complete or partial food restriction, *Agni* who is previously busy with digestion becomes free hence it digests the undigested food which is already present in the body. Then it digests the *Sama Dosas*, *Dhatus*, and *Malas*.

Vyayama: ⁴¹Such physical action which is desirable and capable of bringing about bodily stability and strength is known as *Vyayama*. This has to be practiced in moderation ⁴². *Vyayama* dose the lightness of the body, it gives the ability to do work, stability, resistance to discomfort, and alleviation of *Dosas*. It stimulates the power of digestion. Due to this *Karma* of the *Vyayama*, it has been included as

one type of Langhana.

Dipana: Acharya Vagbhata has included the *Dipana* in types of *Langhana*. And the definition of the *Dipana* is described by *Acharya Sarngdhara* as⁴³, which increases the *Agni* but does not digest the *Ama* is known as a *Dipana Dravyas*, hence is included as the types of the *Langhana*.

Rakta Moksna: Here in the mode of action of the *Raktavisravana* it is mentioned that the feeling of lightness of the body occurs. It is mainly due to the *Dosa Niraharana*.

DISCUSSION

To understand the nutrition of all seven *Dhatus*, three *Nyayas* have been described by *Acharya Chakrapani*. They are known as *Dhatu Posana Nyaya*. Among these first is Ksirdadhi Nyaya which is explained with the example of the conversion of milk into curd. Entire milk is converted into curd and curds into buttermilk, similarly, each previous *Dhatu* gets transformed into the next Dhatu. Second Nyaya which is termed "Kedarikulya Nyaya" describes the process with the example of irrigation of the garden by channels of water. Water flowing in the canal irrigates the plants of the garden one by one. In the same way, *Anna rasa* nourishes all the *Dhatus* one by one in a specific order. "Khalekapota Nyaya" is the third theory to describe the process of nourishment of Dhatus. Birds from different directions coming to the threshing field get their food there and go back to their nest by a different path. The nest of the bird which is nearer to the field gets nourishment earlier. The same is the case with Dhatus. Dhatus get their nutrition from Annarasa by their own Srotas which are different for each Dhatu. Nearer the place of Dhatu earlier the nutrition is the rule. Chakrapani says that there is a difference of opinion among Acharyas in this regard. Some accept the first Nyaya; some other scholars accept the second, and others describe the third Nyaya. But if one tries to understand the process of digestion and metabolism with the classical references, it is quite possible to apply all three *Nyaya* together. Here an attempt has been made for the same. The above figure indicates all the three Nyaya together on the basis of which Dhatu Posana can be understood. Ahara Rasa which is already digested by the *Bhutagni* is now subjected to the *Dhatvagni* in the *Srotas*. First, in the *Rasavaha* Srotas, the Rasagni will act upon Ahararasa and the particular configuration of the Panchamahabhuta which is Apya dominant (Known as Rasam asa) will form the Rasa Dhatu. Consequently, some part of Ahararasa forms the Rasamala (Kapha), and Rasa Updhatu (Artava and Stanya). Mala and the *Upadhatu* get their nourishment from the same pool, through their own Srotas, this condition is implied by the Khalekpota Nyaya. After the Posana of the Rasa Dhatu, the remaining Ahara Rasa is subjected to the Raktagni. Here it can be said that the Ahararasa which is in the Rasavaha Srotas is not similar to the Ahararasa which is in the Raktavaha Srotas. Because the converting factor (Agni) is present in between them. After the Paka Kriya of Rasagni the Raktamsa is formed. Then the Ahararasa which is already digested by the Rasagni and contains Raktamsa comes in contact with the Raktagni. The particular configuration of Panchamahabhutas which is Teja and Apya Pradhana (Raktamsa) is converted into the Rakta after the Paka of Raktagni. Consequently, the Rakta Mala (Pitta) and Upadhatu (Sira and Kandara) are formed in their respective Srotas. After the Paka of Raktagni the Mamsamsa (with Pancha mahabhautika dominance of Prithvi) is formed, this is converted into Mamsa Dhatu after the Paka of Mamsagni. At that time the Mala of Mamsa (Khamala) and Upadhatu (Vasa and Sapt Twak) are formed in their respective Srotas. Other Dhatus are formed by the same procedure in the sequence. In this condition, the Dhatu, Updhatu, and the Malas get their nourishment through their own Srotas. Longer the Srotas, later the Posana of the Dhatus as the Posakamsa will have to travel a longer distance to reach the Posya Dhatu. As the length increases diameter decreases which are indicated by the words "Vidura Suksma Marga Charitvat". Eg. Sukra is formed in one month because the path is longer than the other *Dhatus*. This shows the *Khalekpota Nyaya*. After the Paka of the previous Dhatvagni, the raw

material of the next *Dhatu* is formed. After the *Paka* of Rasagni, only then the raw material for Rakta Dhatu (Raktamsa) will be formed which further converts into the *Rakta*. This shows the *Kedarikulya* Nyaya. The raw material which is formed by the previous *Dhatvagni* and is now in its *Srotas* will convert as a whole to that respective *Dhatu*. Whole Rasamsa which is in Rasavaha Srotas is converted into Rasa Dhatu this shows the Ksiradadhi Nyaya. The condition is Agni must in Samavstha. The opinion of Harita wherein seven stages are described for the conversion of *Rasa* to *Rakta* can be compared to the modern chronology of conversion of proerythroblasts into erythrocytes. Both these processes take seven days to occur and have four colours similar, viz. Kapota, Padma, Kinsuka and Alakta. These colours are compared to the stained cell colour but still highlight the in-depth understanding of the Acharyas.

Rasa Pradosaja Vikara:

Tama as a Laksana is described in Rasa Pradosaja Vyadhi and also in Majja Pradosaja Vyadhi. In Rasa Pradosaja Vyadhi it can be mainly understood to be due to the malnourishment of the *Indrivas* and *Sarira* Avayayas; whereas, in Majjapradosaja Vyadhis it can be related to the *Mastiska* or *Sira* wherein the *Majja* is located and is also a site for the *Indriyas*. In brief, it can be concluded that Tama described as the Rasa Pradosaja Vikara is due to malnourishment, whereas Majja Pradosaja Vikara is related to neurogenic disorders and is a more serious and chronic condition. Klaibya is also another Vikara that is described in both Rasa as well as Sukra Pradosaja Vikara. In Rasa Pradosaja Vikara it can be said to be Anuloma Ksaya of Sukra due to improper formation of Rasa Dhatu and the subsequent Dhatus, whereas, in Sukra *Pradosaja* it can be understood to be *Pratiloma*, i.e., due to excessive coitus or any local pathology. In clinical practice, it can be differentiated by the *Nidanas* involved.

CONCLUSION

The sequence of the various concepts explained in the chapter has a particular logic with which the subject

matter is better understood by the student. The *Ahara Pachana* cannot be understood by anyone *Nyaya*. All *Nyayas* are equally involved in the whole *Ahara Pachana*. The *Nyayas* don't specify the only truth but indicate a route towards the truth. The *Pradosaja Vikaras* are different from the *Vriddhi* or *Ksaya Vikaras* and the *Samprapti* of each can be explained individually. *Ahara Rasa* and *Rasa Dhatu* are two different components of the body. But due to a similar manner and path of circulation, they are not explained separately by the *Acharyas*. The specific type of *Langhana* to be given to a patient is selected on the basis of his *Sarira Bala*.

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