A REVIEW ARTICLE ON LEPA KALPANA AND VISHAGHNA LEPA IN DIFFERENT BITE CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT

Agad tantra is branch of astang ayurveda. acharya charak has mentioned chatuvishanti upkarma and lepa is one among them. Local application of medication will remove poison immediately before absorption. There are various types of lepa used for treatment of various diseases Ayurveda a science of life divided into eight main branches including Agad tantra. There are 24 modalities given by various Acharyas for treating poisonous cases called as chatuvishhti vish uapakrama. Lepa is one of them. There are four main types of action of poison-local, remote, local and remote and general. Lepa is used for treating local action of poison. Poison should be removed from the bite site (dansh sthana) by applying lepa locally at that site if whole poison was not removed then it remains may recur the toxic effects or it will get converted into dooshivisha. There are various types of lepa used for treating various diseases. Vishaghna lepa is used as antipoisonous lepa which are described by various Samhitas. In brihatrayi i.e. charaksamhita, sushrutsamhita and ashtangahrdayam vishaghna lepa is dispersed in different sthana. It is mostly for treating sarpdansha (snakebite), vruchikdamsha (scorpion bite) and keetvisha (insect bite) etc. Here the article will collect the all lepa described in brihatrayi which are mainly used for sarpdansha, vruchikdansha and keetdamsha.

Keywords: Vishaghna Lepa, Bruhatraye, churvinshhti vish upakrama etc.

INTRODUCTION

The goal of medicine is to prevent disease, restore health and reduce suffering. Understanding and appropriately treating pain is an important component of this goal. In allopathic science analgesics are given in the form of topical application is said to provide the therapeutic benefits by reaching the local tissue and with minimal side effects. In Ayurveda, the topical applications are known as lepas and this comes under the broad heading of ba-
hiparimarjanachikitsa\textsuperscript{[1]} i.e External or local measures of treatment. Skin is the largest protective barrier in the body which prevents invasion of microorganism foreign substances in the body. The main area of bahiparimarjanachikitsa is twak (skin) and the treatments used in the skin like Abhyanga, Swedana, Pralepa, Pparisheka, Unmardana etc.

According to Sharangdhar Samhita there are three main types of lepa \textsuperscript{[2]}— doshagha, vi-shaghna and varnyalepa. Among this vi-shaghna lepa is used for treating local action of poison or contagious poison and various bites. At the time of snake bite or scorpion bite firstly affected the skin area, poison enters in the skin by fangs or arches, application of Vi-shaghna lepa is done to affected area poison will be absorbed directly by lepa\& also it is neutralize the toxic effect of poisonous bite by the lepa. After that the poison doesn’t enter in the body. In another way, after treating the poisonous case the local area of bite shows various changes such as inflammation, blisters, vesication etc. this can be treated by Vi-shaghnalepa. Lepa will absorb remaining amount of poisoning at the bite site. There are two way treatments by lepa chikitsa.

**Aim and Objectives**-

- To present a comprehensive aspect of Lepa Kalpana.
- To explain the role of Lepa i.e. local medicinal application in various types of poisonous bite condition.
- To present the various anti-poisonous Lepa i.e. VishaghnaLepa mentioned in three basic text books of Ayurveda i.e. Bruhatraye.
- References of VishaghnaLepa have been collected from Brihatrayi i.e Charaksamhita, Sushrutsamhita and Ashtanghri-dayam.
- All data is compiled, analyzed and discussed through and in depth understanding about lepa mentioned in Ayurvedic texts.

**Concept of Lepa Kalpana** (local medicinal application)—

**Definition of Lepa**\textsuperscript{[3]}

Either ardryadravya or shushkadravyas with water, are ground well and is made into a paste and are used for external application are called lepas.

**Synonyms**\textsuperscript{[4]}

The synonyms of lepa are lipta, lepna, aalepa etc.

**Types of lepa**-

- *Sharangdhara Samhita* has mentioned 3 types of Lepa based on thickness of layer of Lepa should apply.
  1. *Doshaghna lepa*— This types of lepa is used to pacify vitiqated Doshas.
  2. *Vishaghna lepa*— This types of lepa is used to pacify Visha (Poison).
  3. *Varnyalepa*— These types of lepa is used to enhance one’s beauty.
- *Sushrut Samhita*\textsuperscript{[5]} has mentioned 3 types of Lepa—
  1) *Pralepa* \textsuperscript{[6]}— This type of lepa has properties like SheethaGuna (cooling nature, tanu (thin), Vishoshi (compressing), Avisshoshi (non-compressing).
  2) *Pradeha* \textsuperscript{[7]}— This particular lepa has actions like sheeta/Ushna (either cooling or
heating effect), thick or thin, Avishoshi (non-compressive).

3) **Alep** [8]—This lepa has mixed moderate action of pradeha and pralepa.

- Ashtangasangraha has mentioned 10 different types of Lepa [9].

1) **Snaihika** [10]. This type of lepa contains sneha (oily) dravya and used on vatajvika-ra.

2) **Nirvapana** [11]. This type of lepa contains sheetaladravya & used in pittajvkar, vi-shvikar, agnidagdha (burn), kshardagdh etc.

3) **Pasadena** [12] - This lepa is same as nirvapana but used in vatdushitraktavikara.

4) **Sthambhan** [13] - called as sasthmmbhan (anticoagulant) which is used in excess bleeding.

5) **Vilayana** [14]. This type of lepa used in apakvashotha (swelling), kaphamedavilayana, grahtishotha containing Ushna- Veeryadravya.

6) **Pachana** [15]. This lepa contains Ushna and rukshaVeeryadravya and used in pachyamanshothajvrana.

7) **Peedana** [16] - this lepa contains ruksh and picchildravya used on small vrana.

8) **Shodhana** [17] -this lepa is used in shodhana of vrana.

9) **Ropana** [18] - this lepa is used for ropana of vrana.

10) **Savarnikarana** [19] - this type of lepa is used for changing wound colour to skin colour.

**Pramana of lepa**: The thickness of lepa should be of ardramahishcharma mentioned in SusrutSamhita and SharangdharSamhita [20]. According to Aacharya Charaka the thickness should be tribhagangushtha [21] (one third part of finger).

According to Sharangdhara [22]
1. Doshaghna lepa-1/4 anguli thick
2. Vishaghna lepa-1/3 anguli thick
3. Varnyalepa -1/2 anguli thick

**SnehaPramana in lepa** [23].
According to Susrut Samhita, when lepa is used for doshajvika-ra the addition of sneha are depends on dosha. The pramana are of fallow-

1. Vataj Shotha-1/4 part of lepa.
2. Pittaj Shotha-1/6 part of lepa.
3. Kaphaj Shotha-1/8 part of lepa

**Prayojya of lepa** [24]-(Benefits of lepa)
Just like agni getting shantha after putting water, dosha also get pacified after lepana. Lepa cures pain and it also useful in shodhana, shopara, utsadana and ropana of vrana.

**Possible modes of action of lepa**-
In the chapter Dhamnivyakarana-dhyaya [25] Aacharya Sushruta explains dhama-nis (artery) which are oordhwagata, adhogata, and tiryakagata. Here he explains four tiryakgamisiras (veins). Out of these four, each divide gradually hundred and thousand times and thus becomes innumerable. By this the body is covered like network bound and pervaded their openings are attached to hair follicle which carry sweat and replenish rasa inside and outside. Through them only the Veerya of Abhyanga, Snana, and Lepa enter the body after being transformed in skin.
The physicochemical properties of a drug in a topical dosage form affect that drugs transdermal delivery and topical bioavailability. The molecules of the formulation after penetrating through the stratum corneum and hence into viable epidermis and dermis produce its characteristics pharmacological

Table 1: Vishghna Lepa described in Brihatrayi for various bite (Damsha)-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. no.</th>
<th>Type of Damsha (bite)</th>
<th>Charak Samhita</th>
<th>Sushruta Samhita</th>
<th>Vaghbhat Samhita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sarpdansha</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Karnamaladilepa[^26], Chrtinadilepa (Gunjadilepa)[^27], Himvan Agada[^28], Sarpidhanyadilepa[^29], Karviradilepa[^30]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vruchidamsa</td>
<td>Kapotvitadiyog[^31]</td>
<td>Matulungadiyog[^32]</td>
<td>Matul ungadiyog[^33], Hingvadilepa[^34], Arjunadilepa[^35], Pathyadilepa[^36], Nagradilepa[^37], Bachnagadilepa[^38], Nagpurisha dilepa[^39]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lutadamsa</td>
<td>Chandanadilepa[^40], Katabhyadilepa[^41]</td>
<td>Vanshtwagadilepa[^42], Arkmuladilepa[^43]</td>
<td>Madhusaindhvadilepa[^44], Bodhishleshmantakadilepa[^45], Padmaka Agada[^46], Hriberadilepa[^47], Rodhradilepa[^48]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mushakadamsa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Shirishadilepa[^49]</td>
<td>Shirishadilepa[^50], Agardhumadilepa[^51], Palindadilepa[^52], Ankoladilepa[^53], Sinduvaradilepa[^54]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shatapadidamsa</td>
<td>Swarjikadyayo g[^55]</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gruhagodhadamsa</td>
<td>Kapithadiyog[^56]</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pipilikadamsa</td>
<td>Krushnvalmik-muttikadiyog[^57]</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sarvkeetdamsha</td>
<td>Kakandakadiyog[^58], Mrusansanjivan Agada[^59], Gandhahasti Agada[^60], Mahagandhasti Agada[^61], Mansyadiyog[^62], Kshirivrukshadilepa[^63], Muktalepa[^64]</td>
<td>Panchshirish Agada[^65]</td>
<td>Chandrodaya Agada[^66]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Shukvruntdamsha</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Chakradi Agada[^67], Bhurungadi agada[^68]</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nakhadantavrana</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Somvalkadilepa[^69]</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISCUSSION

Route of administration are basically classifying according to the target effect of drugs such as effect is local or systemic. In topical route of drug administration drugs are applied to body surface like skin or mucous membrane. Topical application prevents the metabolism of drugs in the liver and increases the bioavailability of the drug and also provides its effects directly on site of action. In Ayurveda topical applications are known as lepas and called as bahiparimarjanchikitsa. Aacharya Sharangdhara entitled the name Vishaghna lepa which nullifies the poisonous effect and it is one among Chaturvinshshati Vish upakrama according to Charaka. Vagbhata and susruta also had given prime importance. Most of vishghna lepas are Tridoshhara mainly pittahara and sheetal (cool) in nature. Mode of administration of lepa plays an important role in absorbing a poison. Charakacharya explained importance of Agad-lepa’s in form of lepa, pana, Anjan and Nasya.

CONCLUSION

By observing all indication of Agad lepa (vishaghna lepa) mentioned by Charakacharya, lepas are not only restricted to poisonous bite also used in twakvikaras and it supportive to cure diseases involved in most of other diseases. If the bite is unknown one can use sarv kitharlepa which acts on all types of vishadamsha (poisonous bites). Vishaghna lepas are less used and less known, knowledge of different varieties of lepa available in different forms may help future research scholars and physician to use it an appropriate way.

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