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Case Study

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MAGICAL EFFECT OF AYURVEDIC MANAGEMENT IN AMAVATA A SINGLE CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

In *Ayurvedic* classics, *Ama* is the product of metabolic defect. Due to poor strength of *Agni* (*Jatharagni*), *Adya Dhatu* remains undigested and this undigested and vitiated *Rasa* in *Amashya* is known as *Ama*. It has been considered an important factor for the pathogenesis of the most of the diseases. *Amavisha* is quite similar to *Visha* in properties. The vitiated *Vata Dosha* (*Vyan Vata*) directs *Amavata*, *Ama Dosha* enters into joints and affects the *Shleshma Dhara kala* (may be close to inflammation of the synovial tissue), resulting in joint effusion and swelling, restriction of movement, fatigue, morning stiffness, anorexia, general weakness, vague arthralgia, myalgia and paraesthesia of the extremities etc. It is generally compared with Rheumatoid Arthritis. Rheumatoid Arthritis may occur at any age but has peak incidence in the 4th and 5th decade. The life time incidence of the disease in women (1.8%) is three times that in males (0.5%). There are various medicines

available in modern science to reduce pain & inflammation of the patient of rheumatoid arthritis. Simultaneously prolonged use of allopathic medicines not only giving rise to many side effects, toxic symptoms and adverse reactions but also more serious complications like organic lesions etc. are caused by them. Hence the management of this disease is merely insufficient in other systems of medicine and patients are continuously looking with a hope towards *Ayurveda* to overcome this challenge. Here an effort was made to treat a 49 years old

female, well diagnosed case of Rheumatoid Arthritis, through *Ayurvedic* principles. In this single case study *Samshamana chikitsa* (palliative therapy) along with *Panchakarma* procedure like *Baluka Swedana* and *Kshara Basti* was given. This case report showed that combined *Ayurvedic* modalities result in great improvement in overall condition of the patient.

KEYWORDS: Ama, Aamavata, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Kshara Basti.

INTRODUCTION

Amavata is a disease of Rasavaha srotas. [1] Improperly formed Annarasa is Ama and when it vitiates Vata Dosha, named as Amavata. [2] Sometimes this Amadosha is pulled by the Vata to the Sleshma sthana along with the intervention of the Dhamani, thereby causing the disease. [3] Amayata is a disorder in which vitiation of Vata Dosha and Ama accumulation occur in joints that mimic with modern day Rheumatoid Arthritis.^[4] It is called *Amavata* when Ama and Vata Dosha are vitiated and distributed in Kostha, Trika, and Sandhi Pradesha resulting in *Shotha*, *Shoola* and *Stabhdata*. [5] *Acharya Madhavkara* mentioned the symptoms of Aamvata like Angamarda, Aruchi, Trishna, Alasya, Gaurava, Jvara, Apaka, Angasunnata as the Samanya Rupa of Amavata. [6] In Amavata; Vyan Vayu and Saman Vayu that are responsible for the circulation of *Rasa Dhatu* and command *Agni* are vitiates mainly.^[7] Symptoms of Amavata has very close resemblance with Rheumatoid Arthritis, an autoimmune disorder. Rheumatoid Arthritis is a chronic immune- inflammatory systemic condition that has a potential for extra-articular presentation which mainly affects synovial joints. [8] Worldwide prevalence of RA is estimated between 0.3% and 1% is commonly seen in women in developed countries.^[9] In India the prevalence is estimated to be 0.75%.^[10] The cause of RA is not clear, it is believed to involve a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Major histocompatibility complex (MHC) antigen HLADR4 is the major genetic factor to cause of RA.[11]

Case presentation

Chief complaints

A 49-year-old female patient, named *Sugani Devi* was registered in the P.G. Department of *Kayachikitsa* OPD (OPD NO. 25083) of DR. S. R. Rajasthan Ayurveda University, Jodhpur on 20/06/2019. She had complaints of pain and swelling in multiple joints along with bilateral inter- phalangeal joints of both hands, pain in both shoulder joints, knee joints and ankle joints, on and off fever, nausea, headache, and morning stiffness for 60 to 90 minutes.

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She had difficulty in walking and standing up with swelling over the knee and ankle joints since 9 years. She had one rare symptom of fixed Rt. Elbow joint and Rt. Knee joint with great pain.

History of present illness

Patient was asymptomatic before 9 years. Initially she developed multiple joints pain and swelling, difficulty in sitting down and standing up. Then she developed bilateral shoulder joints, knee joints pain, for which she consulted orthopaedic surgeon and after taking some medicines got relief for a period of 1 year. After that; the symptoms reoccurred and she had given immune suppressants and DMARD'S oral corticosteroids from which she was asymptomatic during treatment and experienced similar symptoms when she stopped taking medicines. Later she got more pain and swelling in multiple joints and Right elbow and knee joint with major deformities and slowly she got fixed elbow joint. Pain worsens during the cloudy & rainy season.

Past history: no relevant past history

Drug history

SHEL CAL 500 mg. tab. 1 O.D. FOLIC ACID 5mg. tab. 1 O.D.

FLUOXENTINE HCL 20 mg. cap. 1 O.D.

METHOTREXATE 7.5 mg tab 1 weekly PREDNISOLON 10 mg. daily

Family history: Her family history revealed that there was no such complaint ever.

Personal history

Personal history revealed that patient was on mixed diet with normal appetite, irregular bowel habits, normal sleep, and frequency of micturition was 4-5 times per day and had not have any kind of addiction.

Gynaecological history

Menarche: 13yrs; FTND: 4; Menopause: 48yrs; LD: 24 years back; Obstetric history: No. of

deliveries: 4; Abortion: no history

General Examination

Patient's general condition was fair and vitals were;

Pulse rate- 74/min., respiratory rate-17/min., blood pressure- 111/80 mm of Hg, body

temperature- 37°c.

EXAMINATION OF LOCOMOTOR SYSTEM

Inspection

- ✓ Bilateral involvement of joints (i.e. symmetrical)
- ✓ Difficulty in extension of fingers
- ✓ Difficulty in lifting arms
- ✓ Local Oedema:
- Over knee joints –present
- Over ankle joints –present
- Over Wrist joints- Present
- Over interphalangeal joints- present
- ✓ Change in Colour: No change
- ✓ Rt. Elbow joint fixed

Palpation

- ✓ Tenderness present over knee, ankle, and wrist joints.
- ✓ Crepitus: Present in both knee joint
- ✓ Range of Movements: Restricted

Systemic Examination: Cardiovascular system, Respiratory system, Gastrointestinal system, Central nervous system examination had shown no deformity.

Ashtavidha Pariksha

Nadi (Pulse) Vatakaphaja.

Mala (Stool) Vibandha, Sama

Mutra (Urine) Samyaka

Jihwa (Tongue) Malavritta

Shabda (Voice) Spashta

Sparsh (Touch) Ruksha

Drik (Eyes) Shweta-Peetabh

Aakriti (Appearance) Krisha

Dashvidha Pariksha

Prakriti – Vatakaphaja

Vikriti – Vikriti Vishama Samaveta

Sara – Rasa Sara

Satva – Madhyma

Samhanana – Avara

Pramana – Avara

Satmya – Sarva Rasa Satmya

Vaya – Madhyma Aahara

Shakti – Avara Vyayama

Shakti – Avara

Investigations

Blood Hb- 9 gm%; RA Factor – positive; TLC- 10200 /cumm; Anti CCP-68 u/ml; ESR- 50 mm in 1st hr.; Urine R/E- NAD; M/E-NAD.

Diagnostic Criteria For Rheumatoid Arthritis^[12]

The 1988 revised criteria by American college of Rheumatology for diagnosis of Rheumatoid arthritis are

- 1. Morning stiffness: Stiffness in and around the joints lasting 1 hour before maximal improvement.
- 2. Arthritis of three or more joint area: At least three areas, observed by a physician simultaneously, have soft tissue swelling or joint effusion, not just bony overgrowth.
- 3. Arthritis of hand joints: Arthritis of wrist, metatarsophalangeal joint or proximal interphalangeal joint.
- 4. Symmetrical arthritis: Involvement of same joint area on both sides of the body.
- 5. Rheumatoid Nodules: Subcutaneous bony prominences over extensor surfaces or articular Regions observed by a physician.
- 6. Serum Rheumatoid Factor: Demonstration of abnormal amount of serum rheumatoid factor (auto antibodies reactive with Fc portion of IgG) by any method for which the result has been positive in less than 5% of normal control subjects.
- 7. Radiological changes: Typical changes of RA on posterior –anterior hand and wrist radiographs, which must include erosions, decalcification localized in or most marked to the involved joints.

*Four or seven criteria are required to classify a patient as having rheumatoid arthritis

Ayurvedic Management

Treatment duration – Approx. 6 months

Treatment plan was comprised of both *Samshodhana* and *Samshamana Chikitsa*. Acharya Chakrapani has explained the treatment aspect of *Amavata* in his text *chakradatta*.

- 1. *Langhana* which brings *Laghuta* in the body. [13]
- 2. *Swedana* the process, which causes perspiration, destroys stiffness, heaviness of the body & cold.^[14]
- 3. *Tikta Katu* and *Deepana Dravyas Tikta Dravya* are *Ama*, *Pitta Pachaka* and *Srotomukha Vishodhaka*.^[15]
- **4.** By *Virechana* the *dosha* are eliminated by *Adhomarga*. [16]
- 5. **Snehapana** is the procedure through which *Snigdhata*, *Mriduta*, *Kledana* and *Vishyandata* are attained the body. [17]
- 6. In Ayurvedic classics, Basti is advocated as Ardha chikitsa. [18]

Later Yogaratnakar has added Ruksha-Sweda and Upnaha to the above said measures. [19]

Management for 1 month for Panchakarma & Shaman Chikitsa

(A) Shamana Chikitsa

- 1. Well prepared combination of 100 gm. *Rehumoherb Powder*, 50 gm. *Arthodic Powder*, 10 gm. *Chandra prabha Vati*, 10 gm. *Simhanad Guggulu*, 5 gm. *Sameerpannag Rasa* thrice a day after meal with 4 TSF *Vatantaka Liquid*.
- 2. Agnitundi Vati 2-2 tablet twice a day after meal with lukewarm water.
- 3. Tab. Rumalya Fort 2-2 tablet twice a day after meal with lukewarm water.
- 4. Boiled water (Drink whole day) of 1-1 TSF *Panchakola Churna* and *Nagarmotha Churna*.
- 5. Apply Ushna Lepa of *Haritaki Churna* mixed with *Go Mutra* on affected joint whole the night.

(B) Panchakarma (Baluka Swedana & Kshara Basti) Chikitsa.

Treatment	Medicine	Dosage	Duration (days)
Anuvasana Basti	Vrihat Saindavadhya Taila	60 ml	4
Baluka sweda	Balu Reta	As required	7
Kshara Basti	Gomutra Yukta	250 ml.	3

Grading criteria for evaluation

1. Sandhishoola (pain in joints)

Severity of pain	grade
No pain	0
Mild pain	1
Moderate, but no difficulty in moving	2
Slight difficulty in moving due to pain	3
Much difficulty in moving the bodily parts	4

2. Sandhishotha (swelling in joints, mostly interphallengeal, knee & elbow joints)

Severity of swelling	grade	
No swelling	0	
Slight swelling	1	
Moderate swelling	2	
Severe swelling	3	

3. Sandhigraha (stiffness in joints)

Severity of stiffness	grade
No stiffness	0
5min. to 2h	1
2h to 8 h	2
>8h	3

4. Sparshasahatva (tenderness)

Tenderness	grade	
No tenderness	0	
Subjective experience of tenderness	1	
Wincing of face on pressure	2	
Wincing of face and withdrawal of the affected part on 3		
Pressure		

5. Shunata-Anganam (numbness)

Numbness	Grade
No numbness	0

Resist to touch

Mild numbness occasionally

Numbness on sitting and in some parts of the body 2

Severe numbness 3

6. Jwara(fever)

Fever	Grade
No fever	0
Occasional fever subsides by itself	1
Occasional fever subsides by drug	2
Remittent fever	3
Continuous fever	4

RESULTS/OBSERVATIONS

S.No.		Before Treatment	After Discharge	1st Follow	2 nd Follow
	Symptoms			up After 1 Month	up After 2 Months
	Multiple joints pain	Present	Reduced	Reduced	Reduced
	(a).Both knee joints				
1	I. Rt.	+++	50%	70%	90%
	II. Lt.	+++	50%	70%	90%
	(b). Both elbow jonts				
	I. RT.	+++	50%	70%	70%
	II. Lt.	+++	50%	70%	90%
2	Morning stiffness	Present +++	Reduced	Reduced	Reduced
2			50%	70%	90%
3	Difficulty in walking	Present +++	Reduced	Reduced	Reduced
3	Difficulty in walking		50%	70%	90%
	Swelling	Present	Reduced	Reduced	Reduced
	(a) Both knee				
	joints				
4	I. Rt.	+++	70%	90%	100%
	II. Lt.	+++	70%	90%	100%
	(b) Both elbow joints				
	I. Rt.	+++	50%	70%	90%
	II. Lt.	+++	70%	90%	100%
5	Fever	present	absent	Absent	Absent
6	Able to stand for	5 min.	30 min.	1 hr.	2-4 hr.

1

DISCUSSION

Rehumoherb powder is a mixture of various Ayurvedic Yoga as Talishadi Churna, Mrantunjaya Rasa, Shweta Parpati, Chandra Prabha Vati, Loka Natha Rasa, Pancha Tikta Guggulu, Ghrita Tapyadi Loha which helps to cure RA.

Arthodic powder is a mixture of various Ayurvedic Yoga as Sameera Pannaga Rasa, Ekangveera Rasa, Gokshuradi Guggulu, Saptamrita Loha, Vatagajankusha Rasa, Talishadi Churna, Ashwagandha Churna, Chandra Prabha Vati.

Chandraprabha Vati; this formulation is mostly affected in Kapha and Vata Dosha. According to pharmacodynamic actions Rakta Prasadana, Sothahara, Krimigna, Mutra Janana and Rasayana actions are the prevailing actions of the Chandra Prabha Vati. Ushna Virya and Katu Vipaka pacifies mainly the Kapha Dosha. Also, Rakta Prasadana action help to purify the blood, Sothahara, Krimigna and Rasayana actions can re-establish the kidney and the urinary system and Mutra Janana action could be assist to excreta the redundant impurities.

Simhanad Guggulu mainly Vata Kapha-Shamaka (Vata-Kapha-reducing) properties and it has mainly Deepana (Enzyme stimulant), Amapachana (Biotoxin neutralizing), Shothaghna (Anti- inflamatory), Vedanasthapaka (Analgesic), Jwaraghna (Antipyretic), Rasayana (Rejuvenation), Balya (Power enhancer), Mutrakaraka (Diuretic) and Amavatahara (Anti-rheumtoid) actions. It Enhances Agni (Enzymes), mitigates Ama (Biotoxin) and vitiated Kapha (Bio-fluid), reduces aggravated Vata (Bio force) into the body and helps to relief the clinical manifestations of Amavata (Rheumatoid arthritis).

Sameer Pannaga Rasa is Katu Rasa, Ushna Guna, Usna Virya, Katu Vipaka and Kapha Vataghna so it acts against the Shoola (Pain) and Shotha (Oedema). [20]

Vatantak liquid is useful in management of arthritis, gout &muscle pain.

Agni Tundi Vati used in indigestion and fever & useful in management of arthritis, gout, muscle pain, nerve pain.

Rumalaya fort which include extracts of Gokshura, Guduchi and powder of Shallaki, Guggulu, Rasna, Yasthimadhu & processed in Nirgundi.

The specific *Gunas* of *Kshara Basti* are, it should not be *Ati Teekshna*, *Ati Mrudu*, *Ati Shukla*, *Ati Picchila* and should be *Slakshna*, *Avishandi*, *Shiva* (*Soumyatva*) and *Sheegrakari*. It Also has *Tridoshagna*, *Agneya Gunayukta*, *Ushna*, *Teekshna*, *Pachana*, *Shodhana*, *Ropana*, *Vilayana*, *Shoshana*, *Stambana*, *Lekhana* properties.^[21]

The *Baluka Pinda Sweda* is said to instantly reduce pain swelling and stiffness.

On the basis of above description used medicines, present case study possess all properties which have the efficacy to reduce the symptoms of *Amavata* and reset the pathogenesis of *Amavata*.

CONCLUSION

This case study showed that *Basti Karma* followed by *Samshamana Chikitsa* along with local application is effective in management of *Amavata* as it is safe, cost effective and free from any side effects. No aggravation was found in the patient during and after the treatment. After this management patients get magical effects in all symptoms.

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