

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON THE CONCEPT OF *PRATIVISHA* IN AGADA TANTRA

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ABSTRACT

Prativisha is the one which counteracts the poisonous substance. *Ayurveda Acharyas* have explained many opinions regarding *Prativisha* which is administered after fifth *Vega* and before the seventh *Vega*, also considered as one among *Chaturvimshati Upakrama*. *Prativisha* denotes the administration of *Visha* in *Vishaja* condition. *Visha* has the properties such as *Theekshna*, *Ashu*, *Vyavayi*, *Ashukari*, etc and spreads all over the body, since it possess these properties *Visha* can be administered as *Prativisha*. There are mainly two types of *Visha*, *Sthavara* and *Jangama*. We get many references in various *Visha granthas* and *Puranas* regarding that the person who is

poisoned with *Sthavara visha* can be pacified with *Jangama Visha* and vice versa. Different method of administration is explained by different acharyas, improper dosage is considered as harmful. In this article an attempt is made to compile the information available in various treatises about *Prativisha* which is used for the revival of the patient.

KEYWORDS: *Prativisha*, *Visha Dravya*, *Sthavara visha*, *Jangama visha*.

INTRODUCTION

Agada tantra which is one among *Astangas* deals with treating the poisoned patients along with prevention, entering and spreading of *Visha* in body. *Visha* is mainly classified into two types they are *Sthavara* and *Jangama Visha*. *Acharya charaka* has described about 24 treatment modalities for poisoning and *Prativisha chikitsa* is one among them.^[1] The *Sthavara Visha* possess similar properties of *Sleshma* and which spreads upwards, *Jangama Visha* possess properties of *Pitta* and spreads downwards. If person who is poisoned with *Sthavara Visha* then *Jangama Visha* can be used as counter-poison and vice versa because

when opposite qualities put together destroys each other.^[2] In modern view, poison is the substance that cause harm to the body. There are two types of treatment general and specific, among that antidotes are used in specific types of poisoning cases. These are substance that act specifically to prevent, inhibit, inactive, counteract, reverse or relieve the action or poisonous effects of toxic agent.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To explore the concept of *Visha Dravyas* used as *Prativisha* and to understand the fundamental concepts of *Prativisha*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Classical *Ayurveda* text books, journals related to *Prativisha* were analyzed for the understanding the concept of *Prativisha*.

CONCEPT OF PRATIVISHA

Acharya Charaka explains about 24 *Upakramas* for *Visha Chikitsa* and *Prativisha* being one among them.^[4] *Acharya Chakrapani* commented on *Prativisha* as “*Prativisham Vishantara Prayogam*” means administration of *Visha* in *Vishakthatha* (poisoning). The commentator of *Ashtanga Sangraha Indu* has been narrated as “*Prativisham Vijatiyam Yojyam*” means that which counteracts the *Visha ie*, for *Sthavara Visha*, *Jangama Visha* is counter poison and vice versa. In *Puranas* there are certain references available regarding *Prativishas ie*, In *Mahabaratha*, Duryodhana’s failures and fecklessness against bhima angered him and so decided to kill bhima, he gave bhima with poisoned food and drowned him in river, he revived after bitten by the *Sarpa*, so the *Jangama Visha* is *Prativisha* for the *Sthavara visha*.^[5]

Definitions and Derivations

In *Sabdakalpadruma* the word *Prativisha* is explained as “*Tannamna Kayati Prakarshati iti*” means the one which helps in pulling out the poison which is present in the body, as per *Mugdhabodha vyakarana* “*pratighato vishayerasminniti visham prati*” which means the one which counteracts *Visha* or used for the pacification of *Visha Utpanna Lakshana*.

Synonyms: *pratyagoushadha*, *nivaranopaya*, *pratyak chikitsa*.

Indications

- When the effects of poison not subsided by *mantra-tantra* and after administration of any *Aushada*,
- After the lapse of 5th *Vega* and before commencement of 7th *Vega*^[6] (stage of poisoning).
- In emergency conditions when other treatments fail.^[7]

Contraindications

- In case of doubt whether the person is poisoned or not,
- After the commencement of 7th *Visha Vega* (stage of poisoning)
- During rainy season.
- In those who are anger,
- Suffering from diseases of *Pitta*, who are troubled from hunger, thirst, exertion, sun light, long walk
- Pregnant woman, children,
- Those who are emaciated, those suffering from disease of vital organs.^[8]

DRAVYAS USED AS PRATIVISHA

The Prativisha dravyas can be *Sthavara Visha* as well as *Jangama Visha*. The *Sthavara Visha* which is used as *prativisha* includes *Upavisha*, *Mahavisha*, *Khanija Visha* (metals, minerals etc)

In *Upavishas* - *Jayapala*, *Dhatura*, *Snuhi*, *Arka*, *Ahiphena*, *Eranda* is used

In *Mahavisha* - *Vatsanabha*, *Sringi*, *Saktuka*, *Mustaka*

In *Khanija Visha* - According to the *Rasatarangini*, *Rasa drugs* like *Tankana*, *Rasakarpura*, *Naga*, *Loha*, *Vimala*, *Swarnamakshika*, *Shanka* etc. were used as *Prativisha*.eg. For *Naga – Hema* is used as *Prativisha*^[9]

In *Jangama visha* – *Sarpa Visha* is used as *Prativisha*

Dose^[10]

<i>Visha</i>	Dose	
For snake bite – <i>Vatsanabha</i> ^[11]	Minimum	4 <i>yava</i>
	Moderate	6 <i>yava</i>
	Maximum	8 <i>yava</i>
<i>Kita visha</i>	2 <i>yava</i>	
For <i>vrichikka visha</i> - Paste of <i>jayapala beeja</i> ^[11]	size of <i>tila</i>	
<i>Lootha Visha</i>	External Application	

	(Oral Administration of Counter Poison is not advisable, by determining the site of bite exactly, it should be incised and counter-poison is applied over it)
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Sthavara Visha as Prativisha for Jangama Visha

SL.NO	JANGAMA VISHA	STHAVARA VISHA AS PRATIVISHA
1.	Alarka visha	Dhathura ^[11]
2.	Mooshika visha	Vatsanabha ^[11]
3.	Manduka visha	Snuhi ksheera with shirisha beeja –lepa ^[12]

Sthavara Visha used as Prativisha for Sthavara Visha

<i>SthavaraVisha</i>	<i>Sthavara Visha as Prativisha</i>	Dose
Jayapala	Ahiphena with Madhu ^[13]	Appropriate dose
Karaveera	Arka Twak ^[13]	
Ahiphena	Karpasa Beeja ^[13]	
Dhatura	Eranda Moola ^[13]	
Kuchala	Tambakhu ^[14]	

Sarpa Visha Prayoga in Sthavara Visha^[15]

A *Sarpa* (hooded serpent) which is *Samroshitha* and *Dhooma vaktra* (found emitting fumes from its mouth) should be made to bite many times on *Pishitha* (piece of meat) fastened to tip of a stick. The physician, after carefully deciding the strength of the poison, should administer the *Mamsa churna* (powder of this meat) to that patient who has not been cured by any other agadas.

METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION OF PRATIVISHA^[16]

It is divided into 3 stages

1. Poorvakarma
2. Pradhanakarma
3. Paschat Karma

1. Poorvakarma

- Before administering prativisha to the patient one should inform the king and take permission.
- The patient should be purified by ghrita (ghee)
- He should take hithashina (healthy foods)
- He should be satvika (pure in mind)

2. Pradhanakarma

- The *Prativisha* should be administered according to the poisonous condition in appropriate dose as mentioned above.

Time of administration -After sunrise, During *Sheeta And Vasantha Kala* and in *Greeshma Kala* in emergency condition only.

3. Paschat karma

After administering counterpoison the patient should be made to drink *Ghrita* or made to lick *Arjuna Twak choorna* mixed with *Ghrita* or *Madhu* (honey). The following *Pathya –Apathya* is also followed

- *Apathya Ahara* – use of *Katu, Amla, Taila, Lavana, Rukshaanna*(dry foods)
- *Apathya Vihara* - *Divaswapna, Atapa, Anala*

Complications

Intake of *Ruksha Anna* causes

- *Drikvibrama* (visual disturbances),
- *Karnaruja* (ear ache),
- Other diseases of *Vata* origin,
- In those who suffering from *Ajeerna* (indigestion) causes *Mrithyu*(death).

DISCUSSION

In severe poisoning condition one among the emergency management is the *Prativisha Chikitsa* which is a counter-poison. The physician should be aware of fixing the dosage. Dosage mentioned for *Jangama Visha* is in measurement of *yava* (1 *Yava* = 62.5 mg) but there is difficulty for fixing the precise dosage. There is also a dilemma regarding the *Kala* (time /season) for the administration of *Prativisha*. In olden days, before *Prativisha* administration permission should be taken from the king. This can be modified into consent from the relatives of the patient. All the *Prativisha* are *Visha Dravyas*, can be considered as antidotes and all antidotes are not *Prativisha*, because in contemporary view the drugs which are non –poisonous are also used as antidotes. Eg. For Rodenticides - vitamin K 1 is used as an antidote.

The mode of action of *Prativisha* can be understood by its *Guna and Karma*. It penetrates through *Sukshmatikushta Srotas* (minute or micro body channels and duct system) and acts very quickly eg. *Dhatu* (*Dhatu stamoni*) is used as *Prativisha* for the *Alarka Visha*

(*Rabies*), here *Visha* and *Prativisha* both act on nervous system. *Alarka visha* increases the secretions of salivary gland and *Dhatu* decreases the secretions as it is anticholinergic. *Alarka Visha* causes anxiety, excitation and stimulation while *Dhatu* is *Madhaka Prabhava* and causes depression. Hence the *Visha Dravyas* are used as *Prativisha* in *Vishaja Condition*. The mechanism of action of antidotes includes direct action on the toxin by forming the inert complex with the poison, accelerating detoxification of the poison and reducing the rate of conversion of poison to a more toxic compound.

CONCLUSION

The *Prativisha* is counter- poison in Ayurveda. *Visha* is used as *prativisha* at the last stage for the survival of the patient, where other treatment procedures fails to stabilise the patient. It also helps in revival of the patient in unconscious condition. *Prativishas* can be considered as an antidotes, but not all antidotes are *Prativisha*. However, dosage, form and route of administration should be taken in to consideration while administering *Prativisha*.

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