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A CRITICAL INTERPRETATION ON AMAVATA TREATMENT: A **REVIEW STUDY**

Krishna Kumar Sahu¹* and S. D. Khichariya ²

¹PG Scholar, Department of Kaya Chikitsa, Shri N.P.A. Govt. Ayurvedic College, Raipur (C.G.)

²Guide, Department of Kaya Chikitsa, Shri N.P.A. Govt. Ayurvedic College, Raipur (C.G.)

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*Corresponding Author Dr. Krishna Kumar Sahu PG Scholar, Department of Kaya Chikitsa, Shri N.P.A. Govt. Ayurvedic College, Raipur (C.G.).

ABSTRACT

Amavata is the most prevalent disorder caused by the regular formation of Ama in the human body. The large-scale incidence of Amavata is one of the results of this so-called progression. It is the most common of chronic inflammatory joint diseases in which the joints are sore, painful and stiff. Owing to its chronicity and complications, it has taken the leading spot in the joint condition. It seems to look a medical problem due to extreme illness and debilitating nature. There is little question that the current treatment system plays an important part in resolving the agony of suffering, limited mobility and weakness caused by the disease. Concurrently repeated application of modern drugs not

only causes many side effects, inflammatory signs and allergic reactions, but many organic diseases.

KEYWORDS: *Amavata*, Diet, *Ama*, etc.

INTRODUCTION

Amavata is a pathological disease where Ama is stimulated by exacerbated vata dosha and Ama settles in trika sandhi and is characterized by immense pain in the joints with inflammation, Jwara and, eventually, weakness of the joints, causing transient or permanent impairment of the joints and hindering everyday activities. The two major causative factors 'ama' and 'vata' are similarly critical for pathogenesis. The causes of the development of Ama and its role in the indication of the disease phase need a special analysis. The incorrect digestive process that is the root cause of the disease is Ahara Rasa or Ama.

This functions as a *visha* in the body and induces various forms of illnesses, of which *Amavata* is a very serious illness. In the early stages, only joint involvement can be seen with cardinal features such as *angamarda*, *aruchi*, *alasya*, *jwara* and *angashoonata*, etc., but if not treated with systemic therapy, the *madhyam rogamarga* can lead to heart injury and further complications such as gastrointestinal, coronary, nervous, urinary and respiratory system involvement. In its chronic process, it is concluded that the frequent aggravation of its institutions is debilitating for human beings. *Vedas* also lists the numerous conditions that contribute to impaired movement. But Amavata, as a disease entity, is not even present in *Brihatrayees*.

METHOD AND MATERIALS

Materials related to *Amavata* have been gathered from various publications & journals, Ayurvedic and Modern texts, authentic websites (PubMed, Medicinal Plants, etc.), Authentic Magazines, Literature, Manuscripts, Sanskrit Dictionary, Shabdakosha, etc.

Historical Review

History, the methodological archive of past *Ayurveda* events, begins with the *Vedas*, which are known to be the oldest available texts. Before moving into the main theme of *Amavata* and its management, it seems important to briefly discuss its historical analysis. For simplicity, the time of *Ayurveda's* existence may be separated into various periods.

- Veda kalina
- Samhita kalina
- Sangraha kalina
- Nighantukalina
- Adhunikakalina

Vedas

Ayurveda is known to be an *upaveda* of *Atharvaveda*. There are no clear references to *Amavata in Vedas*. There are some references in *Atharvaveda* to traditional diseases, even in the name of *vishakhanda*, which means disorganized joints. It is mentioned that the destruction of the *balasa* seated in the organs and joints responsible for loosening the joints".^[1]

Puranas

There are lists of *Sharira*-related matters in *Puranas*. *Agni Purana* narrates the complete number of joints and describes the *pathyas* for the *vatarogas* involved to the joints.^[2]

Brihatrayee

The word *Amavata* has been recorded in *Charaka Samhita*, which may date back to 1000 B.C., probably to indicate the relationship between *Ama* and *Vata*. However the word *Amavata* is used in some of the therapeutic indications of the drug compounds, *Kamsahareetaki*, ^[3] *Vishaladiphanta of Pandu chikitsa* is identified as being successful in *Amavata*.

Nirukti and Paribhasha of amavata

The nirukti of amavata

- > "Amenasahita vata iti Amavata" "Amaschavataschaiti Amavata"(As per Shabdhakalpadruma,)
- "The Amavata indicates its samprapti".

Nidana

Nidana is defined as a specific component with a potential or tendency to cause disease.^[4] In other words, *nidana* is the same etiology as the epidemic. *Nidana* has been classified into different views under different headings. One of them is *Bahya Hetu and Abhyantara Hetu*. Factors such as *ahara*, *vihara* and *kala* are considered to be *bahyahetus*, while *abyantarahetu* or the underlying aspect is mainly *dosha* and *dooshya*.

Concept of ama

- Eshadpakwe, asiddhe, pakarahite Ama + karane. Rogamatre^[5]
- Raw, uncooked, unbaked, unannealed, unripe, immature, undigested [6]
- Ama is a portion of Asatmya in the body. In general, the term ama means unripe, uncooked, unripe, undigested.

Causes of ama

Ama is mainly administered by agnimandhya. Though there is agnimandya, even a small amount of light food cannot be digested. Shuktatwa (fermentation) reaches the ungrown food, which results in the onset of toxic conditions, namely ama. The causative factors for Agnimandhya can be described as:

- 1. Aharaja
- 2. Viharaja
- 3. Manasika
- a) Aharaja

Aharajaagnimandhya is caused by a variety of factors

- a) Abhojanam
- b) BhojanamAjeerna
- c) Athibhojanam
- d) Vishamasanam
- e) Asatmyaharam
- f) Gurubhojanam
- g) Viharaja
- a) Desa kala rituvaishamyam
- b) Vega vidaranam
- c) Swapnaviparyayam
- h) Manasika
- a. Shokam:-grief
- **b. Krodham:-**wrath.
- c. Chinta:-I'm concerned
- d. Dukhasayya:-Unsuitable sleeping bed.

Properties of ama

In his commentary on Ashtanga Hridaya, Arunadutta defines the properties of Ama as

- 1. Dravatvam
- 2. Gurutwam
- 3. Snigdhatvam
- 4. Pichilatwam
- 5. Nanavarnam

Pathological symptoms

Generally speaking, this ama induces certain effects in the body

- Srotorodha
- General deficiency or lack of power

- Balabramsha
- sense of heaviness
- Gourava
- manda
- Anilamoodata

Causes of vataprakopa

Aharaja

- 1. Roksha, ushnasheeta and laghu food products are frequently eaten.
- 2. Inadequate consumption of food in alpha bhojanam.
- 3. AtisheegrhaAbhojanam.
- 4. Intake of mainly tikta, katu and kashayarasas food.

Viharaja

- 1. Jagaranam
- 2. Vegadharana-
- 3. Vegodheerana
- 4. Ativyavaya

Manasika

Bhaya, krodha, chinta and other emotional influences are also linked to vata *prakopa*. When the *vata* becomes abnormal, the body is affected by different forms of diseases. It impairs the power, the complexion, the satisfaction and the life span. It disturbs the subconscious, it stimulates all the senses. It kills, deforms the embryo or prolongs the gestation cycle. This gives rise to terror, sorrow, stupefaction, modesty and delirium. It hinders essential function.^[7]

General samprapti

Samprapti is nothing but the detailed description of all the morbid process that takes place in different stages of the disease. It is the period of pathogenesis taking place in the body from the period of *nidana sevana* to the period of *vyadhivyaktavastha*. In some specific condition, the *nidana* factor vitiates doshas. Such vitiated *doshas* continue to accumulate in their respective regions and the accumulated *doshas* migrate by *srotas* and get lodged by persistent indulgence in *nidana sevana*, where there is a *khavaigunya* and hence the manifestation of disease takes place. Under samprapti, this dynamic phase that includes *sanchayadhiavasthas*

is clarified. All the writers who have dealt with it have given the same opinion with respect to the *samprapti* of *Amavata*. In the development of the disease *Amavata*, *Ama* plays a significant role. *Samprapti* is again categorized into five groups, according to *vagbhata*. *Sankhya*, *Vikalpa*, *pradhanya*, *Bala*, *and Kala samprapti* are all of them.

Shatkriya kala

Sanchayavasta

The *mandagni* is caused by the etiological conditions of Ama. This state contributes to the spirit. The *ama* is being collected in *amashaya*. In the other hand, Vata is also vitiated by her own causes. This stage can be called *'sanchayavasta*.' In *Amavatanidana*, the development of *ama* takes place not only in *amashaya*, but also in all *shleshmastanas* such as *ura*, *kanta*, *sandhis* at the same time owing to the continuous indulgence of *nidana*.

Prakopavasta

The *ama* that is accumulated in *sleshmasthana* is instigated and becomes the *vidagdha* by the vitiated *tridosha*. Accumulation of more and more *Vidgdhaama* in *amashaya* and all other *shleshma stanas* that say 'swasthanevruddhi' leads to *prakopavasta*. Since mandagni occurs in *amashaya*, mostly *rasadhatwagni* followed by all *dhatwgnis*, *mandavasta* and *tridoshaprakopa* also take place here, *ama* begins to produce and accumulate in *rasadhatu*.

Prasaravastha

It is noted in classics that *ama* continues to *shleshma sthanas*. *Uras is in uras*, a *shleshmasthana&hridaya*. Based on this, it can be understood that the *ama* also comes into contact with the *hridaya*. As *ama* and rasa combine in *hridaya*, the vitiated vata brought from the *hridayaama* along with vitiated rasa through all the *srotas* of the body. This step is known as *'prasaravastha*.'

Sthanasamshraya

Due to the *khavaigunya in sandhiesama* along with the vitiated *rasa and vata*, it settles in *sandhies. Madhavakara* says the vitiated doshas join into *trikasandhi* along with *ama*.^[8]

Vyaktavasta

The accumulated kapha would not be reabsorbed into srotas due to avarodha, and hence activates *shotha* and shoola, followed by all *Amavata's lakshanas*. This may be known as "*Vyaktavasta*."

Bhedavasta

If it is not handled in any of these five phases, the stage called "*Bhedavasta*" will begin. This includes all of the *upadravas*. This point, too is difficult to handle. It's a *Samanyasamprapti*.

Vishistasamprapti

The presence of a specific *dosha* will take place in the *amavatavishistasamprapti*. *Dosha* predominance creates its own *lakshana*. *Vata* predominance induces serious *shoola* in *sandhi*. *Daha* and *raga* are observed in sandstones owing to the predominance of *pitta*. The predominance of kapha creates *sthaimitya*, *gaurava* and *kandu*. [9]

Sampraptighatakas

1. Dosha

- a) Vata: In Amavata due to vata prakopakaahara and vihara vatagets vitiated and spreads all over the body. It carries the Ama from Amashaya to kapha sthana like Sandhi, Shira, and Hridayaetc.
- **b)** *Pitta*: Among five types *of pitta, pachaka pitta*is involved. The functions of *pachakapitta* are impaired.
- c) *Kapha: Kledakakapha* and *sleshakakapha* are involved. *Kledakakapha* moistens, breaks the food and produces *dravata*. These functions are impaired in *Amavata*. *Shleshaka kapha* gets vitiated and accumulated by the influence of *ama*. This results in *sandhishotha andshoola*.

2. Dushya

Dushya is rasa. By the contact of ama, rasa gets vitiated. Vitiated rasa and ama circulates throughout the body and produces amalakshanas. Because of affinity and khavaigunya in sandhi's the vitiated rasa and ama settles in sandhies and produce shotha and shola.

- 3. Agni: Mandata of jataragni and rasadhatwagni is observed in Amavata.
- **4.** Ama: Ama is produced by mandata of jataragni and rasadhatwagni.
- **5.** *Srotas*: Rasavahasrotasis affected in Amavata. The ama circulates through the rasavahasrotas.
- **6.** *Dushtiprakara*: Due to the impaired function of rasadhatwagni, the rasa is not formed properly. This is attributed tosanga.
- **7.** *Udbhavasthana*: Udbhavasthana is amashaya. Ama is an important factor in the causation of disease. The production of ama occurs in amashaya.
- 8. Sancharasthana: Ama along with vitiated rasa travel through srotas and get lodged in

sandhis.

- **9.** *Rogamarga*: Roga marga is madhyamarogamarga. The amaand vitiated rasa goes to hridaya. From hridaya, ama and vitiated rasa goes to asthisandhis. As a result of this condition, shotha and shoola occurs in sandhis. Hridaya and sandhies comes under madhyamarogamarga.
- **10.** *Adhishtana:* Ama settles in sandhis because of affinity and khavaigunya in sandhies. This condition leads to shotha and shoola. Hence sandhies can be considered as adhishtana forAmavata.
- **11.** *Vyaktastha*: In Amavata shotha and shoola occurs in sandhies due to ama. Hence sandhies can be considered as vyaktasthana.

Poorva roopa

The vitiated doshas at the level of *sthanasamshraya* would produce the effects of a potential illness. Such signs are referred to as *poorvaroopas* or premonitory symptoms. These are signs of an inevitable illness.^[10] One more quotation from *Madhavakara* about *poorvaroopa* is, these are the feebly manifested symptoms of forth coming disease. *The poorvaroopa* of *Amavata* has not been mentioned in texts. Some of the symptoms like *dourbalya*, *aruchi*, *alasya*, *gaurava*, *trishna*, *angamarda* if present minutely, may be considered as *poorvaroopas*. In addition to these the other symptoms of *Amavata* which are incompletely manifested may be considered as *poorvaroopa*.

Roopa

Roopa can be graded as follows, according to the signs and symptoms.^[11]

- 1. Pratyatma (Cardinal signs & symptoms)
- 2. Samanya (General signs & symptoms)
- 3. Vishishta (Distinguishing features of doshanubandha)
- 4. Pravriddha Amavata

Pratyatmalakshanas

a) Sandhi shotha

Generally the shothais in symmetrical shape. There will not be any pitting on pressure. There will be ushnasparshaand the shotha increases in sheeta kala i.e. during night and earlymorning.

b) Sandhi shoola

Usually shoola is felt in sandhies all the times. It increases during night and early morning

owing to sheetanature of night and early morning. Character of shoola in pravriddhaavastha is described as "Vruschikadamsha vata vedana" (like scorpion bite). Shotha and shoola shift from one joint to another. In classics the phrase "Karotisarujamshothamyatradoshahaprapadhyate" has been used. This means where the vitiated doshas and ama travels, there shothaand shoola takes place. As the disease progresses, there is tendency for it spread to the sandhies of hastha, pada, shiras, gulpha, trika, januand ooru. Shothaand shoola gets decreased in ushnakala.

c) *Gatrasthabdhata*: This means stiffness of the body. As sandhdies are restricted thenormal movements of the body also getsrestricted.

Samanya lakshanas

- a) *Angamarda* Angamarda means feeling of mardanavatpeeda (crushing type of pain). This occurs due to rasa dhusti caused by Ama.
- **b)** *Aruchi* The bodhaka kapha, which is situated injihwa, gets vitiated by the amaand leads to condition of aruchi, where the patient does not find foodpalatable.
- c) *Trishna* Ama produces srotorodhaof stoats and increases cleda formation in to the body. So that Mutra also increase in the body because "Mutrasyacledavahanam" is the karma of Mutra. As a result of this patient craves for water and trushna occurs in to the body.
- d) *Gaurava* It is the feeling of heaviness. Guru and picchilagunasof ama, which have prithvi andjala mahabhootas, leads to rasa dhustiand produce gaurava.
- e) *Alasya* It means inactiveness. Due to gauravaand srotovarodha, patientbecomes unenthusiastic.
- f) Jwara- Ama and vitiated doshas expel the agni from its normal place resulting in santapa.
- g) Apaka- Hypo functioning of rasadhatwaghni arises as a consequence of impaired function of jataragni. This condition leads toapaka.
- h) *Shoonatanga* This is nothing but sandhishotha.

Classification of amavata

The disease Amavata has been classified on the basis of anubandha of

- a) Dosha
- b) Severity
- c) Mode of manifestation of the disease.

Classification according to anubandhaofdosha^[12]

On the basis of anubandha of dosha it has been classified into the following varieties;

- 1. Anubandhaof onedosha
- a) Vatanuga
- b) Pittanuga
- c) Kaphanuga
- 2. Anubandhaof two dosha
- a) Vata-pittanuga
- b) Vata-Kaphanuga
- c) pitta-kaphanuga
- 3. Involvement of all the three doshas
- a. Tridoshaja

A) Classification according to the severity of the disease

- 1. Samanya amavata(prarambavasta)
- 2. Pravriddha Amavata.(Pravrudhavasta)

B) Classification according to the clinical appearance

- 1. Vistambi
- 2. Gulmee
- 3. Snehi
- 4. Pakvama
- *5. Sarvanga*^[13]

Upadrava

The illness that seems to be a continuation of and after the full manifestation of the initial disease is called "*upadrava*." Or in other words, another illness is found after the main disease known as '*upadrava*' a complication"^[14]

- 1. Sankocha
- 2. Khanjata
- 3. Vataroga: Hridaya vikruti

Sadhya – Asadhyata

As with the *sadhyasadhata* of *Amavata*, all the writers found just the number of *doshas* concerned and the expansion of the *shotha* to all the *sandhies*. If *Amavata* disorder requires

only one dosha, it can be called sadhya. It becomes yapya if there are two doshas involved. If all the sandhies are influenced by the shotha, and all three of the doshas are active in the *upadrava* of *Amavata*, so it is said to be *Asadhya*. ^[15]

Amavata chikithsa^[16,17]

Management

Simple medicines

- 1. Powder of Shunthi (dried ginger) 2 g., to be taken with 50 ml. warm water twice a day.
- 2. 12 to 24 g. leaf of Aragvadha (cassia) fried in ghee or Sarsapa Taila (mustard oil), to be taken twice a day.

Simple preparations

1. Decoction of equal part of Shunthī (dried ginger) and stem of Guduchi – 14 to 28 ml. is to be taken with 6 g. powder of fruit rind of Haritakī (chebulicmyrobalan) twice a day.

Formulations

- 1. Ajmodadi churna: 1 to 3 g., to be taken with 50 ml. warm water twice a day.
- **2.** Vaishvanara churna: 3 to 6 g. is to be taken with 50 ml. warm water twice a day.
- 3. Guduchyadi kvatha: 14 to 28 ml., to be taken twice a day.
- **4. Rāsna-Dashamula kvatha:** 14 to 28 ml., to be taken with Eraṇḍa Taila (castor oil) 7 to 14ml. once a day early in the morning.
- **5. Rasnadi kvatha:** 14 to 28 ml., to be taken twice a day.
- **6. Hingulesvara rasa:** 1 to 2 pills, to be taken with 50 ml. warm water twice a day.
- 7. Yogaraja guggulu: 1 to 2 pills, to be taken with 50 ml. warm water thrice a day.
- **8.** Simhanada guggulu: 1 to 2 pills, to be taken with 50 ml. warm water thrice a day.
- **9.** Vishamushtika vati: 1 to 2 pills, to be taken with 50 ml. warm water twice a day.

Local applications

Following local applications are useful for relieving the pain and inflammation.

- 1. Fomentation of the affected joint with BalukaPottalika (sand bag).
- 2. Fomentation of the joint with luke warm decoction of root of Eranda (castor) twice a day.
- 3. Hot Lepa (poultice) prepared from the seed of Maşa (black phaseolus) 250 g., leaves of Rasna – 125 g. and Gandhaprasarani – 125 g., root of Eranda (castor) – 125 g. and Atibala -125 g. is to be applied on the affected part.

4. Flour of Godhuma (wheat) and powdered seed of Eranda (castor) in equal parts, mix in sufficient quantity of goat' milk or old ghee and boil to make a Lepa (poultice). It is to be applied while hot on the affected joint.

Pathya

Rakta Shali (a red variety of rice), seeds of Kodrava (a type of cereal (Paspalumscrobiculatum Linn) Kodo in hindi, Syamaka (a type of cereal - Panicum Frumentaceum), Yava (barley) and Kulattha (dolichos bean); warm water; Ārdraka (ginger), bulb of Rasona (garlic), leaf and fruit of Patola (a variety of small cucumber), root of Punarnavā (pigweed), leaves of Shigru (horse-radish) and Vastuka (a variety of chenopodium, white goose-foot) and fruit of Karavellaka (bitter gourd) are the useful articles of diet for the patient of Amavata.

Apathya

Guru, Abhişyandi Anna; seed of Maşa (black phaseolus bean); milk, curd, Guda (jaggery); incompatible and unrelished foods, fish, excessive eating, nonpotable water; sitting up at night; suppression of calls of nature and exposure to eastern winds are harmful for the patient of Amavata.

Langhana chikitsa

In the management of Amavata, Langhana is approved first. The following principles are based on the utility of langhana in Amavata. Both forms of langhana are effective in rasaiavikaras^[16] Rasadhatu is primarily active in Amavata. Langhana therapy is prescribed in amashayottavyadhi. [18] Ama in Amavata has its root in amashaya. Langhana also pacifies the amavikaras.

Swedana chikitsa

The therapy that performs nigraha, gauravanigraha, sheetanigraha is named "swedana" along with the development of sweda. In Amavata, ruksha sweda was advocated in the form of valukaputaka, which can be substantiated by the vision of Charaka that if vitiated vatadosha sits in kapha sthana, it should be done first rookshasweda. [19]

Tikta, Katu and Deepana drugs chikitsa

The rationality behind tikta, katu, and deepana drug use is as follows: there are rooksha and laghu gunas in Tikta rasa. It does both lekhana as well as pachana and deepana. In conditions like aruchi, thrushna, moorcha and jwara, it is helpful. The kleda and shleshma²⁰ ingest it. Katu rasa has gunas, laghu, ushna and rooksha. It also has features such as deepana, Pachana and rochana, since the srotases are dilated. [21]

Virechana chikitsa

The patient should be subjected to *virechana* therapy after the administration of *langhana*, swedana and tikta, katu and deepana medicines, because the doshas formed nirama by these therapeutic steps enable *shodhana*²² to be extracted from the body.

Snehapana chitiksa

The patient should be subjected to *snehapana* after *langanadhi* therapies to pacify the *vata*, but Snehapana was only recorded to increase the agniafter achieving niramaavastha, [23] as it affects digestion by softening the food and stimulating the agni^[24] which is the primary necessity in Amavata.

Basti chikitsa

Both anuvasana and niruhabasti have been touted in Amavata, Saindhavadhitaila for anuvasana and ksharabasti for niruha were told by Chakradatta. Anuvasanabasti administration, followed by niruhabasti by numerous snehas, has strong influence over Amavata. Shodhana bastis in ama condition are found to be supportive. [25]

DISCUSSION

The role of Ama in the manifestation and control of disease was clarified by Samhita textbooks. This condition was first referred to by Madhavakara as a distinct individual. Chakradatta, Bhavaprakash, AnjanNidan and Basavarajiya subsequently offered a fair deal of explanation of this disease and its treatment. Regardless of spatial factors, Amavata exists around the world, but in urban areas it is more widespread.

Due to the intake of the etiological element and the practice of sedentary life style, it rises in the modern century. The role of Mandagni/Vishamagni in initiating the disease process is important. While the primary pathogenic component is Ama and Vata, Kapha and Pitta are also inevitably involved in Amavata pathogenesis. The samprapti of this disease originates from Madhyamarogamarga, which arises in Sandhi Sleshmasthana, Annavaha srotas. As it resembles ShleshakaKapha's physical properties, present in joint spaces and seeking to settle down there, Amadosha has an affinity for different joint spaces. Sleshmasthana's presence in

pathology provides a wide variety of clinical manifestations. The *Dushyas* are mainly active in *Rasa*, *Asthi and Majja*. In the later step.^[25] *Mamsa* and *Snayu* are affected.

CONCLUSION

The Ama and Vata are the two principal prevalent factors responsible for this disease's pathogenesis. As vitiated vata and Ama join the kostha concurrently, trika and sandhi contribute to body stiffness and trikasandhi shoola is known as amavata. In Ayurvedic classics, the Nidana responsible for the pathogenesis of Amavata are as-Viruddhahara, Viruddhachesta, Mandagni, Snigdha bhuktavatovyayama, Nischalata, Guru Ahara, drinking Kandashaka and Vyavaya etc.

Langhana, Svedana, Dipana, Pachana, Virechana, Snehapana, Basti and the different medicines that could be effective for Amavata with Tikta-katu rasa are the fundamental concepts of treatment for amavata.

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