

**REVIEW ARTICLE ON ALARK VISHA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE  
TO BRUHATRAI****Tejashree Kumbhar\* and Nayana Hingmire**

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**◆ ABSTRACT**

Ayurveda is a branch of science which deals with maintaining health and treating illness of the body. It has mainly eight branches called as *Ashtang Ayurveda* it is comprised of *kay, bal, grah, urdhang, shalya, damshtra, Jara, vrushan*. *Damshtra* means knowledge related to visha or toxins. It's poisoning signs, symptoms and treatment is called as *Agadtantra*. *Alark visha* (Dog bite) incidences are seen worldwide. There are commonly occurring dog bite incidences but if person get rabid it is fatal. It can leads to death. Nowadays we only have prophylactic treatment or immunization for *Alark visha* (Rabies) in modern science. Our *Ayurveda* has given the knowledge about treatment, sign and symptoms also. So present study is an attempt to conceptualize the *Alark Visha* with special reference to Bruhatrayee

**KEYWORDS:** Alark, Agad, Fatal, Poison, Chikitsa.

**◆ INTRODUCTION**

Ayurveda is a branch of science which deals with maintaining health and treating illness of the body.<sup>[1]</sup> *Ayurveda* comprised of eight branches. *Agadtantra* is one of the branch.<sup>[2]</sup> *Agadatantra* or *damshtra* means study of poison. Poisoning is caused by many factors like biting, intake of inappropriate substances, application of paste of substance over body surface. According to *Ayurveda visha* has been divided into *sthavar visha* (Inanimate) & *jangam visha* (Animate). *Sthavar visha* poisoning is caused by some inanimate substances like metal poisoning like lead etc. And *jangam visha* poisoning is caused by poisoning by *visha* present in animals like snake, scorpion, dog, monkey, insects etc.

*Visha* Can be defined as any substances when come in contact with body by any path causes fatality or death some poisons are hazardous to body and some poisons are responsible for death of person.

Poison Has been classified in modern science according to many ways. It is classified into suicidal, homicidal, for cattle killing, stupifying, accidental and abortive. According to purpose or intention. It is classified as corrosive irritants, narcotics, cardiac and others. According to symptoms or effect.

The site of poison is the location from which poison is released from its source in case of *sthavar visha* they are ten namely leaves, stem, flowers, fruits, bark, milk, Sara, dink, dhaatu, kand. In case of *jangam visha* they are sixteen namely vision, expiration, teeth, nails, urine, faces, Semen, saliva, menses mouth, anus, tip, acid, legs and dead body of animals.<sup>[3]</sup> The *Alark visha* causes due to the bite of animal like cat, dog, wolf, monkey. *Alark visha* is very lethal to body. Once transmitted never be cure its fatal to all.

*Alark visha* can be compared with rabies in modern science and we know that rabies can be 100% prevented but it is 100% fatal if not prevented. *Alark visha* is really very common in all over the world. It found in around human habitations, in urban and village locations in forest, desserts, hilly and in grasslands also.

#### ◆ AIM

Review on *Alark Visha* with special reference to *Bruhatrayee*.

#### ◆ OBJECTIVE

- 1) To study of *Alark visha* in *Bruhatrayee*.
- 2) To understand the sign and symptoms of the *Alark visha* in *Bruhatrayee*.
- 3) To understand treatment of *Alark visha* in *Bruhatrai*.

#### ◆ MATERIAL AND METHOD

Literature review is done through *charak samhita*, *sushrut Samhita*, *ashtanghruday* and online data available.

## ♦ Review of literature

### Alark

The *Alark visha* poisoning causes due to the bite of animal who carried *Alark visha* like dog, monkey, cat, mongoose, tiger, wolf or any wild animal.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Samprapti

#### According to charak

After bite of the dog and other animal all the three doshas get vitiated and other *Rasadi dhaatus* get agitated.<sup>[5]</sup>

#### According to Sushrut and Ashtang hruday

After bite poison get spread in all over body due to this all doshas are get vitiated.

Kapha dosha prominence with other doshas gate accumulated in *Sandnyavah & manovaha strotas* after it do *sadnyanash*. Other *Rasadi dhaatus* get agitated by the *Alark visha* and deprive it's functions.<sup>[6,7]</sup>

### Symptoms of *alark visha* carrying animal

#### According to charak

Due to *Alark Visha* Animals get Headache with fever, excessive salivation. Its head is hanging down it unable to look upward.<sup>[8]</sup>

#### According to sushrut

Due to *Alark Visha* animals tail, shoulder and chin get loosen up, loss of balance when walking, excessive salivation, he is unable to hear, barking differently, became aggressive and running everywhere.<sup>[9]</sup>

#### According to ashtanghriday

Excessive salivation, it became blind and deaf, running every where, tail, shoulder and chin get loosen up, headache, neck hanging down.<sup>[10]</sup>

### Signs and Symptoms of *alark visha* poisoning

#### According to sushrut

- Black colour blood is coming out through bitesite.
- A stab or punctured poisoned wound is formed.<sup>[11]</sup>

**According to ashtang hriday**

- The bite site became numb and black colored blood is coming out.
- Headache and chest pain, fever, arthralgia.
- Became more thirsty after some time become unconscious.<sup>[12]</sup>

**Arishta lakshna (Terminal signs) of *alark visha* poisoning****According to Sushrut and Ashtang hriday**

If patient not getting treatment in time or ignored the above symptoms patient get worsened with below symptoms.

- If the patient repeatedly utters the sound like bitten animal and acting like bitten animal.
- If the patient visualise the image of bitten animal in water, mirror or anywhere

Then the patient with such negative symptoms physician should understand that he will definitely die.<sup>[13,14]</sup>

**Jalsantras (Hydrophobia)****According to Sushrut and Ashtang hriday**

A person who suddenly gets scared after seeing or touching water without any reason should also be considered as a sign indicating death this state is called as water logging or if the patient develop symptoms of hydrophobia even after being beaten by a stinging animal. He also does not become healthy if a patient wake up from sleep and suffers from water or in a healthy state then it is also in curable.<sup>[15,16]</sup>

**♦ Chikitsa of *alark visha* poisoning****According to sushrut**

- If bitten by these animals press the bite side to extract blood and then burn it with goghrita.
- Apply goghrita and take puranghita.
- Give a treatment of ark (Calotropis) milk as a purgative.
- Give a treatment of Aparajita and punarnava with dhatura.
- Give a treatment of palal (Tilkalk) til tel and ark milk and jaggery.
- Give a treatment of one karsha (10 gm) of sharpunkha ½ karsha (5 gm) of dhatura give it with rice water and rice only.

- Patient should be animal contaminated with the poison of rabid animal should give this treatment.

According to sushrut weather above medicine is get digested the patient will start behaving like a rabid dog when these symptoms get vanished. The patient should be kept in a cool and quite room without water after giving him a bath. Shali and shashti food should be given with hot milk on the next day. It has been mentioned to repeat the same treatment in half quantity on the third and fifth day this method is recommended by ancient Acharya to treat poison of rabid dog.

The person in home the poison becomes emerged does not survive.<sup>[17]</sup>

### **Ashwasan chikitsa (Other treatment)**

It is also mentioned in *Sushrut Samhita* that if the *Alark visha* get vitiated by itself the disease become incurable and so the clever physician should take efforts to vitiate the *Alark visha* by medicines in *Aahwasan chikitsa* it is stated that seeds (tiladi), ratna (gems), oshadhi all are put in vessels filled with cold water and gate bathed on the bank of river or at cross road.

After offering tilkhal, tilkalk and curd. Offer different types of garlands and cooked meet and recite this Mantra "*he alkadhipati yaksha king of sameygana quickly detoxify me who has been bitten by a dog*".

After this give a tikshna sanshodhana.<sup>[18]</sup>

### **According to ashtang hriday**

- Do Dahan karma at bite site by ghrita
- Application of various agad lepa at the bite site. various agad lepa are mentioned in the samhita
- Give a treatment of puran ghrita.
- Give a treatment of ark kshir, white punarnava, tilkalk, tiltail, guda.<sup>[19]</sup>

### **According to charak**

- (Chaturvishati upakrama) twenty four folds of treatment told by charak. According to stages of poisoning do the proper treatment of patient.
- According to stages of doshas do the shodhana karma like vaman and virechana followed by sansarjan karma.<sup>[20]</sup>

## ◆ OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

*Alark visha* it's very well explained it in all the Brihatrayee.

In *Sushrut Samhita* it is explain the in detail in 7th adhyay of *kalpasthan* namely *mushikkalp adhyay*.

In *Charak samhita* it is explain the in detail in 23 rd adhyay of *chikitsasthann* namely *vishachikitsa adhyay*.

In *Ashtanghriday* it is explain the in detail in 38 th adhyay of *uttartantra* namely *mushikaalarkvishaprateshedham adhyay*.

## ◆ DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

It is observed that in all over the world dogs and cats are many a times pet animal and stray also. Wild animals influence is also in many areas of the world like village area, forest area, desert area and in hilly areas the poison comes under the *Jangam visha* category. It is very lethal to body and after the spread of poison there is no treatment. Nowadays only prophylactic treatment is present.

After the (Rabies virus) *Alark visha* contamination the virus travel through peripheral nerves to the brain. It affects on CNS lead to death by paralysis of muscles, difficulty in swallowing food and water, excessive salivation, fever, muscle spasm, patient start screaming, very afraid of water.

Also it shows symptoms of vat dosh predominance, pitta dosh predominance and kapha dosha predominance.

Like modern aspect in *Ayurveda in Brihatrayee* also mentioned all the signs and symptoms of the *Alark visha* with specific prognosis and treatment.

Also they have mentioned that it is *Sandnyavah strotas disease affecting brain* causing Jalsantras (Hydrophobia) and other *Arishta lakshanas* (Incurable signs).

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