

ROLE OF AGNI KARMA IN GYNECOLOGICAL DISORDERS

Dr. Sonam^{1*} and Dr. Asokan V.²PG Scholar¹, Professor², Department Prasuti Tantra and Stree Roga,

Parul Institute of Ayurved, Vadodara, Gujarat.

Article Received on
29 July 2021,Revised on 18 Aug. 2021,
Accepted on 06 Sept. 2021

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr202112-21681

Corresponding Author*Dr. Sonam**PG Scholar, Department
Prasuti Tantra and Stree
Roga, Parul Institute of
Ayurved, Vadodara,
Gujarat.**ABSTRACT**

Agnikarma is a unique parasurgical procedure. The procedure is popular since ages and is in practice even today. The term *Agnikarma* consists of two words; *Agni* and *karma*.^[1] It means one which takes its course of action in upward direction. The basic principle behind the application of *dahana karma* is the latent heat rate of the materials used.^[2] For superficial conditions where minimal heat is required, materials with minimum latent heat is used, whereas in deeper tissues materials with minimum latent heat is used whereas in deeper tissues materials with maximum latent heat are used. *Agnikarma* is an effective procedure for the management of cervical erosion, and metal *shalaka* is a convenient medium having high efficacy in relieving the

symptoms of erosion and no apparent evidence of complications. So This may be positively helpful in treating the cervical erosion.

KEYWORDS: *Agnikarma*, gynaecological disorders.

INTRODUCTION










In gynaecological disorders *agnikarma* plays an important role as the reoccurrence rate of the disease is very rare in *agnikarma*. In classics, for skin(*twak*) diseases material used for *dahana karma* are *pippali*, *ajasakrt*, *godanti*, *shalaka*, *varti* etc. for muscular(*mamsaja*) diseases *loha*, *swarna*, *tamra* and *kamsya* are used.^[3] In case of deeper tissues like bones, ligaments, tendons, vessels etc., *madhu*, *guda*, *vasa*, *ghrita*, *taila*, *madhucchista* are used. *Dhatushalaka* has been used for *dahana karma* irrespective of the structure involved.^[4] Now-a-days an electric thermal cautery machine has taken the place of *shalaka*. According to Ayurveda, *agnikarma* is a *anushastra karma* (para surgical procedure). The diseased tissue is

treated by inflicting burns on the tissue surface directly by using different materials called *dahana upakarana*.^[5]

Agnikarma in Samhita period^[6]

During *Samhita Kala* special literature having detail of disease and their management were available.

Dahana Vishesha^[7]

1	Valaya	Circular Shape	
2	Bindu	Dot Like Shape(pointed)	
3	Vilekha	1. Tiryak (oblique)	
		2. Riju(straight)	
		3. Vakra(Zigzag)	
4	Pratisarana	Rubbing at indicated site by heated shalaka and there is no specific shape.	
5	Ardhachandrakara	Semicircular fashion.	
6	Swasthika		
7	Ashtapada		

Dahana Vishesha is the figure produced on the skin of diseased part after *Agnikarma Chikitsa*.

1. **Valaya** (circle)
2. **Bindu** (dot)
3. **Vilekha** (parallel line)
4. **Pratisarana** (rubbing)

Ashtangasamgrahakara.^[8] mentioned additional three *Dahana Vishesha* also with above four.

1. **Ardhachandra**
2. **Swastika**
3. **Ashtapada**

Agnikarma Kala (Suitable Time)^[9]

Branding by fire can be done in all seasons, except *sharad* (autumn) and *grishma* (summer) because in *sharad* there is a *prakopa* of *pitta* and *agnikarma* also aggravates *pitta* and it may be lead *pitta prakopa*, due to this *agnikarma* is contraindicated. Even in these seasons it can be done in diseases of emergency, after adopting counter methods.

Types of Agnikarma^[10]

Agnikarma is classified as follows:

1. According to Dravya

Snigdha Agnikarma: *Madhu, Ghrita, Taila* etc. are used for *Sira, Snayu, Sandhi and Asthi* type of *Agnikarma*.

Ruksha Agnikarma: *Pippali, Shalaka, Godanta* are used for *Twak* and *Mamsa Dagdha*.

2. According to Site

Sthanika (local): *Kadara, Arsha, Vicharchika*.

Sthanantariya (systemic): *Apachi, Gridhrasi*.

3. According to Dhatu^[10]

Sushruta mentioned *twaka dagdha, mamsa dagdha, sira-snayu dagdha* and *asthi dagdha*. But in practice, many practitioners are giving their own opinions regarding *Dhatu* i.e. *Suvarna, Rajata, Loha, Tamra, Kansya*, etc.

Special Symptoms

➤ **Twaka Dagdha^[11]** (skin burn/ superficial burn)

- *Shabdapradurbha* (Production of specific sound)
- *Durgandhata* (Bad odor)
- *Twaka Sankocha* (Contraction of the skin)

➤ **Mamsa Dagdha^[12]** (Deep Burn up to muscle)

- *Kapotvarnata* (Color like that of pigeon i.e. ashy, dark grey)
- *Alpa Swayathu* (Mild swelling)
- *Alpa Vedana* (Bearable pain)
- *Shuska Sankuchita Vranata* (Dry, contracted wound)

➤ **Sira Snayu Dagdha**^[13] (Extensive Burn of Vein and Artery)

- *Krishna Vranata* (Black coloration)
- *Unnata Vranata* (Elevated wound)
- *Shrava – Sannirodha* (Stoppage of discharge)

➤ **Sandhi Asthi Dagdha**^[14] (Extensive Burn up to Bone)

- *Rukshata* (Dryness)
- *Arunata* (Dark red coloration)
- *Karkashata* (Roughness)
- *Sthirata* (Stability)

SOP of Agnikarma^[15]

Purva karma

1. Written consent has be obtained at the time of registration of the patient for study.
2. Pre-requisite investigation has to be done.
3. Distilled water, gauze pieces, gloves needs to be collected and kept ready.
4. Temperature of *shalaka* to be maintained as per requirements.
5. Patient to be advised to empty the bladder
6. Positioning to be adopted as supine with legs flexed at knees or dorsal lithotomy
7. Part preparation and draping.

Pradhana karma

1. Cauterization to be applied as *bindu* (dotted) or *rekha*.^[19]
2. In cervical erosion cauterization to be done at the most painful site at affected mouth of cervix.
3. Signs of *mamsdagdha* – pigeons colour^[20], little swelling and pain along with dry and constricted wound.
4. *Yoni pichu* of *Jatyadi taila* once a day after *agnikarma* for seven days.

Paschat karma

1. *Yoni Prakshalana* with luke warm water once daily for seven days followed by *yonipichu* with *jatyadi taila* once daily.
2. After 15 days of *agnikarma* p/s examination to be done for observing healing process, colour and discharge and any other findings.

Cauterization^[16]

Cauterization is a medical term describing the burning of the body to remove or to heal a part of it. The main forms of cauterization used today are electrocautery and chemical cautery. Cautery can also mean the branding of a human, either recreational or forced. Accidental burns can be considered cauterization as well.

➤ Electrocautery^[17]

Electrocauterization is the process of destroying tissue using heat conduction from a metal probe heated by electric current (much like a soldering iron). The procedure is used to stop bleeding from small vessels (larger vessels being ligated) or for cutting through soft tissue. Unlike electrocautery, electrosurgery is based on generation of heat inside tissue, using electric current passing through the tissue it. Electrocauterization is preferable to chemical cauterization because chemicals can leach into neighboring flesh and cauterize outside of the intended boundaries.

Use of this electric cautery to cut the tissue or to coagulate the bleeding points, so this application of electro cautery is ideal for removing small skin tags, papilloma and also to control the bleeding during surgical procedures.

➤ Chemical cautery^[18]

Many chemical reactions can destroy tissue and some are used routinely in medicine, most commonly for the removal of cervical cysts, pre-cancerous erosion of the cervix and cervicitis, small skin lesions (i.e. genital warts or necrotized tissue) or for haemostasis. The disadvantages are that chemicals can reach into areas where cauterization was not intended. For this reason, laser and electrical methods are preferable, where practical.

Some cauterizing agents are mentioned as below

- **Copper:**^[19] Copper is essential to wound healing and carcinoma, as it promotes angiogenesis and skin ECM formation and stabilization. A key regulator of copper intracellular metallostasis, the adenosine triphosphatase 7A (ATP-7A), is induced by platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) released by the activated platelets. Copper sulfate pentahydrate is used as a fungicide.
- **Silver nitrate:**^[20] Active ingredient of the lunar caustic, a stick that traditionally looks like a large match-stick. It is dipped into lunar caustic solution and pressed onto the lesion to be cauterized for a few moments.

- **Cantharidin:**^[21] An extract of the blister beetle that causes epidermal necrosis and blistering; used to treat warts.
- **Laser cauterization**^[22]
 - It is effective for all cervical dysplasias including those that are too large for cryocauterization and those that slightly extend into the endocervix. Laser cauterization is carried out by aiming a carbon dioxide laser beam at the cervical dysplasia. Because of the fine degree of control over the depth and width of the tissue destruction, the laser can precisely vaporize the dysplasia while leaving adjacent normal tissue intact.
- **Short wave therapy**^[23]
 - Short wave therapy aims to raise the temperature of deep seated tissues and to induce hyperaemia. This in turn enhances natural resistance to infection and encourages resolution of inflammatory processes as also the elimination of the metabolic waste products. Electrodes are placed on the lower abdomen and back and sometimes on the flexed thighs. The dose is small at first and is gradually increased according to patient's reaction and progress.

Probable mode of action of Agnikarma^[24]

Due to *ushna*, *tikshna*, *sukshma*, *ashukariguna*



Dahana karma pacifies *vata* and *kaphadosha*



Obstruction of the *srotas* removed and the blood circulation is increased at the affected site



Cellular activity and metabolism increases, and thus the wound heals.

Indications of *agnikarma* in gynaecology^[25]

- Cervical erosion
- Sub - acute and chronic cellulitis.
- Cervicitis
- Pre - cancerous erosions of the cervix.
- *Yoni arsha*
- *Yoni kanda*
- Cervical cysts

- Genital Warts

Complications^[26]

- Severe burning sensation.
- Increased pain.
- Destruction of tissue
- Non healing ulcer formation

DISCUSSION

The probable mode of action of the therapy is based on removing the root cause of disease. It is well known that chronic and recurrent infection aids in the development of various gynaecological diseases. The effect on local inflammatory symptoms may have occurred due to *shothara* and *pitta doshahara* properties of *agnikarma*.^[27] By its antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effect it worked on sign and symptoms of the disease. It works on pain induced by inflammation and tenderness. It can be understood by anti-inflammatory and analgesic effect of the contents of the drugs used in the therapy.

CONCLUSION

The recurrence of the diseases and its symptoms makes the disease troublesome for patients. The local medications and oral therapy only alleviates the vaginal discharge and pain, but the disease remain as it is and the symptoms return after the treatment. Hence an effective, safe and cheap therapy is required to cure this disease from the root is achieved through *agnikarma*.^[28] due to the '*Vrana ropaka*' properties of metals used for *shalaka*.

REFERENCES

1. Sushruta, Sushruta, Dalhana, Sushruta Samhita, sutra Sthana, Avaraniya Adhyaya, 33/4 edited by Vaidya Ambikadutta shastri Acharya, Chaukhamba Surbharti prakashan reprint, Varanasi, 2012; 163.
2. Hemlatha Kapoorchand, A comprehensive treatise on Striroga, gynaecology chaukhambha vishvabharti Varanasi- 221001, 691.
3. Ibidem, (2): 692.
4. Ibidem (2): 691.
5. Sushruta, Sushruta, Dalhana, Sushruta Samhita, sutra Sthana, Avaraniya Adhyaya, 33/4 edited by Vaidya Ambikadutta shastri Acharya, Chaukhamba Surbharti prakashan reprint, Varanasi, 2012; 163.

6. Ibidem, (5): 162.
7. Ibidem, (6): 164.
8. Journal of Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad Patrika, By Dr Amit Kumar Singh & Dr Pragya Mishra, Oct-2012; 9-10(9): 33. 11.
9. 32321 International Journal of Current Research, June, 2016; 08(06): 32319-32322.
10. Harish Daga, Hemant Toshikhane, Nilesh Jethava, A comparative clinical efficacy of Agnikarma with Lauha shalaka and Tamra Shalaka in the management of sandhigata Vata(Cervical Spondylosis), World Journal of pharmaceutical Research, 2018; 7(9).
11. Vaidya Jadavji Trikamji Acharya, Sushruta, dalhana, Sushrut Samhita, Varanasi, Chaukhamba Subharti publication, reprint, Sutra Sthan chapter 12, Agnikarmavidhi Adhyaya, 2009; 12/3: 51.
12. Ibidem, Sushruta Samhita (11),Chikitsa Sthana, Granthiapachaya arbuda Chikitsa, 18/14, 17, 471.
13. Ibidem, (12) 18/24: 472.
14. Ibidem, Sushrut Samhita (11), Chikitsa Sthana, Vridhiupadansha Chikitsa 19/21-23. 50- 51, 53-54, 476.
15. Ibidem (14), 18/24: 472.
16. Hemlatha Kapoorchand, A comprehensive treatise on Striroga, gynaecology Chaukhambha Vishvabharti, Varanasi- 221001(India), 691.
17. Ibidem, (16): 690.
18. Ibidem, (16): 706.
19. <https://rozinaandsmithpt.com/files/pdf/womac-03-2016.pdf>.
20. <https://rozinaandsmithpt.com/files/pdf/womac-03-2016.pdf>.
21. Ibidem, (17): 691.
22. Ibidem, (21): 706.
23. Ibidem, (21): 691.
24. Ibidem, (22): 691.
25. Ibidem, (24): 706.
26. Ibidem, (25): 691.
27. Hemlata Kamajee Chimate, A comparative clinical study of *agnikarma* with *swarna shalaka* and *karanjadi agnikarma shalaka* in the management of cervical erosion, IPGT&RA, Jamnagar, 2012; 7.
28. Ibidem (27): 7.