Pharmacortical Research

WORLD JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

SJIF Impact Factor 8.084

Volume 10, Issue 14, 1882-1886.

Case Study

ISSN 2277-7105

A CASE REPORT ON AYURVEDIC MANAGEMENT OF AMAVATA

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Article Received on 21 October 2021,

Revised on 11 Nov. 2021, Accepted on 01 Dec. 2021,

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr202114-23025

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ABSTRACT

Amavata is a disease caused due to the vitiation or aggravation of Vata associated with Ama. The Ama is carried by the aggravated Vata and deposited in Sleshmasthanas (Seats of biophysical force, kapha like joints etc.) producing features like Angamarda (body ache), Aruchi (loss of appetite), Alasya (weakness), Sandhiruk (joint pain), Sandhisopha (joint swelling) etc. Amavata is a chronic auto immune, inflammatory, systemic disorder mainly affecting synovial joints. The Ama when combines with vitiated Vata Dosha and occupies in Sleshmasthana i.e., joints result in painful disease. Clinical features of

Amavata resembles with Rheumatoid arthritis. Rheumatoid Arthritis is an autoimmune disease causing a chronic symmetrical polyarthritis with systemic involvement. The management in Modern science includes the use of NSAID's (Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory Drugs), Glucocorticoids, DMARD's (Disease Modifying Ant rheumatic Drugs), immunosuppression therapies, long term use of which leads to many side effects. Ayurveda treats it in a natural way without any side effects. Acharya Chakradatta mentioned Chikitsa Siddhanta for management of Amavata, which consists Langhana, Swedana, and use of drugs having Tikta, Katu Rasa and Deepana property, Virechana, Snehapana and Vasti. These modalities help in Amapachana, Vatashamana, Strotoshodhana and Sthana Balya. By using this Chikitsa Siddhanta a case of Amavata was successfully treated.

KEYWORDS: Amavata, Ama, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Shamana Chikitsa.

INTRODUCTION

Amavata^[1] is a condition where simultaneously aggravated vata and Ama are associated with each other. This Ama settles in trika sandhi^[2] characterized by immense pain in joints with

inflammation, fever and ultimately stiffness of the joints, causing the temporary or permanent disability of joints. It is mainly produced due to *Ama* and vitiation of *Vata Dosha*. The *Ama* is carried by the aggravated *Vata* and deposited in *Sleshmasthanas* (Seats of *kapha* like joints etc.) Producing features like Angamarda (body ache), *Aruchi* (loss of appetite), *Alasya* (weakness), *Sandhiruk* (joint pain), *Sandhishotha* (joint swelling).^[3]

Amavata is a disease of Madhyama Rogamarga hence it is said to be Krichrasadhya or Yapya. According to the clinical features Amavata very closely resembles with the Rheumatoid arthritis. Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic, progressive autoimmune arthropathy and characterized by bilateral symmetrical involvement of joints with some systemic clinical features. Treatment in modern medicine has limitations due to their side effects. The prevalence of RA is ~0.8% of the population (range 0.3–2.1%); women are affected approximate three times more often than men. The prevalence increases with age and sex differences diminish in the older age group. The onset is most frequent during the fourth and fifth decades of life, with 80% of all patients developing the disease between the ages of 35 and 50. [5]

Chakradutta^[6] have given emphasis on a therapeutic programme that includes langhana, ama pachana, virechana, snehapana and kshara basti and vaitarana basti^[7] Ayurveda through its holistic, multimodal approach and in particular through shamana aushadhi and panchkarma therapy helps to prevent and cure Amavata. Baluka Swedana, langhana, deepana pachana etc are indicated in Amavata. Present study reveals that Amavata can be managed successfully with Ayurveda i.e., Baluka Swedana, and Vaitrana Basti. It helped in minimizing the pain and stiffness and helped in restoring quality in life of Amavata patients.

CASE REPORT

A 65 years female patient came to the OPD of Govt Ayurvedic College and Hospital, Akhnoor with complaints of pain and swelling in multiple joints since 6 years. Morning stiffiness in multiple joints since 5 years. It was also associated with generalized weakness, loss of appetite and enthusiasm. According to patient, she was asymptomatic 6 years before. Then she suddenly experienced pain and stiffness in metacarpals joints of hand. Slowly pain was experienced in bilateral ankle joints, shoulder joints, metatarsal joints and knee joints. As per patient she had taken Allopathic medicines (steroids, analgesics etc) but did not get relief so have come for Ayurveda treatment. No history of any addiction was found. No personal and family history of any major systemic illness was present. According to patient she has

history of *Dewaswapna* (day sleep), *Bhojanottara Vyayama* i.e., (household working after taking heavy meals).

CLINICAL FINDINGS

On physical examinations patient was febrile with body temperature 100 °F with Blood Pressure - 100/80 mm of Hg, Pulse rate - 72/minute, R.R.- 18/minute. On Systemic examination no abnormality was found in respiratory, cardiovascular and central nervous system activity. It was a diagnosed case of Rheumatoid Arthritis. On examination patient was anxious and irritated due to intolerable pain. She had disturbed sleep and *Vishmagni* (unstable digestive functions). Local raise of temperature on multiple joints was noticed along with tenderness in multiple joints. Tongue was coated associated with loss of appetite. The patient was *Vata Kapha Prakruti*, having *Madyam Koshtha* and *Madyam Bala. Rasavaha*, *Raktavaha*, *Manovahasrotas*, *Srotodushti Lakshanas* were observed. On local examination local raise of temperature was present in multiple joints. Tenderness was present. Swelling was present in metacarpals joints.

THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION

After taking proper history treatment of patient was planned accordingly as *Bahya* treatment with *Baluka Swedana* along with *Abhyantra Chikitsa with Simhanadh Guggulu* 500mg twice daily, *Rasnasaptak Kwath* 15ML thrice daily. Duration of treatment was 1 month with followup after 15 days.

CHIKITSA

Aamapachana – shunti kashaya 50 ml BD half hour before meal for 5 days Sarvanga Baluka sweda^[8] twice daily

Shamana aushadhi:

Rasnasaptaka kashaya^[9] 15 ml TDS

Tab Simhanadh guggulu^[10] 1 BD

RESULTS

Sr.no	symptoms	BT	Follow up (15 th day)	AT
1	Pain	3	2	0
2	Swelling	3	2	0
3	Morning Stifness	3	2	0
4	Fever	2	0	0
5	Difficulty in walking	3	2	1

DISCUSSION

Chakradatta was the first, who described the Chikitsa Siddhant for Amavata. It includes Langhana, Swedana, drugs having Tikta, Katu Rasa and Deepana action, Virechana, Snehapana and Anuvasana as well as Ksharabasti. Yogaratnakara have added Upanaha without Snehana to these therapeutic measures. Amavata is mainly caused due to vitiation of Vata Dosha and formation of Ama. Mandagni is the main cause of Ama production. In Yogaratnakara Langhana has been mentioned to be the best measure for the treatment of Ama. Langhana in the form of Laghu Ahara was advised to the patient. Amavata is considered to be an Amasayotha vyadhi and Rasaja Vikara. Langhana is the first line of treatment in such conditions. Swedana have been specially indicated in the presence of Stambha, Gaurava and Shula. [11] In Amavata, Rukshasweda has been advocated in the form of Balukapottali due to the presence of Ama. It helps in pacifying vitiated Vata Dosha thus leads to relieve pain and stiffness.

Simhanadh Guggulu has Laghu, Ruksha, Ushna, Tikshna properties. [12] Majority drugs of Simhanadh Guggulu have Deepana (enzyme activating), Ama-Pachana (biotoxin neutralizing), Shothaghna (oedema reducing), Shoolghna (analgesic), Jwaraghna (antipyretic), Balya (energy enhancing) and Amavatahara (anti-rheumatic) properties. It enhances the Agni-Bala (digestive and metabolic capacity), alleviates the Ama (biotoxins) and prevents the further Ama (biotoxins) formation into the body. This reduces the clinical manifestations of Amavata (Rheumatoid arthritis) and helps in breaking the Samprapti (pathogenesis) of Amavata.

Rasnasaptaka Kwath has Amapachana, Deepana, Vatahara and Shulaghna properties which help in breaking Samprapti and relieving symptoms of Amavata. It is very effective in management of Vata Vikara. It is anti-oxidant and also detoxifies body.

CONCLUSION

From this case study it can be concluded that *Amavata* can be effectively and safely treated by using *Chikitsa Siddhant* described by *Acharya Chakradatta*. But this is a single case study hence to prove its efficacy there is a need to conduct a study on large number of patients.

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