

## ROLE OF PANCHAMAHABHUTA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GARBHA

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### ABSTRACT

Panchamahabhuta Siddanta of Ayurveda states that all the Dravya of the universe are produced from the Panchamahabhuta. Shareera is a biological unit of conglomeration of the derivatives of Panchamahabhuta clasping the soul. Panchamahabhutas are present in a state of inseparable cohesion during life. All the component substances of the body are Panchabhoutika, though sometimes they are assigned to the particular Bhutas which predominate in their composition. The Panchamahabhuta play a vital role in the formation and development of Garbha. The Garbha which is formed as a result of union of Shukra and Shonitha is a combination mass of Panchamahabhuta and Chetana. This Garbha is further acted upon by Panchamahabhuta which leads to further development. This article attempts to understand the role of Panchamahabhuta in development of Garbha and its relevance in comprehending the basic principles of Rachana Sharira.

**KEYWORDS:** Panchamahabhuta, Garbha, Shareera.

### INTRODUCTION

Whole universe is derived from the five basic elements i.e. Panchamahabhuta. When the combination of Panchamahabhuta is impregnated with life element or Atma we adorn life and

exhibit life activities. Panchamahabhuta have a pivotal role in the formation of body and are involved at various stages of development of Garbha.

Shukra and Shonita are composed of Panchamahabhuta. During the union of Pum Beeja and Stree Beeja, Atma (soul) enters into this union along with Prakruti and Vikara and thus makes the Garbha conscious active exhibiting properties of life. The term Prakriti denotes Ashta Prakruti, which includes Avyakta, Mahat, Ahamkara and Pancha Tanmatra, and Vikara denotes Shodasha Vikara comprising Ekadasha Indriya and Panchamahabhuta.

### PANCHAMAHABHUTA

Treatises have described the contribution of the five existents in the growth and development of the Garbha and the same factors are responsible for the various organogenesis in the Garbha.

#### COMPONENTS DERIVED FROM RESPECTIVE PANCHAMAHABHUTA<sup>[1,2,3,4]</sup>

PANCHAMAHABHUTA	CHARAKA SAMHITA	SUSHRUTA SAMHITA	ASHTANGA SAMGRAHA	ASHTANGA HRIDAYA
Prithvi	Gandha, Ghrana, Gourava, Sthairya, Mooorthi	Gandha, Gandhendriya, Sarvamoorta, samooaha Guruta	Sparsha Spandana, Laghava	Ghrana Gandhasti
Apa	Rasa, Rasan, Saitya, Mardava, Sneha, Kleda	Rasa, Rasanendriya, Sarvadravasamooaha, Guruta, Shaitya, Sneharetascha	Rasana, Sweda Kleda, Vasa Asrik, Shukra, Mootradi dravasamooaha Shaitya, Sneha	Jihwa Kledana
Teja	Rupa, Darshana, Prakasha, Pakti, Ushna	Rasa, Rasanendriya, Varna, Santapa, Bhrajishnuta, Shourya	Darshana, Roopa, Ushma, Pakti, Santapa, Medha, Varna, Shourya	Roopa Pakti
Vayu	Sparsha, Sparshan, shareera cheshta, raukshya, preranam, dhaatu-samyooahanam,	Sparsha, Sparshanendriya, Sarvachesta samooaha, Sarvashareera Spandana, Laghuta	Sparshana, Prashwasa Uchwasa Parispandana Laghava	Sparshatva Uchwasa
Akasha	Shabda, Srotra, Laghava, Saukshmya, Viveka	Shabda Shabdendriya Sarvachidrasamooaha Viviktata	Shrotra, Shabda, Sarasrotamsi Viviktata	Shrotram, Shabda Viviktata

Panchabouthika Ahara<sup>[5]</sup> consumed by father and mother undergo Pachana and forms Rasa Dhatu. Sukra and Arthava which are formed as a result of Dhatu Parinama are also

Panchabhoutika. This Shukra combines with Arthava to form Garbha. This Garbha is acted upon by Panchamahabhuta and results in further development.

Akasha having bhavas like Laghu, Sukshma and Vivikta Guna helps in enlargement and growth of the Garbha, Vayu due to its Prerana, Chesta, Vyuhana property does the Vibhajana Karma. Teja Mahabhuta due to its Ushna, Pachana quality does transformation, Jala Mahabhuta due to its Sneha, Ardrata moistens the Garbha, Prithvi due to its Guruta gives Garbha a specific Murta Rupa of Shareera and helps in gaining stability.<sup>[6]</sup>

The role Panchamahabhuta in the formation and development of Garbha can be analyzed and understood with the help of contemporary science.

## DISCUSSION

### Vayur Vibhajati<sup>[7]</sup>

The role of Vayu Mahabhuta upon Garbha resulting in Vibhajana can be correlated to cleavage. The process by which fertilized ovum undergoes repeated division which forms multiple number of cells is called cleavage. Vayu is responsible for the initiation of the cell division for the growth. Further movement of embryo for implantation is attributed to the function of Vayu Mahabhuta.

### Teja Ena pachati<sup>[8]</sup>

Metabolism and transformation taking place in the embryo is attributed to the functions of Agni Mahabhuta which helps in the further development. When sperm is in contact with ovum, acrosomal and zonal reactions are initiated, which results in fertilization.

During fertilization the acrosomal enzymes like hyaluronidase, helps in penetration of sperm into the ovum and by the combined action of zonal reaction, gets entry into it. These enzymatic reactions are compared to the Pachana Karma of Agni Mahabhuta. The function of Agni is a continuous process as the body undergoes continuous change such as cell formation and dissolution as well as transformation of tissue.

### Apah Kledayati<sup>[9]</sup>

Jala Mahabhuta indicates the fluid component of the body such as extra cellular fluid, csf, plasma etc. which have the quality of Dravatwa. Ahara rasa of the mother is the prime source of nutrition for the Garbha. The embryo also gets nourishment from the uterine fluid and amniotic fluid present around it.

**Prithvi Samhanti<sup>[10]</sup>**

Prithvi Mahabhuta maintains integrity i.e., Samhanana refers to the compactness of cells during cell division which further leads to consolidation. This Mahabhuta is responsible for Murtha Bhava and Guru Guna which helps in attainment of shape and structure as well as in gaining weight.

**Akasham Vivardhayati<sup>[11]</sup>**

Akasha Mahabhuta is responsible for Vivardhana of the Garbha i.e. it causes expansion and multidimensional development of the Garbha. The differentiation and development of organs is by Vivardhana Karma of Akasha Mahabhuta.

All the body cavities and empty space in the entities like Srotas and Ashaya can be attributed to Akasha Mahabhuta. Akasha Mahabhuta is solely responsible for Avakasha.

**CONCLUSION**

Panchamahabhuta Siddhantha is the core concept of Ayurveda which highlights the importance of Panchamahabhuta in the formation and development of all the entities in the universe, so as Sharira. These Panchamahabhuta play a vital role in the formation and further development of Garbha.

Akasha due to its Laghu, Sukshma and Vivikta Guna helps in enlargement and growth of the Garbha, Vayu due to its Chala Guna does Vibhajana Karma /cell division.

Teja Mahabhuta due to its Ushna, Pachana quality does transformation, Jala Mahabhuta due to its Sneha, Ardra Bhava moistens the Garbha, Prithvi due to its Guru Guna gives Garbha a specific Murta Rupa and gives stability to it.

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