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Ayurvedic management of Pakshaghata in an Acute Stage - A Case Study

Shwetambika¹, Ananta S. Desai²

¹Post Graduate Scholar, ²Guide, Professor and HOD, Dept. of PG Studies in Panchakarma, Govt. Ayurveda Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka, INDIA.

ABSTRACT

Stroke is a major non communicable disease. Hemiplagia is the commonest manifestation of a stroke with neurological deficit and symptoms having sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg most often on one side of the body. In India studies estimate that incidence of stroke varies from 116 to 163 per 100,000 population a/c to ICMR stroke is 4^{th} leading cause of death and 5^{th} leading cause of disability adjusted life year (DALY) . Materials and Methods: A 60 yr old female K/H/O Type 2 DM and HTN was diagnosed with a Avaranajanya Pakshaghata with a clinical feature complete loss of strength and function in left upper and lowerlimb has been treated with Agnilepa, Sarvanga Abhyanga followed by Shastika Shali Pinda Sweda and Dashamula Niruha Basti. Results: After the course of treatment the recovery was promising and worth documenting. Conclusion: CVA is broadly understood under the term Pakshaghata which can be menifest either due to Dhatukshaya or Avarana. In the present case treatment was done based on Avarana concept followed by Kevala Vatavyadhi Chikitsa. Thus the clinical approach to Pakshaghata varies accordingly with the Dosha and Avastha of Vyadhi.

Key words: Pakshaghata, Agnilepa, Shashtika Shali Pinda Sweda, Avarana.

INTRODUCTION

Hemiplagia is the commonest manifestation of a stroke with neurological deficit affecting the face, limbs and trunk on one side or either side of the body. Hemiplagia has become a common lifestyle disorder leading to high incidence of morbidity and mortality. Impulses for voluntary movement are transmitted by the pyramidal tracts or upper motor neurons. Damage to these pyramidal tracts due to any lesion, trauma,

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Shwetambika

Post Graduate Scholar, Dept. of PG Studies in Panchakarma, Govt. Ayurveda Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka, INDIA. E-mail: shweta93bs@gmail.com

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ischemia or haemorrhage leads to paralysis.^[1]

In Ayurveda it can be correlated with Pakshaghata which can manifest due to Dhatukshaya leading to *Kevala Vata Vyadhi* or due to *Avarana*.^[2] The literally meaning of *Pakshaghata* is paralysis of one half of the body which leads to impairemet of Gnyanendriyas, Karmendriyas which are considered as the part the sensory and motor system respectively and Manas.^[3]

According to Modern science once the brain tissues damaged completely cannot be repaired by the therapies leading to permanent neurological deficit.^[4] Hence the disease has a poor prognosis, making the person disabled dependent. In this paper effect of combined therapy of Agnilepa Chikitsa, Basti and Shashtika Shali Pinda Sweda has been shown.

CASE REPORT

A 60 year old female patient visited to GAMC Bengaluru On 19/4/2019 with a complaints of weakness in left upper and lower limb, including unable to walk since one day. Where on approaching

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to local hospital was screened to be HTN 230/90mmhg they prescribed hypertensive medicine and adviced MRI but patients was not willing to take allopathic treatment instead they visited to our OPD on next day. at the time of admission patient was conscious and vital functions were normal.

Past History

K/H/O - DM and HTN since 5yr (on irregular medication)

No H/O - Trauma or Accidental injury

Personal History

- Diet Mixed (irregular food habbit intake of previous day meal with more spicy and salty)
- Sleep Sound
- Habbit 4-5 times tea
- Bowel Regular
- Bladder 3-4 T/day, 1-2 T/night

On Examination

Table 1: Reflexes

| Reflexes | Right | Left |
|------------|--------|-------------|
| Biceps | Normal | Exaggerated |
| Triceps | Normal | Exaggerated |
| Knee jerk | Normal | Exaggerated |
| Ankle jerk | Normal | Exaggerated |
| Plantar | Normal | Extensor |

Table 2: Muscle Power

| Extrimities | Before treatment Grades | After treatment Grades |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Right Upper Limb | 5 - Normal power | 5 - Normal power |
| Right Lower Limb | 5 - Normal power | 5 - Normal power |

| Left Upper Limb | 0 - No power | 4 - Movement against gravity and some resistance |
|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Left Lower Limb | 0 - No power | 4 - Movement against gravity and some resistance |

Table 3: Intervention

| Date | Medicine | Remarks |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 20/4/19 - 26/4/19 | Agnilepa Chikitsa Amalaki Talam | Slight improvement lifting of left upperlimb and lowerlimb. |
| 27/4/19 - 11/5/19 | Dashamula Niruha Basti (Kala Basti pattern) Anuvasana Basti with Mahamasha Taila | Patient can able to get up from the bed and walk without support. |
| 11/5/19 - 17/5/20 | Saravanga Abhyanga with Mahanarayana Taila f/b Shashtika Shali Pinda Sweda | Increase in the muscle power 3/5 and muscle tone i.e. Normotonic. |
| 20/4/2019 | Bruhath Vata Chintamani Rasa 1-1-1 A/F Cap. Lashuna Rasayana 1-1-1 A/F Dhana Dhanyadi Kashaya 15ml-0-15ml B/F | Helps to rectify the <i>Vata Dosha.</i> |

DISCUSSION

CVA is broadly understood under the term *Pakshaghata* which can be menifest either due to *Dhatukshaya* or *Avarana*. In case of *Avarana*, the relieving of *Avarana* becomes the first line of treatment.

In the present case *Agnilepa Chikitsa* was done to remove the *Avarana* followed by *Kevala Vatavyadhi Chikitsa*. The clinical approach to *Pakshaghata* varies

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accordingly with the Dosha and Avastha of Vyadhi. In this case initially Agnilepa Chikitsa^[5] has been adapted as it is a folklore treatment modality having most of the Ushna Veerva drugs and Katu Vipaka with Vata Kaphahara properties like Lashuna, Papata, Nirgundi, Sarsapa, Agnimantha, Tulasi, Haridra, Bandha, Maricha, Lavanga. The drugs used in Agnilepa contain volatile oils, having the counter irritation properties which inhibit the painful impulses from the muscle afferents, reaching the central pathways, there by reducing the decreased muscle power, increased muscle tone and spasms. Thus by absorbing through skin produces action like Amapachana, Agnideepana and Srotoshodhana on internal administration. Hence relieves the Stambha, Ruja, Supti and clears the Avarana for normal gati of Vata.^[6]

Basti is one of the important aspect of *Panchakarma* mainly employed for *Vata* predominant diseases.^[7] As it possesses a wide spectrum of effect and is considered as "*Ardhachikitsa*" in Ayurveda.^[8] Though the *Basti* is given in *Pakwashaya* which is main seat of *Vata Dosha*.^[9] *Veerya* of *Basti Dravya* spread in the entire body to get desire action. *Basti Veerya* may act through ENS. The gastrointestinal system has network of nerve fibres, which is known as Enteric nervous system" similar to brain ENS sends and receive impulses and activate to CNS.^[10]

In *Shasttikashali Pinda Sweda* the *Shashtika* rice is processed in *Balamula Quatha* and milk tied in a bolus to rub against the whole body or afflicted so the generated heat increases the metabolic activity which inturn increases the oxygen demand and blood flow. This vasodilation stimulates the superficial nerve ending causing reflex dialation of arterioles. Thus provides strength and rejuvenate the tissues.^[11]

CONCLUSION

Panchakarma therapy is very imperative and essential part of Ayurvedic treatment *Pakshaghata* is a chronic condition caused due to aggrevated *Vata Dosha*, Though it is difficult to manage but proper treatment given at appropriate time with logical manner yields good result in the initial stage it can be managed effectively through *Panchakarma* procedures . In *Sama* condition *Agnilepa* benefits the patient immensely. The treatment is effective as it is freshly prepared and also very cost effective fallowed by *Dashamula Niruha Basti, Anuvasana* with *Mahamasha Taila, Shashtika Shali Pinda Sweda.*

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