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# Clinical Importance of the knowledge of Sadkriyākāla w.s.r. to Kustha Samprāpti

Shivaranjani J Kantharia<sup>1</sup>, Prof. SN Gupta<sup>2</sup>, Prof. K. B. Patel<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Roga Nidan, J S Ayurveda College, Nadiad, Gujarat, India. <sup>2</sup>Director of International Activities, J S Ayurveda College & P.D. Patel Ayurveda College, Nadiad, Gujarat, India. <sup>3</sup>Principal and Superintendent, J S Ayurveda College & P.D. Patel Ayurveda College, Nadiad, Gujarat, India.

# ABSTRACT

Ayurveda believes that healthy person stay healthy by equalizing the Dosas, Dhātus and Malas. The concept of Kriyākāla advocated by Suśruta Samhitā. Kriyākāla refers to the recognition of the stage of a disease's progression. It is also referred as Cikitsā Avasara (opportunity to treat). Kriyā means Cikitsā (treatment) and Kāla refers to the stage of progression of a disease. The knowledge of Kriyākāla helps to determine appropriate therapy to correct the imbalance in Dosas in early stage. In Ayurveda, most of the skin diseases have been described under the broad heading of Kustha. In the present study, concept of Kriyākāla is tried to elaborate with the special reference of Kustha Samprāpti. Aim & Objective: To study the samprāpti of Kustha in accordance to concept of Kriyākāla. Material & Methods: Material has been collected from Suśruta Samhitā with various commentaries, Research articles, and electronic databases. Discussion: Early detection of diseases and its progress will help to cure the Disease with minute efforts. However if the Disease will progress it might be difficult to treat. And later on it become incurable. In the same way on young plant can be uprooted completely whereas the same plant is allowed to grow as a big tree cannot uproot easily. Kustha is Cirakalīna (chronic) Tridosaja Vyādhi manifested on Tvak (skin) if untreated later on it intrude to all Dhātus. Conclusion: This article will help in to understand the journey of Kustha Vyādhi from its Nidānasevan to Samprāpti in accordance with the stage of şadvidh Kriyākāla.

Key words: Kriyākāla, Importance, Kustha, Nidāna, Samprāpti

# **INTRODUCTION**

Kriyākāla refers to the recognition of the stage of a disease's progression, the knowledge helps to determine appropriate measure to correct the imbalance of Doşas in early stage. "Kriyā" means Cikitsā (treatment) in terms of Nidāna Parivarjana, Pathya Āhara Vihāra, Samśodhanakarma, Auşadhiseven etc. and "Kāla" (time) refers to the opportunities to initiate the treatment or it could also

#### Address for correspondence:

Dr. Shivaranjani J Kantharia Assistant Professor, Department of Roga Nidan, J S Ayurveda College, Nadiad, Gujarat, India. E-mail: shivaranjani2004@gmail.com

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be said that the stage of progression of the Disease. There are six stages mentioned by *Acarya Suśruta* to give an idea regarding the state of the Disease Şadkriyākāla explains the pathogenesis of Disease in the stages from incubation period to the complete manifestation and later complications of the Disease.<sup>[1]</sup> Understanding of *Kriyākāla* is crucial for early diagnosis, with the help one get an idea about Disease whether it is preventive or curative or incurable. The primary objective of this study is to describe the importance of *Kriyākāla* in prognosis and diagnosis of the Disease with special reference to Kustha Vyādhi. Here, there is an attempt to understand the concept of Kriyākāla in accordance to Kuṣṭha Samprāpti. All the skin diseases come under the broad heading of Kustha. Kuştha is chronic Tridoşaja Vyādhi. This article will help to understand the journey of *Kustha* manifestation from Nidāna to its Samprāpti in accordance with Şadkriyākāla.

# **AIM AND OBJECTIVE**

#### 1. To study the concept of *Şad Kriyākāla*

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2. To study the *samprāpti* of *Kuṣṭha* in accordance to concept of *Kriyākāla*.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Material has been collected from *Suśruta Samhitā* with various commentaries, Research articles, and electronic databases. Collected materials were critically analyzed for understanding, discussion, and conclusion.

### **CONCEPTUAL STUDY**

#### Kriyākāla

There are two types of *Kriyākāla* has described by *Ācārya Suśruta*.<sup>[2]</sup>

- <u>Rtu Kriyākāla</u>: Normal physiological variations of doşas in the particular season has been deliberated and according certain measures are described in <u>Rtucaryā</u> to overcome the adverse effect.<sup>[3]</sup>
- 2. Vyādhi Kriyākāla:

संचयं च प्रकोपं च प्रसरं च स्थानसंश्रयं।

व्यक्तिं भेदं च यो वेति दोषाणां स भवेत् भिषक्।। (Su. Su.21/

#### Six stages of Kriyākāla

- 1. Sancaya (Phase of Accumulation)
- 2. Prakopa (Phase of Provocation)
- 3. Prasara (Phase of Propagation)
- 4. Sthānsamśraya (Phase of Localization)
- 5. Vyakti (Phase of Manifestation)
- 6. Bheda (Phase of Complication)
- 1. Prathama Kriyākāla (1<sup>st</sup> stage)

एतानि खलु दोषस्थानानि; एषु सञ्चेयन्ते दोषा :। तत्र सन्चितानां खलु दोषाणां स्तब्धपूर्णकोष्ठता पीतवभासता मन्दोष्मता च अङ्गानां गौरवमालस्यम्

चयकारण विद्वेष श्वेति लिङ्गानि भवन्ति। तत्र प्रथमः क्रियाकालः।। (Su.Su. 21/18)

संहतिरुपा वृद्धिः चयः। (Su.Su. 21/18- Dalhana)

1<sup>st</sup> stage- *Sancaya avasthā*, the doṣa will gradually accumulated in their own sites as a result of *Nidāna Sevan* (*Svadoṣa Samāna Āhāra Vihāra Sevan* or

favorable <u>R</u>tu or Kāla) and manifested minor symptoms such as *Stabdhapūrņa Kosthatā* (absence of movement in abdomen); *Pītāvabhāsatā* (yellowish discoloration on skin); *Mandoşmatā* (mild increase in temperature); *Anga Gaurava* (feeling heaviness in the body); *Ālāsya*( lazyness).

#### Table 1: Shows Nidāna of Kuṣṭha

#### Nidāna of Kuṣṭha (Su.Ni.5/9)

- Mithyāhārācāra- Specific Guru, Viruddha, Asātmaya, Ajīrņa (Faulty diet and conduct particularly eating heavy, incompatible, unwholesome, and also during indigestion);
- Ahita Aśina (unhealthy diet);
- Snehapāna Evum Vamana Paścāta Vyāyāma Grāmyadharma sevan (indulging in physical exercise and sexual intercourse after intake of snehana (ghṛta/ oil) or emesis);
- Payasā Saha Grāmya Ānup Udaka Māmsa Sevana (Frequently eating meats of domestic, marshy and aquatic animal with milk);
- Sahasā Pratihanti Chardi; (suppressing vomiting suddenly)
- Majjati Apsū Uşmāabhitapta (taking dip in to water after having been heated by fire or the sun)
- Brahmastrīsajjanavadha (killing of priests, women and priests);
- Parasvaharaņa (stealing other's properties)
- Pāpakarma (sinful act)

If these mentioned *Nidānas* will be admitted by person, *Sancaya* of *Tridoşa* will get started in their own sites.

#### 2. Dvitiya Kriyākāla

कोपस्तु उन्मार्ग गामिता। विलयनरुपि वृद्धि प्रकोप :।

तेषां प्रकोपात। कोष्ठतोदसञ्चरण अम्लिकापिपासापरिदाह अन्नद्वेष ह्रदयोउत्क्लेदात् च जायन्ते। तत्रः द्वितीयः क्रियाकालः।

2<sup>nd</sup> stage - In *Prakopa Avasthā*, due to continuing the nidan sevan and not initiating treatment, the accumulated *Vātādi Doṣa* start moving to the other sites from their own but don't spread all over the body.<sup>[4]</sup> And manifested some primary symptoms e.g. *Koṣṭha Toda* (pricking pain in abdomen), *Sancaraṇa* (movement in abodomen); *Amlikā* (sour eructations), *Pipāsā* (excessive thirst), *Paridāha* (burning sensation

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in side the body); *Annadveşa* (aversion towards food), *Hrdayotkeda* (feeling of heaviness in heart).

Continue to taking the *Kuṣṭha Janya Nidānas, Tridoṣas* are move from their sites but not spread all over the body. There will be no any sign manifested on the skin.

# 3. Trtiya Kriyākāla

एवं प्रकुपितानां प्रसरतां। वायोविमार्गगमनाआटोपौ, ओषचोष परिदाह धूमायनानि पित्तस्य, अरोचक अविपाक अङ्गसाद छर्दि च इति श्लेष्मणो लिङ्गानि भवन्ति; तत्र तृतीय क्रियाकाल।। (Su.Su.21/32)

If person still pursuing the *Nidānas*, Diseases will be promoted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the *Kriyākāla* called *Prasaravsthā*. In this stage, Dosha will spread all over the body and manifested more advance symptoms than 2<sup>nd</sup> stage but not show complete picture of particular Disease. e.g. *Vimārga Gamana* (movement in wrong direction) and *Āţopa* (gargling sound in abdomen) manifested by *Vāta Doşa; Oşa* (feeling of burning sensation ), *Coşa* (pain like sucking), *Paridāha* (feeling of burning sensation all over the body), *Dhūmāyana* (feeling of foam inside the throght) produce by *Pitta Doşa; Arocaka* (anorexia), *Angasāda* (weakness), *Chardi* (vomiting), *Avipāka* (indigestion) emerged by *Kapha*. All the above said symptoms are dosha specific.

#### 4. Caturtha Kriyākāla

स एव कुपितो दोषः समुत्थानाविशेषतः। स्थानान्तराणि च प्राप्य विकारान् कुरुते बहून।।

एव प्रकुपितानां तान। तान् शरीराप्रदेषान आगम्य तान् तान् व्याधीन जनयन्ति।

......त्वक् मांसशोणितस्थाः क्षुद्ररोगान् कुष्ठानि विसर्प च;.......

तेषां एव अभिसन्नि विष्टानां पूर्वरुप प्रादुर्भावः तं प्रतिरोगं वक्ष्याम।। तत्र पूर्वरुपगतेषु चतुर्थः क्रियाकालः।। (Su.Su.21/33)

while circulating, when those *prakupita Doşa* get *Kha* - *Vaiguņya / Sroto Vaiguņya* (space in the Srotas or in Dhatu), they embedded in there and will started to Doşa- Dūşya *Sammurchanā*. This will be resulting in producing the *Purvarūpa* of diseases. If *Doşa* lodged in *Tvacā*, it will be manifested as *Kuṣṭha Roga*.

पित्तश्लेष्माणौ प्रकुपितौ परिगृह्य अनिलः प्रवृद्धः तिर्यगाः सिराः

संप्रपध्य समुद्धुय बाह्यं मार्गं प्रति समन्ताद्विक्षिपति, यत्र यत्र दोषो विक्षिप्तो निश्चरति तत्र तत्र मण्डलानि प्रादुर्भवन्ति। (Su. Su. Ni. 5/3)

Regarding *Kuṣṭha*, if the treatment is not initiated and nidanas continued yet, the increased *Vāta Doṣa* carrying aggravated *Pitta* and *Kapha Doṣa*, and reaches to *Tiryagagāmī Sirā* (obliquely moving channels). Furthermore, *Vāta* exacerbates and scatters to *Pitta* and *Kapha Doṣa* in all around towards the *Bāhya Rogamārga* (*Śākhā- Tvak -Rakta...* etc). Wherever this *Doṣa* moves, the *Maṇdala* (skin lesions) will develop on *Bāhyamārga* (*Tvak*).

#### Table 2: Shows *Pūrvarupa* of *Kuṣṭha* (Su.Ni.5/5)

•	Tvaka pāruşya (roughness of skin)	•	Añgapradeśānām Svāpa (numbess in body part)
•	<i>Roma harşa</i> (horripilation)	•	<i>Kṣata Visarpaṇa</i> (spreading of a wound)
•	<i>Kaṅdū</i> (itching) <i>Svedabāhulya</i> (excessive sweat)	•	<i>Asṛja Kṛṣṇatā</i> (blackness of blood
•	<i>Asvedana</i> (absence of sweat)		

#### 5. Pañcam Kriyākāla

अत ऊर्ध्व व्याधेदर्शन:.....प्रव्यक्त लक्षणतां.....। तत्र पञ्चम क्रियाकाल।। (Su.Su.21/34)

In this 5<sup>th</sup> stage of *Kriyākāla*, Disease will appear in fully fledged form. All the clinical features of the diseases will appear. *Kuṣṭha* will manifested completely. There are two types of *Kuṣṭha*. *Māhākuṣṭha* and *Kṣudra Kuṣṭha*; their *Bheda* (classification) and *Mahatva* (importance) are based on their difficult management and incurability due to entry into successive Dhatus. In this stage, we should adopt *Vyādhi Pratyanika Cikitsā* rather then *Doṣa Pratyanika Cikitsā*.

#### Table 3: Shows classification of Kustha.

Mahā Kuṣṭha	Kşudra Kuşţha
Aruņa Kustha	Sthūlārușka
Udumbara Kuşţha	Mahākusṭha
Ŗşyajihva Kuşţha	Ekkustha
Kapāla Kustha	Carmadala

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Kākaņaka Kustha	Visarpa
Puṇḍarīka Kuṣṭha	Parisarpa
Dadru Kușțha	Sidhma
	Vicarcikā
	Kițibha
	Pāmā Rakasā

Table 4: Shows Symptoms of Kuṣṭha according toDoṣa prominences.

Vāta	Tvaksańkoca (contraction of skin)	
	Svāpa (loss of sensation)	
	Sveda (sweating)	
	Śopha (swelling)	
	Bheda (Tearing sensation)	
	<i>Kauṇya</i> (deformity in hand)	
	Svaropaghāta (speech disturbance)	
Pitta	Pāka (Suppuration)	
	Avadāraņa (bursting)	
	Angulipatana (dropping of the fingers)	
	Karṇa nāsābhaṅga (breaking off the ear and nose)	
	Akşirāga (congestion of eyes)	
	Satvotpattaya (emergence of organisms)	
Kapha	<i>Kaņdū</i> (itching)	
	Varṇabheda(discoloration)	
	Srāva(discharge)	
	<i>Gaurava</i> (heaviness)	

If treatment is still not initiating, Disease will proceed in to advance stage result in manifestion of complications.

एवं समुत्पन्नः त्वचि दोषः च परिवृद्धिं प्राप्य अप्रतिक्रियमाणो अभ्यन्तरं प्रतिपद्धयते धातून्भिदूषयन्।। (Su. Su. Ni. 5/3)

# 6. Şaştham Kriyākāla

अत ऊर्ध्वं एतेषाम्...... षष्ठ:क्रियाकाल...... :दीर्धकालानुबन्ध:।

तत्रा अप्रतिक्रियमाणड्साध्यतां उपयान्ति।। (Su.Su.21/36)

The the final stage of *Kriyākāla*, if treatment is not initiated yet, Disease will enter into *Bheda Avasthā*. In

this stage of *Kriyākāla*, Disease will be associated with a number of consequences and complications. If treatment is not initiated in this stage, the Disease will become *Asādhya*. *Bheda Avasthā* is the last stage of *Kriyākāla;* in other words, it is the last chance to get treated.

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#### Table 5: Shows Sādhyasādhyatā of Kuṣṭha

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Sādhyasādhyatā of Kuṣṭha				
Sādhya	Yāpya	Asādhya		
Tvak-Rakta- Māṁsagata, Vāta - Śleşmādhika Sādhya	Medogata Dvidoșaja	Majjā-Asthi Śukragata Kŗmiyukta Dāha- Tŗşṇayukta Maṅdagniyukta Tridoşaja Prabhinna Aṅga Prasrutāṅga Nāsābhaṅga Raktanetra, Hatsvara Pancakarmaguṇātiīa		

दम्पत्योः कुष्ठबाहुल्यात दुष्ट शोणित -शुक्रयो। यद् अपत्ययं तयोर्जातं ज्ञेयं तदपि कुष्ठितं।। (Su. Ni. 5/30)

If vitiated *Doşa* reaches the *Śukra* and *Śoņita Dhātu*, they lead to *Bīja Dūṣṭī*, and Disease become inherited for further progeny; upcoming offspring will also be born with the *Kuṣṭha* disease.

# DISCUSSION

*Kriyākāla* is the opportunity to treat the vitiation of *Doşa* at the early stages before it progresses to a manifested in to the Disease.<sup>[5]</sup> In the primary stage of pathogenesis, the disease process just begins with few clinical features and sometimes it doesn't noticeable. It is important to treat the *Doşa* in *Sancaya Avasthā*, as they constitute the seeds of diseases, which should not be allowed to germinate.<sup>[6]</sup> The treatment consists of avoiding etiological factors (*Nidāna Parivarjana*) which would be indicatd by development of natural aversion to them.<sup>[7]</sup> If one does not pay attention to natural

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caution signal, then *Sancayāvasthā* will quickly leads to further stages.

सञ्चयेड्पह्यता दोषा लभन्ते न उत्तरा गतीः। ते तु उत्तराषु गतिषु भवन्ति बलवत्तरा।। (Su.Su.21/ 37)

This is highly meaningful notion given by  $\bar{A}c\bar{a}rya$ Suśruta in the chapter 21<sup>st</sup> of Sutrasthāna to understand all the Disease and their advancement. As per stanza if we cease the Nidāna and admit the treatment in Sancaya Avasthā. Doṣa will stop and not go in further Avasthā instead they will moves to their normal Sthāna.

न शक्य उन्मूलयितुं वृद्धो वृक्ष एवामय:। अबद्धमूल: क्षुपको यत् उत्पाटने सुख: ।। (Su.Su.23/15-17)

Early detection of diseases and its progress will help to cure the Disease with minute efforts. However if Disease will progress it might be difficult to treat. And later on it become incurable. In the same way on young plant can be uprooted completely whereas the same plant is allowed to grow as a tree cannot uproot easily. (Su.Su.23/15-17)

कुपितानां हि दोषाणां शरीरे परिधावतम्। यत्र सङ्गे खवैगुन्यात् व्याधि : तत्रोपजायते।।

प्रसृतानां पुनः दोषाणां स्रोतोवैगुन्यात् यत्र सङ्गः स स्थानसन्श्रय।।

Vitiated *Doşa* travel in to the body, when they found space in the *Srotas* or in *Dhātu* they will lodge in and accomplished *Doşa* - *Dūşya Sammurchanā*. Here the *Doşa* - *Dūşya Sammurchanā* will be weak and in the beginning stage. As a result the symptoms will also be weak, manifested as prodromal symptoms (*Purvarūpa*). Proper diagnosis and treatment given in this stage will cease the further pathogenesis. But if the *Doşa* will not treated yet, they will be enter in to successive stage.

In 5<sup>th</sup> stage, diseases will manifest with all identified characteristics therefore its called as *Vyaktāvasthā*. As per involved *Dhātu* and severity of clinical features, *Kuṣṭha* is classified in to two group: *Mahākuṣṭha* and *Kṣudrakuṣṭha*. With this knowledge we can plan the treatment accordingly. When the Disease is neglected or not treated in this stage, the *Doṣa* vitiation will have further progression. The progression of pathogenesis will lead to manifestation of complication in the 6<sup>th</sup> stage *Bheda Avasthā*.

क्रमेण उपचयं प्राप्य धातूननुगतः। (Su.Su.23/16-17)

यथा वनस्पतिर्जातः प्राप्य कालप्रकर्षणम्। अन्तर्भूमिं विगाहेत मूलैवृष्टि विवर्धितै:।।

एवं कुष्ठं समुत्पन्नम् त्वचि कालप्रकर्षतः। क्रमेण धातून् व्याप्नोति नरस्य अप्रतिकारिणः।। (Su.Ni.5/20-21)

As tree grown, it penetrates deep into the earth, in course time, with its roots developed by rains, likewise *Kustha* appeared in skin (*Tvak*/*Rasa*), after a long time, gradually permeates the *Dhātus* Chart No. 01 Shows flow chart of *Kriyākāla* accordance with *Samprāpti* of *Kustha*.



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#### **CONCLUSION**

*Şadkriyākāla* gives opportunities to cease the disease at each of its stages. It is important to frame disease control and prevention strategy. Understanding of *Kriyākāla* is crucial for early diagnosis and getting an idea about whether the disease would be preventive, curative or incurable in nature. When disease proceed, its hard to treat. As above said, if a person omits the *Nidānas* as in the early stage in *Kuṣṭha Vyādhi*, or *Kṛmi* will not be manifested. From the appearance of mandal to *Kṛmitpatti, Kriyākāla* gives an occasion to treat at each stage, but if it to fail to treat, diasease become incurable.

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