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# Ayurvedic management of Unknown Insect Bite (Keeta Visha) - A Case Report

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## ABSTRACT

Acharya Charaka in Chikitsasthan of Charaka Samhita, Acharya Sushruta in Kalpasthan of Sushruta Samhita and Acharya Vagbhata in Uttartantra of Ashtanga Hridaya recited the origin of Visha and Keeta Visha. Acharya Sushruta has explained Keeta Visha under Jangama Visha (Animate poison) and categorized 67 different type of Keeta under mainly 4 groups. It causes acute as well as severe manifestations in the human beings. The main characteristics of insect bite are itching, burning sensation, erythema at the site of bite. As there are various types of Keeta Visha, hence they vary in their diagnosis and treatment and most of the time they are unidentified as signs and symptoms may resembles the skin disease. This is case report of 25 year old female who had given the history of unknown insect bite and presented to the outpatient department with the complaints of itching, burning sensation, spreading erythema over the skin of neck region. In Sushruta Samhita in Kalpasthan Acharya Sushruta has mentioned Dushivishari Agad as a most potent Agad for all types of Visha. Hence, patient was treated with Dushivishari Agad orally along with local application of Shatdhautghrita which also has Vishaghna properties. In present case Dushivishari Agad and Shatdhautghrita have shown assuring results in the management of unknown insect bite.

**Key words:** Insect bite, Keeta Visha, Dushivishari Agad, Shatdhautghrita.

## INTRODUCTION

According to Acharya Charaka, insects are called as Keeta and they explained two types of Keeta Visha i.e., Pranahar Keeta and Dushivisha Keeta and they are produced from Keetas or waste products like stool and urine of the snakes. There is mentioned in Vachaspatya as 'Krimibhyah Sthoole Kshudra Jantu Bhede' that means Keeta is a variety of Krimi with macroscopic body. Acharya Sushrut has described all Keetas under

Jangam Visha and has explained about 67 different types of Keeta and categorised them under mainly four groups, three with the features of individual Doshas and fourth one with all of them together. Poison of insects (Keeta) has predominance of Vata Pitta. When bitten by insects (Keeta) with the predominance of Vata pricking sensation and pain are greatly increased. When bitten by Pitta predominant insects, there is less of exudation, but more of burning sensation, redness and spreading erythema. When bitten by Kapha predominant insects, there is mild pain and swelling appears like a ripe fruit of Udumbara (*Ficus glomerata*). So, they vary in their treatment and diagnosis and this case will explain the general line of treatment for the case of unknown insect bite based on the Dasha predominance and manifestation of symptoms.

## CASE REPORT

A 25 year old female visited the OPD with the complaints of itching, burning sensation, spreading erythema over neck region since night. On history

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taking she had given the history of unknown insect crawl at night over neck region and at midnight she started developing reddish rash over neck region along with itching and burning sensation.

#### Local Examination

- Site of insect bite - Neck region
- Color - Reddish
- Discharge - Absent
- Skin - Reddish colored
- Pain - Absent
- Blisters - Absent
- Demarcation - Absent
- Tenderness - present

#### Ashtavidha Pariksha

Nadi (pulse) : 74/min

Mala (stool) : Regular bowel movement

Mutra (urine): 3-4 times a day

Jivha (Tongue) : Niram

Shabda (speech) : Spashta

Sparsha (Touch) : Anushnasheet

Drik (eyes) : Prakrut

Akriti (Appearance) : Madhyam

#### Therapeutic intervention

Dushivishari Agad 1 Tablet (500mg) with warm water 2 times a day after meal for 5 days was given.

Shatdhautghrita for local application was given.

**Progress of the treatment** - Follow up was taken for 0, 4 and 6 days

Observation	Day 0	Day 4	Day 6
Itching	++	0	0
Burning sensation	++	0	0
Erythema	++	+	0

#### RESULT



Before Treatment



After 4 days of Treatment Itching, redness, burning sensation reduced



Complete cure after 6 days leaving no scar mark

#### DISCUSSION

Acharya Charaka in Chikitsasthan has explained about Dushivisha Keeta Lakshanas as 'Gatram Raktam Sitam Shyavam Va Pidakanvitam Sakandudahavisarpapaki' which means red, black or brownish black discoloration

along with itching, burning sensation, spreading erythema that resembles the symptoms of present case of unknown insect bite (*Keeta Visha*). Patient prescribed with *Dushivishari Agad* mentioned in *Sushrut Samhita Kalpasthan* as the most potent *Agad* for all types of *Visha*. Contents of *Dushivishari Agad* are *Pippali, Rohisha, Jatamansi, Lodhra, Ela, Shyonak, Tagar, Kustha, Yashtimadhu, Chandan, Suvarchika, Gairik*. It is also mentioned in *Ashtanga Hridayam Uttarsthan* that it comprises the effect in various poisonous conditions along with *Keeta Visha*. Effect is due to *Vishaghna* action of the drug content like *Jatamansi, Lodhra, Yashtimadhu, Koshtha, Chandan. Shatdhautghrita* has *Shothahara, Dahahar, Vedanasthapan,* and *Vishaghna* properties so it helps in reducing inflammation caused due to insect bite and was given for local application at the site of insect bite.

## CONCLUSION

In this patient improvement has been found after 6 days of treatment. By the result of this case study we can conclude that *Vishaghna Aushadhipan* along with *Vishaghna Lapan* can give assuring and quick result without any local or systemic side effects.

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