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REVIEW ARTICLE

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A critical review on usage of Ghrita in Pandu

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ABSTRACT

According to Ayurveda, human body is made up from Saptdhatu, Tridosha and Trimal. These are the main functional unit which maintains equilibrium in body. Agni plays most important role in metabolism of body. With the help of Agni, food is converted into absorbable form and also it forms and nourishes Saptdhatu in progressive manner continuously. Any type of disequilibrium in the process, gives rise to diseases like Pandu, Grahani, Kushtha etc. Pandu Roga is disease entity described in Ayurvedic literature which is characterized as pallor complexion of the skin of the diseased person. Pandu is widely described in various Ayurvedic texts as an independent disease and also as associated symptom in many other diseases. The general treatment of Pandu is Snehana, Shodhana, Shamana with herbo-mineral combinations along with dietary modifications. There is specific mention of internal oleation before Shodhana Chikitsa is advised which marks its importance in treatment. Ghritpan is considered best for ignition of Jatharagni as well as Dhatvagni and it also has properties like Jivaniya, Rasayana etc. Ghritapan opposes the etiology of Pandu at level of constitution and diet. In Pandu Chikitsa Adhyay, various medicated Ghrita are described. This present study critically reviews role of Ghritapan in Pandu and different combination of medicated Ghrita described in Pandu Chikitsa Adhyay by Acharya Charaka along with its specific indications.

Key words: Ayurveda, Pandu, Anemia, Ghritpana, Ghee, Snehana, Oleation.

INTRODUCTION

According to Ayurveda, health is considered as state of equilibrium of Doshas, Agni, also normal functioning and production of Saptdhatu and Malas.[1] Failure in maintaining state of equilibrium of all these gives rise to diseases. [2] Pandu Roga is disease entity described in ayurvedic literature which is characterized by pallor complexion of the skin of the diseased person.[3] Panduroga is known from the Vedic period as it has

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been mentioned in Hindu texts like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Agnipurana, Garudpurana etc. this shows that it is prevalent since then and also in today's era due to change in lifestyle, dietary habits. Pandu is widely described in various Ayurvedic texts as an independent disease and also as associated symptom in many other diseases. Pandutva is cardinal symptom of the disease which is related with color and complexion of body. Pandu develops due to vitiated Pitta and Rakta which are mainly responsible for complexion of body. In Pandu Vyadhi, Dhatuposhan Krama get disturbed leading to malnutrition state in body. If this state of body stays for long time then it causes condition of Ojokshaya with loss of Bala, Varna and Agni in human causing detoriation in their health and life.[4] When it remains untreated for long time it further progress into severity and may land into diseases like Kamala, Kumbhkamala, Halimak etc. which can also lead to death. To prevent this, it should be treated from their roots and in proper time. In Charaka Samhita, general treatment protocol for

Pandu consists of Shodhanpurva Snehan, Swedan, Tikshna Shodhana (Vamana or Virechana), and Shaman Chikitsa with various herbo-mineral combinations along with Pathya and Apathya Ahar and Vihar. In this protocol first step is Snehana i.e., Snehapana. It is most important and essential step in treatment of Pandu. [5]

The *Snehapana* therapy aims to prepare the body for *Shodhana Karma* and helps to bring the *Doshas* situated in peripheral tissues to the *Koshtha* (bowel) so that they can be easily expelled out. This is achieved by *Vriddhi* (increase) and *Vishyandana* (dissolution or diffusion) *Karma* of *Snehapana* therapy. ^[6]

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- 1. To study the pathogenesis of Pandu
- 2. To study the role of internal oleation in *Pandu*
- 3. To study the different combination of medicated *Ghritas* described in *Pandu Chikitsa Adhyaya*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Classical textbooks of *Ayurveda* mainly *Charaka Samhita*, Published article from periodical journals and their magazines related to topic.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pandu Roga

Acharya Charaka described Pandu Adhyaya after Grahanidosha Chikitsa Adhyaya due to aggravation of Pitta in Grahani and the aggravation of Pitta constitutes a predominant factor in causation of Pandu. Acharya Sushruta has mentioned Pandu after Hridroga due to same Sankhya Samprapti. Acharya Vagbhata mentioned after Udarroga due to same Doshaghnata. Pandu is the disease of Rasavaha Srotas according to Charaka Samhita and Raktavahasrotoviddha Lakshana and Rasadoshaja Vikara as per Maharshi Sushruta. Pandu is also one of the Santarpanottha Vyadhi.

Pandu Roga can be caused by different Nidanasevana like Aharaja Nidana consist of as intake excess quantity Kshara (Alkaline), Amla, Lavana, Atiushna, Virudha Ahara, Asatmya Ahara, Foods like Masha, Pinyaka,

Tilataila. Viharaj Nidana such as Maithuna, Vegadharana, Rutuvaishamya, Divaswapna, Ativyayama and also Manasika Hetus like Kama, Krodha, Chinta, Bhaya, Shoka and Chikitsa Apachari Pratikarma, (improper administration of Panchakarma treatment).[12] Pandu Roga has been indicated either symptom of any disease or as Rupa, Upadrava in Ayurveda literatures all these can be considered as Nidanaarthakar Rogas of Pandu. Raktagulma, Pleehodara, Asrudhara, Raktasrava, Pureeshaja Krimi. Due to Nidana (aetiology) Pitta gets aggravated and propelled by Vayu in Dashadhamani and circulised throughout the body by Rakta. During circulation it gets localized in Twak and Mams Dhatu in body and also vitiates the Kapha, Vata, Asrika, Twak, Mams at that place. As consequence of this various shades of colour develop like Pandu Haridra, Harita. This condition is known as *Panduroga*. [13] At the early stage of this pathology, Purvapas like Swedabhay, Rukshata, Hridspandan and Shrama begins to appear.[14] Then as pathology develop symptoms like Panduta, Alparakta, Dourbalya, Karshya, Karnakshweda, Gatrapeeda, Swasa, Bhrama, Annadwesha Jwara, Pindikodweshtan, Shoonakshikoot Shoth, etc.[15] These symptoms appears due to the Mandagni, Ras-Rakta Kshay and their further pathology of deficient nutrition to the tissue. Pandu is classified into five types by Acharya Charaka as Vataj, Pittaj, Kaphaj, Sannipataj, and Mridbhakshanjanya Pandu.[16] According to Charaka, Kamala, Halimak and Kumbha Kamala are secondary to Pandu i.e., developed further if pathology progresses.

Treatment of Pandu

Acharya Charaka explains systematic treatment protocol for Pandu. Prior line of treatment is Snehapana (oleation of medicated ghee / intake of medicated ghee). For Snehapana different types of medicated Ghritas are advised. Snehapana is followed by Tikshana Shodhana it is either Urdhwa Shodhana (Vamana) or Adho Shodhana (Virechana) to eliminate the Dosha of the body.

After Shodhana, Shaman Chikitsa is advised which described in various forms such as Churna, Vati, Asava,

Arishta, Avaleha, Ghrita and it also contain minerals like Loha Bhasma, Shilajeet, Mandur Bhasma etc. Patient should be given wholesome food containing Old shali type of rice, Yava, Godhuma mixed with the Yusha of Mudga, Adhaki and Masura. Mamsa Rasa of Jangala Animals is also advised as Pathya in Pandu. [17]

Role of *Ghritpana* in *Pandu*

In Panduroga Nidanas like Ushna, Katu, Amla, Kshar Sevan, Vishamashan, Diwaswap etc causes vitiation of Pittapradhan Tridosh Prakop by Ushna Tikshna Guna of Pitta. This vitiated Pitta is expelled by Vayu in Dasha Dhamani by this way it gets in Rasavah Strotas of body. In Rasavaha Strotas, Rasa Dhatu gets vitiated by Ushna, Tikshna Pitta and it gets mobilized through all body by Rakta. During mobilization, Dosha along with Dushya gets localized in Twak and Mams Dhatu. At the level of Twaka and Mamsa, Ushna Tikshnadi Gunas of Pitta vitiates Kapha, Vata, Asruk locally. As a result, there is development of *Panduta*. When *Kapha Dosha* gets vitiated by Ushna, Tikshna, Guna of Pitta, Styanata (viscosity) of Kapha increases leading to Aavrodha (obstruction). Obstruction contributes Agnimandya leading to Panduta. Here Raskshay means diminution of Snighdhadi Gun of Ras Dhatu. Due to this the diminution of the specific portion of Rasa (Rakta Poshak Sara part) which is responsible for the nourishment of Rakta Dhatu as a result of which there is no production of the nutrient factor to nourish the Rakta Dhatu which leads to qualitative and quantitative Kshaya of Rakta Dhatu. Thus, remaining further Dhatu formation hampered consecutively and Dhatuposhan process gets disturbed. Due to Ras Kshaya, the Malas of Rasa like Kapha also gets hampered causing Gaurav(heaviness) and Shaithilyata (flabbiness) in further Dhatus. This results in Nihsarata and Kshay of subsequent Dhatu and Oja.[18]

According to Acharya Chakrapani, the word Gaurav indicates Kriyaswasamarthyat means the Dhatus are not able to execute their physiological function effectively, i.e., Dhaarana (to support) and Poshana (to nourish), which hamper the production of Rakta Dhatu and subsequent Dhatus. [19] Shaithilya means "Anibid Saamyogata" i.e., reduced compactness of Dhatus

(qualitative diminution). Normally *Shaithilya* occurs by two pathologies, first is due to *Snehadhikya* and the other one due to *Sneha Kshaya*.

Here in the Pandu Roga, the Shaithilya is due to Snehakshaya, as a result of vitiation of Ushna Tikshnadi Guna of Pitta. According to Acharya Chakrapani, Dosha Dushya Pradushanat denotes the excessive vitiation of the Dhatus by the Doshas. He also emphasized that, the term Nihsara stands for the loss of Potency of all the varieties of Sara of Dhatus. This leads to Balakshaya, Varnakshaya and Ojakshaya. Ultimately, the Panduroga is stated to be afflicted with Raktalpata, Medalpata, Nihsarata. and Vivarnata Shithilendrivata. [20] In treatment protocol of Pandu, firstly Snehana therapy is advised. Snehpana is advised prior to Shodhana in protocol. Internal oleation helps to break the pathogenesis and manifestation of *Pandu*.

In *Pandu*, as there is diminution of *Rakta*, *Meda*, *Oja*, hence body becomes dehydrated and deficient in lipid substance not only externally and internally on cellular level, to overcome this condition internal oleation works efficiently.

Also as *Pandu* is occurred due to vitiated *Ushna Tiksha Guna* of *Pitta*, *Ghritpana* pacifies vitiation of *Pitta* by *Snigdh*, *Sheeta Guna* and it has also been described for treatment of *Pitta Dosha* also.^[21]

Internal *Snehana* aims to lubricate the digestive tract, offering a wide range of therapeutic benefits, including the improvement of digestion, facilitation of regular bowel movements, and preparing the body for detoxification therapies such as *Virechana* or *Vamana* by bringing back *Shakhashrit Dosha* in to *Koshtha*.^[22] Internal oleation opposes the etiology of *Pandu* at level of constitution and diet. Therefore, in treatment of *Pandu*, internal oleation has given the most importance.

Ghrita

Ghrita is the best of all fats. It is one of the Nitya Rasayanas (can be consumed daily) mentioned in Ayurveda which possess multi-systemic benefits. It is a dietary supplement as well as a drug in its purest form and in combinations. It is sweet in taste; provide

unctuousness and softness to the body tissues and cold in potency. The properties of Ghrita are to alleviate Vata and Pitta without increasing Kapha much. It enhances the digestive fire, improves eyesight, intelligence, memory, vitalizes the body and gives luster. It improves Oius- the ultimate end product of assimilation. Ghrita has Sheeta Virya properties and has Madhura Rasa which helps to decrease vitiated Pitta. Ghrita has Deepana properties and it is considered as best Snehana Dravya who increase the Agni.[23] It is an excellent base for preparing Ayurvedic medicines, due to the fact ghee has somewhat different ability to arrive each and every body parts with in short period, which help to transport medicine without any change called as - Yogawahi action in Ayurveda. Ghrita has one of the best property is Samskarasy Anuvartanum i.e., there is no other such material which imbibes the quality to the extent that Ghrita does. It is Rasayana, Brimhana and Param Yogavahi.[24] Most Ayurvedic formulations are made with Ghrita. Digestion, absorption and delivery to a target organ system are crucial in obtaining the maximum benefits from any formulation. This is facilitated by Ghrita.

A list of medicated *Ghrita* preparations described in *Pandu Chikitsa* in *Charaka Samhita* are listed below.

SN	<i>Ghrita</i> name	Contents	Uses
1.	Panchgavya Ghrita ^[25]	Gomaya Swarasa - The Water Extract Ksheera (Cow Milk) Dadhi (Curd) Mutra (Cow Urine) Goghritham	Apsmara, Jwar, Kamala, Unmada
2.	Mahatikta Ghrita ^[26]	Saptachhad, Prativisha, Shampak, Tiktrohini, Patha, Musta, Ushira, Triphala, Patol, Nimb, Parpatak, Chandan, Padmak, Haridra, Vishala, Shatavari, Sariwa, Vatsak, Murva,	Kushtha, Visarp, Raktpitta. Arsha, Amlapitta, Vatrakta, Panduroga, Unmada, Kamala, Jwar, Hridroga, Gulma, Gandmala, Asrikdara etc.

		Amruta, Kirattikta, Traymana etc.	
		Amalaki Phal Swaras	
		Goghrut	
3.	Kalyanak Ghrita ^[27]	Vishala, Triphala, Devdaru, Elvaluk, Shaliparni, Tagara, Rajani, Sariva, Priyangu, Nilotpala, Ela, Manjishtha, Danti, Dadim, Keshar, Kushtha, Chandan etc. 28 Dravya Goghrita	Apsmar, Jwar, Kas, Shosh, Vatrakt, Pratishyay, Chhardi, Arsh, Mutrakruchha, Visarp, Pandu, Kandu, Unmada, Visha, Meha, Vandhyatva, Graha
4.	Dadimadi Ghrut ^[28]	Dadim, Dhanyak, Chitrak Shrungber Pippali, Water, Goghrita	Hridroga, Pandu, Gulmarsh, Pleeharog, Shwas, Kasa, Mudhvatanulomak. Vandhyatva
5.	Katukadya Ghrita ^{[[29]}	Katuka, Musta, Haridra, Vatsak, Patol, Chandan, Murva, Traymana, Duralbha, Krushna, Parpatako, Nimb, Devdaru Cow Milk	Raktpitta, Jwar, Daha, Shwayathu, Bhangandar, Arsha, Asrikdar, Visphotak
		Goghrita	
6.	Pathya Ghrita ^[30]	Haritaki Fruit, Haritaki Fruit Stem Goghruta	Pandu, Gulma
7.	Danti Ghrita ^[31]	Danti Kwath, Danti Fruit Goghrita	Pleeharog, Pandu, Shopha
8.	Draksha Ghrita ^[32]	Draksha Kwath Puran Sarpi	Kamala, Pandu, Jwar, Meha, Udar
9.	Haridradi Ghrita ^[33]	Haridra, Triphala, Nimba, Bala, Madhuka, Mahish Kshir	Kamala

		Mahisha Ghee	
10.	Darvi Ghrita ^[34]	Darvi Kalk and Kwatha Gomutra (Cow Urine)	Pandu
11.		Darvi Kalk and Kwatha Mahisha Sarpi	Kamala
12.	Vyoshadi Ghrita ^[35]	Trikatu, Bilva, Haridra, Triphala, Punarnava, Musta, Ayoraja, Patha, Vidang Devdaru, Bharangi Gokshir	Mridbhakshanjanya Pandu

DISCUSSION

In Charak Samhita, in Pandu Chikitsa Adhyaya, various combinations of medicated Ghritas are mentioned. Prior to new combinations of Ghrita, Acharya Charaka has advised three Ghrita namely Panchgavya Ghrita from Apsmara Chikitsa, Mahatiktak Ghrita from Kushtha Chikitsa, and Kalyanak Ghrita from Unmad Chikitsa for Snehana in Pandu. All contents of Panchgavya Ghrita are of Ushna Tikshna Guna and of Tikta Katu Rasatmak, act as Deepana, Anuloman and have ability to reach upto all small Strotas in the body. Thus, it will be useful in Kaphaj Pandu Avsastha and in obstructive pathology of Kamala. Mahatikta Ghrita may be mentioned in *Pandu* due to some similarity in pathogenesis of Kushtha and Pandu. From the contents of Mahatikta Ghrita, we can say that it has Tikta Madhura Rasa having Ruksha Guna and Alpsnigdha and Sheetviryatmak. Thus, it will works efficiently in Pittapradhan condition of Pandu and Kamala. While describing its utility it is mentioned that, diseases which can't be cured by 100 different Yogas can be cured by only using Mahatikta Ghrita. Kalyanak Ghrita is described under Unmada Chikitsa. Kalyanak Ghrita contains 28 contents in Ghrita. This Ghrita is Katu Tikta Rasatmak, Laghu Ruksha Guni and having Ushna Virya based in contents of it. Thus, it will be more in beneficial in Vatai Pandu. Dadimadi Ghruta contains mostly Dravya of Madhur, Katu Rasa and out of them five Dravyas are of Madhur Vipaki and rest of them are having Ushna Virya. This combination works as Kaphavatahna by not vitiating pitta. Thus, reviewing all this, Dadimadi Ghrit should indicate in Kaphaj Pandu. It can also used in Vataj Pandu for Shaman Chikitsa. Katukadya Ghrita contains 11 Dravyas having Tikta Rasa, Katu Vipaki and of Sheeta Virya out of 15 Dravyas. Also, cow milk is used as liquid ingredient in preparation of this Ghrita. This all properties are Pittashamak so indication of Katukadi Ghrita is Pittai Pandu and also other Pittapradhan diseases like Jwar, Daha, Shoth, Bhagandara, Arsha etc. Pathya Ghrita is made up from decotion of 100 fruits of Haritaki and the paste of 50 stems of Haritaki. Haritaki has Tikta Kashay Ras, Ushnavirya and Anuloman is main function of it. Also, it detoxifies doshas from all over Strotas due to their Anulomak properies. Pathya Ghrit is indicated in Vata dominant diseases like Vataj Pandu, Vataj Gulma. Danti is one of the purgatives mentioned in Ayurveda classics. It has Katu Rasa, Katu Vipaka and Ushna Virya, balances Kapha and Vata, it is considered as strong purgative. Thus, it is indicated in Vata Kaphpradhan Pandu. The ingredients of Draksha Ghrita are Draksha and Puran Sarpi. Draksha has Madhur Rasa, Madhur Vipaka and Sheeta Virya having Guru, Snigdha Guna. Specialty of this Ghrita is prepared with Purana Ghrita. Puran Ghrita is Atisniadha. Tridoshashamak. Strotoshodhak, Laghu, Balya, Varnya etc. this Ghrita will act best in Pittapradhan conditions occurred due to Ushna and Tiksha Guna. Haridradi Ghrit contains Tikta, Madhura Rasatmak Dravyas and it is prepared with cow milk and buffalo ghee is used in this combination. Buffalo ghee has Madhur Ras, pacifies Pitta Rakta and Vata, Sheeta in Virya. From all of this, it will dominantly work best in Pittapradhana condition. Darvi Ghrita when prepared in cow urine then it is indicated for *Pandu* and when it is prepared in decotion of Darvi itself then it is indicated in Kamala. Gomutra (cow urine) is of Ushna, Tikshna Guna, so it is used in Kaphaj condition of Pandu. Vyoshadi Ghrita is used in Mrudbhakshanjanya Pandu but it is not indicated not before Shodhana like other Ghritas

mentioned for *Pandu Chikitsa*. In *Mridbhakshanjanya Pandu*, soil entering *Amashaya* remains unprocessed by *Jatharagni* and obstruct the *Srotas* not allowing passage of needful substances to further. Treatment of it includes strong *Shodhana*, in order to remove swallowed mud from body. After the body is cleansed, there is advised of *Snehana* to regain the strength in body.

CONCLUSION

Snehpana is the most unique treatment of Ayurveda. Consumption of ghee in medicinal proportion is beneficial for general, mental and physical health. Variability of used ingredients can enhance the Snehakalpana and should be taken into consideration for new preparations. In today's era, almost all diseases show bunch of symptoms and these Ghrita preparations from Pandu has the ability to overcome that. These voluminous properties of above Ghrita make us to think about its wide scope of utility in various other diseases also other than Pandu and different amalgamation of ingredients to form new formulations.

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