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### Netra Kriya Kalpa - A Critical Review

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### ABSTRACT

Ayurveda is a science of life. It is not only a system of medicine in the sense of curing disease. It is also a way of life that teaches us how to maintain and protect health. Shalakya Tantra is a branch of Ashtanga Ayurveda which deals with study of diseases which occurs above Urdhva Jatrugatasthana. In this fast and advanced life we rarely pay attention to the health of the most precious organ "Eyes". Ayurveda is an integral and most ancient form of medical stream which is primarily aimed at prevention of disease & promotion of positive health. Its holistic approach towards positive life style creates its inevitable significance in the present scenario. Kriya Kalpa is main therapeutic process for Netraroga which is described in Sushruta Samhita Uttaratantra chapter 18, Vagbhata in Sutrasthana, Charaka in Chikitsa Sthana, Sharangdhar Samhita Uttara 13, Chakradatta chapter 76. Different types of Kriyakalpa, their indications, classifications, probable mode of action and its importance in Netraroga will be discussed in present article.

Key words: Ayurveda, Shalakya Tantra, Netra Roga, Kriya Kalpa, Urdhva Jatrugata.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The branch of Shalakya Tantra is one among Ashtang Ayurveda, which specializes in the treatment of Urdhvajatrugata (Part of the body above clavicle and sternum manubri) Rogas. [1] In Uttratantra of Sushruta Samhita, first 19 chapters have been devoted to the prevention and cure of eye diseases, which indicates the significance of Netrarogavigyan. Eye disorders are much more important than any other physical disability, since the loss of vision tantamount to the obliteration of the world. Various causative factors which are mentioned by ancient Acharyas thousands

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of years ago, are presently the most common cause for ocular disorders. In Ayurvedic Samhitas, the local treatment procedures for Netra Rogas are explained in the name of Netra Kriyakalpa. The word Kriya means therapeutic action and Kalpa means specific formulations. Kriyakalpa is a Bahiparimarjana Chikitsa and has several advantages over oral administration. The theoretical review of the Kriyakalpa is explained as follows;

According to Charaka – there are 3 types

- 1. Vidalaka
- 2. Aschyotna
- 3. Anjana

According to Sushruta there are 5 types, [2]

- 1. Tarpana
- Putapaka
- 3. Seka
- 4. Aschyotna
- 5. Anjana

According to Sharangdhara there are 7 types

1. Seka

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- 2. Aschyotna
- 3. Pindi
- 4. Vidalaka
- 5. Tarpana
- 6. Putapaka
- 7. Anjana

### Kriyakalpa Room

Kriyakalpa Room should have proper ventilation, but devoid of excessively blowing wind, sun rays or dust. [3] There should be curtains (Javanika) of dark colours like blue or yellow. [4] It should be equipped with materials and medicaments for treatment and to manage complications (like Mithyayoga, Atiyoga or Hinayoga)

### **PREFERRED TIME**

### For Tarpana and Putapaka

Morning and evening are generally suitable.

### For Ascyotana and Seka

Based on vitiated Dosha, done as follows:

1. Kaphaja Roga: Morning

2. Pittaja Roga: Noon

3. Vataja Roga: Evening

4. Anytime: when the pain gets aggravated

### For Anjana

Morning and evening

### **Purvakarma**

 Kriya Kalpa should be done to the patients who have been purified both in their head (by nasal medications) and the body (by emesis, purgation and enema therapies).

#### **Duration**

 Each Kriyakalpa is done for a specified time. This time is measured in terms of Matrakala.

### Mode of action

The medicines are absorbed through *Akshikosha* (the eye lid and orbit), *Sandhi* (the junctional areas), *Sira* (the blood vessels), *Sringataka Marma* (a vital point),

Ghrana (the nasal region), Asya (oral cavity), Srotas (minute channels) and reach the upper region. This absorption of medicine will expel vitiated Doshas.

### **TARPANA**

Akshi Tarpana is performed during temperature seasons, both in the morning or evening. Patient is made to lay in supine position with his face upwards, in a room devoid of wind, sun and dust. A wall is made of flour of Masa around the eye socket (resembling a well) to a height of 2 fingers and breadth keeping the eye lids closed. GoGhrita or any medicated oil liquefied by hot water should be poured in to the well up to the level of tips of eye lashes. The patient should then be asked to open his eyes slowly and retain the drug.

### Sneha Dharana Kala according to Dosha Prakopa (Matrakala)

Doshabheda	Su.Sa.	As.Hr.	Sh.Sa.	Вр
Healthy Eye	500	500	500	500
Kapha Prakopa	600	500	500	500
Pitta Prakopa	800	600	-	600
Vata Prakopa	1000	1000	1000	1000

Su.Sa. - Susrutha Samhita, As.Hr. - Ashtanga Hrudaya, Sh.Sa. -Sharangadhara Samhita, Bp - Bhavaprakasha.

### Sneha Dharana Kala according to Adhisthana of disease (Matrakala)

Adhishtana	Su.Sa.	As.Hr.	Sh.Sa.	Вр
Sandhigata	300	300	500	500
Vartmagata	100	100	100	100
Shuklagata	500	500	600	
Krishnagata	700	700	700	700
Drishtigata	800/1000	800	800	800
Sarvagatha	1000	1000	1000	1000

Su.Sa. - Susrutha Samhita, As.Hr. - Ashtanga Hrudaya, Sh.Sa. - Sharangadhara Samhita, Bp - Bhavaprakasha.

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#### Mode of action

In this process the medicated ghee is made to stand over the eye for a specific time which is in the form of suspension. So its particles do not leave the eye and contact time is more and more drugs are absorbed. It will cross corneal epithelium barrier easily due to its lipophilic property.

### **PUTAPAKA**

The procedure of *Putapaka* is similar to *Tarpana*, but the ingredients, preparation of medicine and durations are different. It can be done after *Tarpana* or independently. Indications and contraindications of *Tarpana* are also applicable to *Putapaka*. There are 3 types of *Putapaka* mentioned in classics like *Snehana*, *Lekhana* and *Ropana*, [5] but *Vagbhata* has mentioned *Prasadana* [6] in the place of *Ropana*.

Retention time of Putapaka is

- 1. In Lekhana 100 Matrakala
- 2. In Snehana 200 Matrakala
- 3. In Ropana Putapaka 300 Matrakala

### Mode of action

Procedure is same as *Tarpana* but medicine preparation is different as *Swarasa* is extracted by *Putpaka Vidhi*. Contact time is same as *Tarpana* but absorption is more than *Tarpana* because it is a suspension of fat and water soluble contents so having both lipophilic and hydrophilic property to penetrate cornea.

### PARISEKA<sup>[7]</sup>

Pariseka is the procedure of pouring the liquid medicines slowly to open eye from a height of four Angula and indicated in acute conditions. There are 3 types of Seka mentioned in our classics like;

- 1. *Snehanapariseka* which is indicated in *Vatajanetraroga* and 400 *Matrakala* duration,
- 2. Lekhanapariseka indicated in Kaphajanetraroga and 200 Matrakala,
- 3. Ropanapariseka indicated in Pitta and Raktajanetraroga and 600 Matrakala duration

### Mode of action

In this process medicine is poured on closed eye continuously from four inches height for specific time according to *Dosha*. The medicine is absorbed through the skin of eye lids. The active principle is aqueous extract so tissue contact time is very less as it get diluted with tears and drained to naso lacrimal duct.

### **ASCHOTANA**

Instillation of few drops of medicines to the open eye from a height of two *Angula* (inches) is called as *Aschotana*. <sup>[9]</sup> It is the first line of treatment in eye diseases and it should be done on the fourth day of disease manifestation or after *Amalaksanas* are settled down. When *Doshas* are not severely vitiated and the disease is in the early stage, it is beneficial. There are 3 types of *Ascyotana* and quantity mentioned in classics like;

- 1. Snehana Ascyotana 10 drops,
- 2. Lekhana 8 drops,
- 3. Ropana 12 drops.

### Mode of action

Same as Pariseka.

### ANJANA

Anjana is a procedure of applying medicinal pastes or powders to the inner side of lower lid from inner canthus to outer canthus or vice versa, either by fingertip or with an applicator (Anjana Shalaka). Anjana mainly have Lekhana properties.

There are 3 types of Anjana mentioned in classics like

- 1. Lekhana,
- 2. Ropana
- 3. Prasadana
- Astanga Sangraha added Snehana as 4<sup>th</sup> Upakrama.

### **Mode of action**

Bioavilability is more due to more tissue contact time

### **PINDI**

*Pindi* is the procedure of medicated paste is kept in a fresh thin cloth applied on eye. It is the modification

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of *Vidalaka*. It is also called as *Avaguntana*.<sup>[10]</sup> It is useful in the early stages of all eye diseases in general and *Abhisyanda* in particular.

#### Mode of action

Medicine is absorbed through skin of eye lid and due to heat of poultice local temperature is increased resulting in local vasodilatation.

### **VIDALAKA**

Vidalaka is the application of medicated paste to the outer surface of the eye lids except at eye lashes. It is indicated in Daha, Upadeha, Asru, Sopha, Raga, Toda, Bheda, Kandu, Gharsa. Thickness of the paste in Vidalaka is similar to that of Mukhalepa like Dosagna Vidalaka is 4 Angula, Vishagna is 2 Angula, Varnya is ½ Angula.

#### Mode of action

Medicine is absorbed through skin as in *Pindi* and *Parisheka*. Mechanical effect of pressure helps in reducing IOP by vasodilatation and aqueous drainage.

### **DISCUSSION**

Kriyakalpas are the boon to Ayurveda. Kriyakalpa has its own mode of action which helps in treating eye disease. The aim of Kriyakalpa procedures are seems to be tissue oriented where the therapeutic concentration of the drug can be achieved by concentration of drug, tissue contact time, molecular weight of drug, absorption of drug, bio-availability of drug. In Kriyakalpa, various drugs can be selected as per vitiated Dosas and types of diseases for the procedures. The procedures of medications are modulated to ensure maximum absorption of drug.

### **CONCLUSION**

In this review article, information about *Netra Kriyakalpa* has enlighted by definition, indication, types, duration, dosage and mode of action. And it is being tried to correlate the Ayurvedic ocular therapeutics i.e. *Kriyakalpa* on the basis of modern pharmaco-therapeutics. The main aim of *Kriya Kalpa* is to get the proper response of the drug by attaining the effective concentration at the site of action for

sufficient period. In day-to-day practice all *Kriyakalpas* are found to be therapeutically effective.

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