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REVIEW ARTICLE

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Pinda Sweda and its possible modification: Critical Review

Akhilanath Parida¹, Satyasmita Jena²

¹Professor, Department of Panchakarma, ²Assistance Professor, Department of Prasuti Tantra StreeRoga, V.Y.D.S Ayurveda College, Khurja, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA.

ABSTRACT

Swedana (sudation) is a common procedure which is practised as Poorvakarma (pre-operative) before any Panchakarma. Pinda (bolus) Sweda is a kind of passive body heat therapy, which is known to cause systemic hemodynamic changes. Pinda Sweda refers to the Swedana done in the form of the Pinda. According to the conditions of the patients, one can opt different types of Pinda Sweda as mentioned in Samhitas and one can make new combinations as per the need and availability and properties of drugs. The present review describes the survey on Pinda Sweda which is used as a treatment modality in the Ayurvedic system of medicine and the possible modifications one can make according to the availability, demand and condition.

Key words: Pinda Sweda, Recent Advancements, Modifications.

INTRODUCTION

Any procedure of Panchakarma includes three Karma i.e. Poorvakarma, Pradhanakarma (operative) and Panchakarma (post-operative). The Swedana Karma is basically a part of *Poorvakarma* of any *Panchakarma* procedure. Swedana is the therapy which makes the body to perspire. [1] It can be performed by various methods. Basically, there are two types of Sweda which are classified as Sagni Sweda (direct contact with fire) and Niragni Sweda^[2] (without the direct contact of fire). Among these 13 Saagni Sweda Sankara Sweda is one among them. In classics, it is mentioned as the Sankaradi Sweda is one of the most ancient treatments in Ayurveda. [3] Pinda Sweda is

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Akhilanath Parida

Professor, Department of Panchakarma,

V.Y.D.S. Ayurveda College, Khurja, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA.

E-mail: tarinitirupati@gmail.com

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based on the principles of Sankara Sweda. It comes under Tapa Sweda of four types of Sweda. It is the fomentation by means of Pinda (bolus) containing drugs with or without being wrapped with a cloth. [4]

This Sankara Sweda is further classified as Rooksha Sankara Sweda and Snigdha Sankara Sweda based on the Dravya used.

In Ruksha (dry) Sankara Sweda, hot solid substances such as stool of different animals like Cow, Horse, Camel, Sand, Brick, Stone are used and this type Swedana can be adopted in Kapha vitiated patients. [5]

Snigdha (Unctuous) Sankara Sweda: The thick gruel is prepared from the substances like -Tila (Sesame), Masha (Black gram), Kulatha (Horse gram), Amla Dravya (Citric fruits), Ghrita (ghee), Taila (oil), Payasa (rice and milk pudding) and this type of Sweda is more useful in the conditions of Kevala Vata. [6] Shashtika Shali Pinda Sweda and Nirgundi Patra Pinda Sweda are its varieties.

Based on the Guna (properties) of the Dravya used for the Swedana Karma is of three types Snigdha -Ruksha, Snigdha, Ruksha for Vata-Kapha, Vata and Kapha respectively. [7] so, one can classify Pinda Sweda according to the Guna of Dravya used.

Table 1: Possible Classification of *Pinda Sweda* according to the *Guna* of *Dravya* used.

Snigdha	Snigdha-Ruksha	Ruksha
Mamsa Pinda	Sweta Patra Pinda Sweda	Valuka Pinda Sweda
Masha Pinda Sweda	Jambeera Pinda Sweda	Tusha Pinda Sweda
Shashtika Shali Pinda Sweda	Choorna Pinda Sweda	Karisha Pinda Sweda
Godhuma Pinda Sweda	Chincha Lavana Pinda Sweda	Karpasabeeja Pinda Sweda

For the practical applicability of *Pinda Sweda* it is mentioned as when *Vata* is localized in *Amashaya*, first *Rooksha Sweda* should be administered and when *Kapha* is localized in *Pakwashaya* (intestines) first *Snigdha Sweda* should be administered. [8]

Valuka Sweda

Valuka *Sweda* is one of the *Rukshakriyas*. It can be done over the whole body or locally on a specific part. It relieves pain and inflammation. Commonly used as *Ekanga Sweda* in *Sandhigata Vata* (osteoarthritis), *Amavata* (rheumatoid arthritis) etc.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Table 2: Materials required for Valuka Sweda

SN	Ingredients	Amount/weight
1.	Sand	1 kg
2.	Cotton cloth	2
3.	Tags	2
4.	Vessel (iron)	1
5.	Rasnadi choorna	5 g

Amavata, Urustambha, Medo Roga, Granthi, Kapha Medavritavata. The Valuka heated and tied into pottalis can be applied directly or by dipping into Kanji.^[9] This is very useful in alleviating *Vata* and *Kapha* diseases and pain all over body etc.

Possible Modifications

Pranipurisha (Stool of animals), Lavana (rock salt), Ishtika choorna (brick powder), *Vatahara Patras*, Nirgundi (Vitex negundo), Arka (Calotropis procera), Agnimantha (Clerodendrum phlomidis), Dhatura (Datura metel), *Vatahara Choorna*, Rasna (Pluchea lanceolata), Devdaru (Cedrous deodara) etc. can be done before applying Taila (Nimba Taila, Brhat Saindhavadi Taila, Kottamchukadi Taila).

Patra Pinda Sweda

The word "Patra Pinda" is made of two words, Patra means leaves and Pinda means bundle. Patra Pinda Sweda refers to the Swedana performed using a bundle of Vata Kaphahara Patra and it is a form of Ushma Sweda.

Table 3: Materials required for Patra Pinda Sweda.

Drugs/ingredients	Weight/Amount	
Nirgundi (Vitex negundo)	100g	
Eranda (Ricinus communis)	100g	
Chincha (Tamarindus indica)	100g	
Dhatura (Datura metal)	25g	
Shigru (Moringa oleifera)	25g	
Arka (Calotropis Procera)	25g	
Grated coconut	150g (½ coconut)	
Lemon	4	
Cotton cloth	(45 cm X 45cm) 2 pieces	
Tags	2	

Possible Modifications

Instead of different *Patras* only one *Patra Pottali* can be used. Eg. (*Nirgundi Patra Pinda Sweda*, *Arka Patra Pinda Sweda*). Different *Choorna* combinations can be done. Egg yolk can also be used.

Jambeera Pinda Sweda

The Jambeera Pinda Sweda is performed with the bolus of Jambeera (lemon) pieces. This is mainly applied in Vata-Kapha predominant conditions. It is usually done in frozen shoulder, plantar fasciitis, and traumatic conditions. It is Sophahara, Rooksha and Teekshna.

Table 4: Materials required for *Jambeera Pinda*Sweda

Drugs/ingredients	Weight/Amount
Jambeera (Lemon)	(around 20 in number and chopped into pieces) 750g
Saindhava (Rock salt)	30 g
Lashuna (Garlic)	200g
Turmeric powder	60g
Cotton cloth	(45cm X 45cm) 4
Threads	2
Vessels for heating	2
Suitable oil for Talam	10 ml
Rasna choorna	5gm
Suitable oil for Abhyanga	100 ml
Oil for reheating the Pottali	Q.S.

Possible modifications

Madiphala (Citrus medica) can be used instead of lemon. For frying Vasa (fat) and Majja (bone marrow) of different animals can be used.

Shashtika Shali Pinda Sweda

Shashtika Shali (rice harvested in 60 days) Pinda Sweda is performed as Ekanga or Sarvanga with the bolus of boiled Shashtika shali with Balamoola kwatha and Ksheera. The main properties of Shashtika are Snigdha, Guru, Sthira, Sheeta and Tridoshaghna. Though a Swedakarma, it has Brimhana guna.

Table 5: Materials required for Sashtika Shali Pinda Sweda.

Drugs/ingredients	Weight/Amount
Shashtika shali	250g
Balamoola	250g
Water	4 ltr
Cow's milk	1 ltr
Kora cloth	(45cm X 45cm) - 4
Thread	(75cm) 4
Vessels For preparing Kwatha, rice and for heating the Pottalis	3
Oil for Talam	10ml
Rasna choorna	5g
Suitable oil for Abhyanga	100ml
Masseurs	2

Possible Modifications

Masha, Grated Coconut, Tila, Egg, Soybean, Godhuma (wheat flour) can be added to get more benefits of Shashtika Shali Pinda Sweda.

Choorna Pinda Sweda

Choorna Pinda Sweda comes under Ushma sweda. This procedure is to be carried out with the mixture of various choorna combinations like Methika (Fenugreek), Sarshapa (Mustard), Shatapushpa (Anethum graveolens), Jatamansi (Nardostachys jatamansi), Atasi (flax seeds). There are two methods of performing this Pinda Sweda; Snigdha and Rooksha. In Snigdha pinda Sweda, first oil is massaged over the body and the pottalis are also heated in oil. The Pottali can also be heated with the steam of Drava (liquid) dravyas like Dhanyamla in different some specific conditions.

Table 6: Materials required for *Choorna Pinda Sweda*.

Drugs/ingredients	Weight/Amount	
Suitable choorna (coarse/fine)	1kg	
Cotton cloth	(45 cm X 45 cm) 2	
Tags	2	
Rasna Choorna	5g	

Recent Advancements

Choorna Pinda Sweda with dhanyamla dipping

Table 7: Materials required for Choorna Pinda Sweda with Dhanyamla dipping

Drug	Sthanika	Sarvanga
Kolakulatthadi Churna	50 g	200g
Kulattha Churna	50 g	200g
Dhanyamla	1 (300ml– cooking + 700ml-dipping)	2 (500ml- cooking + 1.5ltr- dipping)
Kora Cotton Cloth	1 = (18" x 18")	4= (18" x 18")
Tag	1 = (18")	4 = (18'')

Above drugs are mixed with 500 ml of Dhanyamla properly and cooked. The heated Pottali is dipped in Dhanyamla and swedana was done over Kati Pradesh (low back region) upto the attainment of proper symptoms of sudation. In between the procedure, the Dhanyamla should be reheated to maintain the same temperature throughout the procedure. One Pottali should be used only once.

Possible Modifications

Different choornas can be used like - Jadamyadi choorna, Kottamchukadi churna or a combination of different single drug choorna. Instead of Dhanyaml, Chincha rasa, Gomutra, Takra or Kashaya can be used.

CONCLUSION

Swedana is one of the important treatment modality which is useful in the treatment of diseases in the form of Poorvakarma, Pradhana Karma as well as Paschat Karma. The Dravyas (substances) mentioned for Swedana each of them has different properties and actions, it should be used depending on condition. There are many Dravya mentioned by Acharya one should select them depending upon Desha, Roga, and availability of Dravya. Pinda Sweda is a widely practised Swedana procedure where the treatment principle is based on combined effect of heat and medicament. Hence, based on Roga (disease) and Rogi (patient) one can plan different combinations of Pinda Sweda according to the availability and properties of the drugs.

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