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"EXPLORING THE ROLE OF AYURVEDA IN HYPOTHYROID MANAGEMENT: - A CASE REPORT"

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ABSTRACT

Hypothyroidism, a most common endocrine disorder, characterized by an underactive thyroid gland leading to various metabolic disturbances. Weight gain, infertility, depression, etc are some of the symptoms of the disease. Conventional management primarily relies on synthetic thyroid hormone replacement therapy, causing long term complications. Whereas in *Ayurveda* this is attributed to the function of *Agni*. As per *Charaka Samhita*, we can categorize it under *Anukta vyadhi*. Clinical symptoms of this disease closely resemble to *Agnimandya* and symptoms precipitated consequently. Proper understanding of the disease in terms of *Ayurveda* is essential for successful management of Hypothyroidism without complications. Case report: A 26-year-old female patient visited with complaints of dysmenorrhea, gradual weight gain, cold intolerance, constipation and insomnia. She is a known case of hypothyroidism with elevated thyroid stimulating hormone levels. She was effectively treated with an *Ayurvedic* treatment approach for 5months.

KEYWORDS: *Ayurveda*, thyroid, Hypothyroidism.

INTRODUCTION

Hypothyroidism is believed to be a common health issue in India now-a-days. In 21st century changing life style leads to a variety of lifestyle disorders. Thyroid diseases, diabetes, and hypertension are some examples of lifestyle disorders. The number of thyroid cases in society is growing by the day, primarily affecting women more often than men. The thyroid gland is one of the largest endocrine glands in the body. Follicles are the main functional units of the thyroid gland. Thyroid hormones are classified into three types, triiodothyronine hormone (T3), thyroxin hormone (T4), and calcitonin. This thyroid hormone secretion and regulation is by the negative feedback mechanism of the hypothalamic-

pituitary-thyroid (HPT) axis. [2] Thyroid dysfunction is of two types i.e., over activity - hyperthyroidism and under activity - hypothyroidism.

The majority of hypothyroidism cases lack a clear cause. Hypothyroidism is thought to be the result of an autoimmune reaction. Hypothyroidism affects up to 5% of the general population, with a further estimated 5% being undiagnosed. Over 99% of affected patients suffer from primary hypothyroidism. [3] Hypothyroidism is a hypometabolic clinical state resulting from inadequate production of thyroid hormones for prolonged periods, or rarely, from resistance of the peripheral tissues to the effects of thyroid hormones. [4]

Table 1: Showing how to diagnose hypothyroidism with T3 T4 TSH levels.

T3	T4	TSH	INTERPRETATION
Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal thyroid function
Normal	Low	Elevated	Primary- hypothyroidism
Elevated	Low	Elevated	Over-hypothyroidism
Normal	Low	Normal	Central hypothyroidism
Elevated	Normal	Elevated	Subclinical hypothyroidism

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Symptoms of hypothyroidism include lethargy, dry hair and skin, cold intolerance, hair loss, difficulty concentrating, poor memory, constipation, weight gain with poor appetite, dyspnoea, hoarse voice, muscle cramping, and menorrhagia. Serum TSH is the best initial diagnostic test, and a normal value excludes primary hypothyroidism. Low T4 with elevated TSH confirms the diagnosis of primary hypothyroidism, while normal T4 with isolated elevation of TSH leads to the diagnosis of subclinical hypothyroidism. Individuals with subclinical hypothyroidism who have elevated anti-TPO antibodies are more likely to progress to overt hypothyroidism than antibody negative individuals. Central hypothyroidism is characterised by a low T4 and an inappropriately normal TSH.

In Ayurveda there is no direct mention of the thyroid gland and hyperthyroidism. According to Charak Samhita we can categorize Hypothyroidism in Anukta Vyadhis means any disease which is not explained in Ayurvedic text but studied and treated on the base of kupita dosha, hetu and their sthana. Based on the clinical presentation it can be interpreted under different diagnoses according to yukti of the physician. The function of hormones can be correlated with the action of agni. Jataragni vitiation leading to a reduction in dhattwagni is the main cause for Hypothyroidism. [6] Proper understanding of dosha, dhatu vitiation, nidana adhishtana (etiological factors) and manifestation), will help in the management of Anukta vyadhis. Based on the examination of the symptoms of hypothyroidism, the Ayurvedic concept of dosha and dushya revealed that the disease is primarily characterized as Kaphavruta vata in rasa dhatu leading to Rasapradoshaja vikara. [7]

CASE REPORT

A 26years old female patient, *Hindu* by religion, student, moderately built, diagnosed to have hypothyroidism, came to the outpatient department of the hospital with complaints of

Dysmenorrhea
Gradual weight gain
Constipation
Loss of appetite
Muscle cramps
Insomnia
Hair fall
Progressive fatigue/ tiredness
Dry skin

History of present illness

Patient was apparently healthy before 3 years. She gradually developed dysmenorrhea, heavy bleeding during menstrual cycle, loss of appetite and hairfall. She consulted a nearby doctor and tested for thyroid profile. Serum TSH levels of patient were increased (Serum TSH- 24.29) and was prescribed Tab. Thyronorm 100mcg daily morning before food for 2months. Medicine was continued for 14 months. After few

months of initiation of the treatment patient started having symptoms like palpitations, anxiety, insomnia, tremors, persistent hair loss and calf muscle cramps. She was advised to recheck her thyroid profile and her TSH levels were not in control. She was advised to increase the dosage. As patients was not willing to continue the medicine, she visited our hospital for alternative treatment.

Past History

Known case of Hypothyroid since 3 years Not a known case of Hypertension/ Diabetes or any chronic disorders

Family history: Nothing significant

Personal History

Ahara – The personal history revealed that the patient is vegetarian (Eats spicy, sour & sweet food). Patient has no addiction. Reduced physical activity, dining out frequently, and occasional consumption of junk food, bicarbonated juices, etc.

Vihara – Prolong sitting, Decreased sleep/ *ratri jagran*, *avyayama*.

Manasika – Chinta.

Personal examination

Age – 26years Weight – 53kgs Height – 154cm Pulse – 80/min BP – 120/70mm of Hg Temperature – 98.3° F Pallor – Absent Icterus – Absent Lymphadenopathy – Absent

Systemic examination

Respiratory system – Bilateral normal vesicular breathing sounds

CVS – S1 S2 sound normal

CNS - Normal

GIT - Soft, no distension or gourding, Bowel sounds heard.

Urinary system – Normal

Locomoter - Normal

Skin – dry

Thyroid gland local examination

On Inspection – No localised swelling, no scar, no distended veins.

On Palpation – Size, shape – Normal Localised temperature – Not raised Tenderness – Absent

Physical Examination Ashtavidha pariksha

Nadi – Pittaja

Mala – Malavshtambha, Samata (Constipated)

Mutra – Samyak (Normal with yellowish discoloration)

Jiwha − *Lipta* (coated)

Shabdh – Samyak (Normal, clear with formed words and sentences)

Sparsha – Sheeta, Ruksha (cold extremities, dry skin)

Drika – Samanya (Normal)

Aakriti – Madhyama (Medium)

Dashavidha pariksha

Prakriti - VataPittaja

Vikriti - vata, kapha dosha and Rasa dhatu

Sara – Avara

Samhanana – Madhyama (Medium)

Pramana - Madhyama (Medium)

Satmya - Madhyama (Medium)

Satva - Madhyama (Medium)

Vaya- Baala (youvana) (Adult) Vyayam Shakti - Madhyama (Medium) Ahar shakti - Abhyavarana Shakti - Madhyama Jarana Shakti - Avara (Decreased)

Laboratory findings

Thyroid Function Test (29/7/2024)

T3 - 1.330 ng/dl

 $T4-10.10\;ugm/dl$

Serum TSH – 11.300 uIU/mL

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The treatment was planned according to *Rogabala* and *Aturabala*. The following medicines are administered to the patient for a period of 5 months and monthly follow up was done during the course of treatment.

Table 2: Course of Treatment.

Sl. No	Name of the drug	Dosage	Sevana kala	Frequency	Anupana
1.	Tiktaka ghrita	10ml	Before food	2 times	With saindava lavana
2.	Tab Kanchanara Guggulu	2 tablets	After food	2 times	Sukoshna jala
3.	Tab Thyrocalm	1 tablet	Before food	2 time	Sukoshna jala
4.	Dhanvantri Gulika	2tab	Before food	3times	Sukoshna jala

Pathya: The patient was advised to drink *Sukoshna jala*. Daily 20min of walking or 20-30min of exercises. and avoid *pittavardhaka aharas*, avoid *guru*, *snigdha*,

Madhura aharas and Viharas like Avyayama, Divaswapna, etc.

Composition of prescribed formulation medicines

Table 3: Ingredients of Tiktaka ghrita: (Ref: Ashtanga Hridaya Chikitsa sthana 19/2-7).

INGREDIENTS	BOTANICAL NAME	WEIGHT IN GRAMS
Kashaya dravyas:		
Patola	Trichosanthes dioica (Pl)	48grams
Nimba	Azadirachta indica (Stbark)	48grams
Katuka	Picrorrhiza kurroa (Pl)	48grams
Darvi/ Daruharidra	Berberis aristata (St)	48grams
Duralabha/Yavasa	Alhagi pseudalhagi	48grams
Parpata	Fumaria indica (Pl)	48grams
Trayamana/ Gojivha	Gentiana kurro (Pl)	48grams
Water for decoction -	6.144lit boiled	Reduced to 768ml
Murchita Ghrita		576grams
Kalka dravyas:		
Trayanti/ Gojivha	Gentiana kurro (Pl)	12grams
Musta	Cyperus rotundus (Rhi)	12grams
Bhunimba/kalamegha	Andrographis paniculata (Pl)	12grams
Kalinga/ kutaja	Holarrhena antidysenterica (seed)	12grams
Kana/ Pippali	Piper longum (fru)	12 grams

Table 4: Ingredients of Kanchanara guggulu (Ref: Bhaishajya Ratnavali – Galagandadhikara).

INGREDIENTS	BOTANICAL NAME	WEIGHT IN GRAMS
1. Kanchanara	Bauhinia variegata (Bark)	240grams
2. Shunti	Zingiber officinale (Rhi)	48grams
3. Maricha	Piper Nigrum (Fr)	48grams
4. Pippali	Piper longum (Fr)	48grams
5. Haritaki	Terminalia Chebula (FrPl)	24grams
6. Vibhitaki	Terminalia Bellerica (FrPl)	24grams
7. Amalaki	Embilica officinalis (Fr)	12grams
8. Varuna	Crataeva nurvala (Br)	12grams

9. Ela	Elettaria cardamomum (Fr)	3grams
10. Twak	Cinnamomum zeylanicum (StB)	3grams
11. Patra	Cinnamomum tamala (Lf)	3grams
12. Guggulu (Shoditha)	Commiphora mukul (Ex)	Equal amount of all ingredients 477 grams

Table 5: Ingredients of Tab. Thyrocalm (Patent medicine).

INGREDIENTS	BOTANICAL NAME	WEIGHT IN Mg
Ashwaganda	Withania somnifera (St)	100mg
Bramhi	Bacopa monnieri (Pl)	50mg
Makandi (Pashana bhedi)	Coleus forskohlii (A.Rt)	50mg
Guggulu (Shoditha)	Commiphora mukul (Ex)	50mg
Punarnava	Boerhaevia diffusa (Rt)	50mg
Yashtimadhu	Glycyrrhiza glabra (St)	50mg
Vasa	Adhotoda Vasica (Rt)	30mg
Pippali	Piper longum (fr)	30mg
Guduchi	Tinospora Cardifolia (St)	30mg
Hamsapadi/Tripadi	Desmodium triflorum (Rt)	30mg
Nimba	Azadirachta indica (Lf)	30mg

Table 6: Ingredients of Dhanwantaram Gulika/Vati (Sahasrayoga).

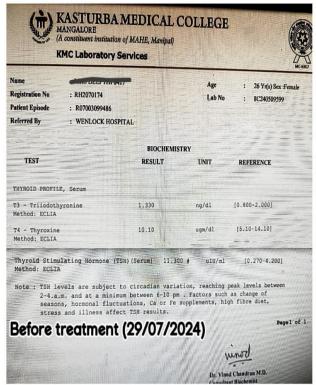
INGREDIENTS	BOTANICAL NAME	WEIGHT	
Ela	Elettaria cardamomum	1part	
Vishwa/ Shunti	Zingiber officinalis	1part	
Abhaya/Haritaki	Terminalia chebula	1part	
Jati	Jasminum officinale	1part	
Brihati	Solanum indicum	1part	
Jeeraka	Cuminum cyminum	1part	
Kankola/ chinoshana	Piper cubeba	1part	
Kiratatikta /arya	Swertia chirata	1part	
Rudraksha	Elaeocarpus ganitrus	1part	
Bhunimba	Andrographis paniculata	1part	
Devadaru	Cedrus deodara	1part	
Karpoora	Cinnamomum Camphora	1part	
Karigudha/ kadivenna	Faeces of newborn baby elephant	1part	
Mrigaretasa/ GandhaMarjara veerya	Civet cat semen	1part	
Drava Dravya Himambu Chandana/ Taruni	Rosa centifolia	QS for bhavana	
Jiraka Kashaya	Decoction of Cuminum cyminum	QS for bhavana	

After treatment

SCORING: 0-No symptoms 1- mild symptoms 2- moderate symptoms 3- severe symptoms.

TABLE 7: Followup and improvement in symptoms score.

SYMPTOMS	29/7/2024	28/8/2024	30/9/2024	24/10/2024	20/11/2024	
Dysmenorrhea	3	3	1	2	1	
Loss of appetite	3	2	2	1	0	
Constipation	3	3	2	1	0	
Muscle cramps	3	2	1	1	0	
Insomnia	3	3	2	1	1	
Lethargy and tiredness	3	2	2	1	0	
Increased hairfall	3	3	2	2	1	
Dy skin	2	2	1	1	0	
Increased weight by 3kgs in 3-4 months (53kgs – first visit)			Weight is consistent. No more weight gain.			
(29/07/2024) - Serum TSH-11.30 uIU/ml			(20/11/2024)- Serum TSH – 5.900 uIU/ml			
T3 – 1.330 ng/dl			T3 – 1.090 ng/dl			
T4 – 10.10 ugm/dl			T4 – 7.41 ugm/dl			



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. TEST		RESULT	UNIT	REFERENCE
THYROID PROFII	LE, Serum			
T3 - Triiodoth Method: ECLIA	nyronine	1,090	ng/dl	[0.800-2.000]
T4 - Thyroxine Method: ECLIA		7.41	ugm/dl	[5.10-14.10]
Thyroid Stimu Method: ECLIA	lating Hormone	5,900.4	uIV/ml	[0.270-4.200]
2-4.a. hormon affect * Refe	wels are subject to m.and at a minimum sal fluctuations,Ca TSH results. wrences ranges recom wroid. 2011 Oct;21(1 p://www.thyroid-inf	mended by the Amer	high fibre diet, ican Thyroid Ass 21787128	stress and illness

DISCUSSION

Hypothyroidism is classified as an endocrine ailment, meaning that the thyroid hormones are not produced in sufficient amounts because of a variety of structural or functional abnormalities. Thyroid hormones raise the basal metabolic rate by activating a variety of metabolic processes in the majority of tissues. Thyroid hormone activity in *Ayurveda* is analogous to *Agni. Agnimandya* can be used to compare the source of disease, that is, decreased metabolism.

All *hetus* (etiological causes) of the patient, that mainly vitiate Tridosha in hypothyroidism are of kapha predominance associated with Vata-Pitta prakopaka. This *Tridosha* vitiation hinders the *Jatharagni* (digestive system) and causes agnimandhya and vibandha. The aahara intaken doesn't digest properly resulting into ama uttpatti. This Ama blocks the channels in the body (Srotorodha), thereby afflicting the contents of channels causing vitiation of Srotas as well as Dhatus. Once the rasa dhatu is in vikruta avastha, rest dhatus also gets disturbed and produce vikrut dhatu uttpatti, which eventually leads to *Dhatvagni* (metabolic system) dysfunction. Vitiated rasa dhatu and dhatwagni mandyata also result in the vitiation of uttarottara dhatus. [8] Lethargy, fatigue, weight gain, weakness etc. symptoms are mainly due to accumulation of Kapha and Medadhatu. Srotorodha, constipation, muscle pain and dysmenorrhea are mainly seen due to vitiated Vata dosha by Avarana. Taking all this into consideration, following drugs has been selected for the present study.

Tiktaka ghrita (Table 3) – *Tiktaka Ghrita* is combination of *Patola (Trichosanthes dioica)*, *Nimba (Azadirachta*

indica), Katuka (Picrorhiza kurrooa), Darvi (Berberis aristata), Patha (Cissampelos pareira), Parpata (Fumaria indica) etc. taken along with saindhava lavana as anupana. Saindava lavana - has lavana rasa and madhura anurasa, laghu, snigdha guna and Tridosha shamaka. It can be taken on daily basis as a pathya. Lavana rasa usually increases pitta, but because of its shita virya[9] and when given as anupana with tiktaka ghrita helps in subsiding the Prakupita Pitta Dosha and even does Vatadosha Shamana as it is Sneha (Ghee) based. It does bhrajaka and pachaka pitta prasadana. It is rakta prasadaka and medohara, does malanulomana. This formulation is explained in Ashtanga Hridaya Kushta chikitsa (19:2-7)^[10], Gada nigraham prayoga khanda^[11] and in Sahasrayogam under ghrita yoga prakaranam.^[12] Due to its atyanta tikta rasa, laghu, ruksha, snigdha guna, sita virya, katu vipaka and kaphapittahara properties. Many of the ingredients of Tikta Ghurta like Pippali, Musta, Kutaja, Patola are having its action on annavaha srotas thus enhances the Vikruta agni and helps in Saara and Kitta vibhajana (improves metabolism) and clearing Aama which in turn helps in reducing the above symptoms of hypothyroid. It also helps in maintaining the overall metabolic balance, which is often affected in hypothyroid conditions. All the ingredients of tiktaka ghrita exhibit anti-inflammatory. antihyperlipidemic, antiarthritic, carminative, oxidant, analgesic and laxative properties. [13]

Kanchanara guggulu (Table 4)- The primary ingredients of Kanchanara Guggulu are Guggulu (50%) and Kanchanar (25%). Since ancient times, the medicinal plant kanchanara has been utilized to improve the glandular system and reduce bodily growths. It has

ruksha, laghu gunas, kasaya rasa, katu vipaka but its prabhava is gandamalanashan (effective in cervical lymphadenitis, thyroid and glandular enlargements etc.). Since *Kanchanara* has strong astringent properties, it can effectively dry out vitiated Kapha and Meda. Its grahi (enhancing absorption) property helps to remove excess fluid from swollen tissues. It helps correct the thyroid imbalance by removing Kapha in the body. It is considered as a best drug of choice for all kinds of Granthi vikara (glandular diseases) and Galaganda in Ayurveda. [14] Guggulu is said to be the best vata and medohara (hypolipidaemic) drug in Ayurveda. It has ruksha, laghu and sukshma (minute) gunas, ushna virya, katuvipaka and has lekhana (scraping properties having thermogenic activity) property. It also supports the jatharagni, [15] so it is effective in the management of kapha medas predominant disorders hypothyroidism. The research data suggests that Guggulu corrects structure and function of the thyroid significantly after melatonin induced hypothyroidism and directly stimulates thyroid function probably through some enzymatic mechanisms. [16] Trikatu- Trikaţu is predominantly having Uṣḥṇa, Tikṣṇa, Laghu, Ruksa guna, Katu rasa, Katu vipaka and Ushna virya. Hence it Kapha-vatashamaka, Deepaka, Strotovishodhaka and has Shothahara properties. [17] It is effective in correcting the dysfunction of Agni seen in hypothyroidism and acts as bioenhancer. Triphala - It is one of the most popular herbal remedies which 'cleanse' by promoting bowel movement. It is having Deepana, Pachana, Vatanulomaka and Strotoshodhaka properties. Hence Triphala may correct the state of Agnimandya. Various researches have demonstrated that Triphala stimulates bile secretion, helps digestion and significantly reduces serum lipid levels. [18] Triphala by its rukshna guna, does kapha and medha nisarana and helps to eliminate it out from the body as vatanulomaka. Once disease is cured, it acts as rasayana which stops further accumulation of Kapha or Medas in thyroid gland. Overall, all the medicines of Kanchanara Guggulu might be helpful to improve Agni through which the thyroid function is regularized. It helps to reduce or break down the deep seated Kaphadosha and Medadhatu and clears the obstruction of channels (srotorodha). By this way, it restores the functions of this gland, prevent weight gain, and corrects menstrual abnormalities and constipation caused due hypothyroidism. It also helps to reduce joint pains, muscle weakness, stiffness and pain associated with this disease.

Tab. Thyrocalm (Table 5) – Vaidyaratnam Thyrocalm tablets is an Ayurvedic herbal supplement designed to support thyroid health and manage stress. The tablets contain a blend of natural ingredients, including Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera), Guggulu (Commiphora mukul), Punarnava (Boerhaavia diffusa), pippali (Piper longum), Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia), Vasa (Adhatoda vasica), yashtimadhu (Glycyrrhiza glabra), nimba

(azadirachta indica) jala bramhi (Bacopa monnieri), parna yavani (Coleus forskohlii), tripadi (Desmodium triflorum). These ingredients work together to help restore hormonal balance and manage symptoms of hypothyroidism such as fatigue and aid in weight management. It also promotes thyroid health and metabolism, manage stress and anxiety, enhance overall health and wellbeing. [19]

Dhanwantaram Gulika (Table 6) – this gulika is a combination of Ela (Elettaria cardamomum), Vishwa (Zingiber officinalis), Abhaya (Terminalia chebula), Jati (Myristica fragrans), Bruhati (Solanum indicum), Jeeraka (Cuminum cyminum), Karpoora (Cinnamomum camphora), Suradaru (Cedrus deodara), Rudraksha (Elaeocarpus ganitrus), Kariguda (Faeces of newborn baby elephant), Mrigaretasa (Civet cat semen), etc. It especially does Vata Kapha shamana and vatanulomana. It is sukshma, srotogami, sula prashamana, vayukshobha hara, deepana, and pachana. It has laghu, ruksha, sukshma guna and ushna virya. It is considered as a rasayana. As it is having Laghu, Ruksha and Sukshma guna, it does Kapha hara which is causing avarana to Vaata, thus correcting the gati of vata (vatanulomana). Deepana and Pachana action of Dravya does Dhatuvagni vardhana thus produces prakruta Rasa dhatu. As the name indicate, this medicine is really a gift from the Lord Dhanwantari and has multi-system action. It can be given in any condition /disease where *vatanulomana* is needed. [20] Most manufacturers skip the ingredients of Mrigaretasa and Karigudha, but the product still retains all therapeutic actions. Therefore, Dhanwantaram Gulika, does not directly alter thyroid hormone levels but it performs amapachana, agnideepana, and corrects apana vayu vaigunya. It helps in supporting metabolic processes, reducing fatigue, and promoting overall vitality, which are essential in managing the condition.

CONCLUSION

Ayurveda doesn't give importance to naming the disease, it emphasizes on understanding the root causes, mechanism involved in disease manifestation and adopt appropriate treatment. Hypothyroidism is such an Anukta vyadhi where there is evident Kaphavruta vata in Rasa dhatu. From the above study it can be concluded that Tiktaka ghrita with saindhava lavana, Kanchanara guggulu, Tab Thyrocalm and Dhanwantaram gulika is effective in the combinedly management hypothyroidism. There was a significant reduction in the signs and symptoms of the disease, and also thyroid profile report (serum TSH). While medication is the cornerstone of hypothyroidism treatment, lifestyle modifications and pathya can also help manage symptoms. This medicine showed encouraging results in this case. The results need to be studied in more numbers in the early stage of the disease for the better assessment.

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