

TOXICITY CAUSED BY ANIMALS AND INSECTS, THEIR AYURVEDA MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

The foundation of Ayurveda is works around eight clinical branches and Agadatantra is one such branch of Ayurveda which deals with poisons and therapeutic management of poisoning. Charaka samhita mentioned twenty four Upakrama as general principles of treatment of Visha while modern science described general treatment of poisoning under the heading of toxicology. Resuscitation, removal of poison, use of antidotes and pacification of poisoning symptoms, etc. are general approaches of poisoning treatment. Ayurveda on the basis of origin classified Visha into two categories; Jangamavisha (animal poison) and Sthavaravisha (plant and mineral poisons). Jangamavisha includes snake poisoning, insect poison, Lutha Visha, Akhu Visha, Vruschika Visha, Kanabha poison, Uchchitinga poison, Manduka poison, mosquito poison and Makshika poison, etc. Ayurveda mentioned utilization of Aushadha, Panchakarma, Vishaghna lepa and ritual conducts, etc. for the management of Visha. Present article summarizes Ayurveda view on toxicity caused by animals and birds along with their Ayurveda Management.

KEYWORDS: Ayurveda, Poisoning, Visha, Agadatantra, Jangamavisha.

INTRODUCTION

Agadatantra is branch of Ayurveda deals with types of Visha, their effects in body and management of poisoning through Visha Chikitsa. Sthavara visha and Jangama visha are important concepts of Agadatantra describing types of poison while Chatur Vimshati Upakrama encompasses modalities of poisoning treatment. Jangamavisha means animal poison and Sthavaravisha means poisoning originated from plant and mineral. Jangama Visha means animal poisoning which includes; snake poisoning, insect poison, spider poison, crab poison, mosquito poison and bee or fly poison, etc.^[1-5]

The concept of poisoning management by Chaturvimshati Upakrama helps to restrict, neutralize, disintegrate and excrete poison from the body. Aushadha sewan kal (drug consumption period) play vital role in Visha chikitsa (treatment of poisoning). Panchakarma procedures; Vamana, Virechana, Nasya and Raktamokshana indicated for Visha chikitsa. Gandush Ghrita and Vishaghna lepa also mentioned for poisoning treatment.^[4-7] Visha affects different body parts as depicted in Figure 1, and Ayurveda also described

treatment for the specific Visha affecting various body organs.

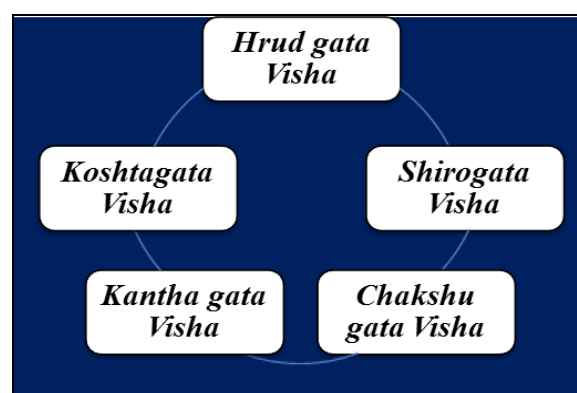


Figure 1: Visha affecting different body parts.

Signs and symptoms of Jangama Visha

The poison of Uchchitinga and scorpion poisoning causes vitiation of Vayu, Keeta causes symptoms of Vayu and Pitta aggravation, poison of Kanabha leads symptoms of Kapha vitiation. The symptoms of poisoning associated with specific Doshas are as follows:

- Poison aggravating *Vayu* causes pain in the cardiac region, *Urdhva anila*, *Stambha*, *Sira aayama*, *Asthi parva ruk* and cramps, etc.
- Poison which aggravates *Pitta* causes *Sanjna nasha*, *Ushna shwasa*, *Hrt daha*, *Katuka aasya*, *Damshavat aavarana* and *Shotha*, etc.
- Poison that aggravates *Kapha* causes *Chardi*, *Arochaka*, *Hrllasa*, *Utklesha*, *Gaurava* and heaviness.

Snake poisoning

The poison of *Darvikara* snake characterized by absence of bleeding, swelling and manifestations of *Vata* vitiation, the poisoning of *Mandali* snake characterized by oedema, yellowness at place of bite, yellow coloration and manifestation of *Pitta* vitiation. Poisoning of *Rajiman* snake characterized by stable edema, unctuousness, paleness and manifestation of *Kapha* vitiation.

Insect poisoning

Keeta (insects) are two types; *Dushi visha* and *Prana Hara*, the *Dushi visha* causes red, black or brownish coloration of skin, boils, *Kandu*, *Daha*, *Visarpa*, *Apaki* and *Kuthitam*, etc. The *Pranahara Keeta* produces oedema, bleeding, heaviness of eyes, fainting, pain, dyspnoea and morbid thirst.

Lutha Visha

Lutha Visha causes burnt spot, gets suppurated quickly, associated with slough and oedema. *Sveta asita rakta pita pidaka*, *Shwasa*, *Daha*, *Hikka* and *Shiro graha* are symptoms of intense poisoning caused by spider.

Akhu Visha

The symptoms of *Akhu Visha* are *Adamshat shonita pandu*, *Mandalani*, *Jwara*, *Aruchi*, *Loma harsha* and *Daha*, etc. *Murcha*, *Anga shotha*, *Vaivarnya*, *Shabda ashruiti*, *Shiro gurutvam* and *Asrk chardi*, etc. are symptoms of *Akhu Visha*.

Vruschika Visha

Scorpion bite causes burning sensation, pinching pain, loses of vision, smell and taste sometimes, muscle tissue gets sloughed and death also in severe condition.

Kanabha poison

Kanabha poisoning causes *Visarpa*, *Shwayathu*, *Shula*, *Jwara* and *Chardi*.

Manduka poison

Bite of toad causes oedema, pain, yellow colouration, morbid thirst, *Chardi* and *Nidra*.

Poison of Fish

Fish bite causes *Daha*, *Shophya*, *Ruja*, *Kandu*, *Shotha*, *Jwara* and *Murcha*, etc.

Mosquito poison

Mosquito bite causes *Kandu*, *Shotha*, *Manda vedana* and *Jwara*, etc.

Makshika poison

Makshika causes pimples, brown color exudation, *Daha*, *Murcha*, *Jwara* and blister on skin.

Visha Chikitsa

The line of treatment for poison that causes aggravation of particular *Dosha* depends upon the types of poison and involvement of *Dosha*. The specific approaches based on *Dosha* involvement in poisoning treatment are as follows:

- Poison associated with *Vata* aggravation can be treated by the application of *Khanda*, massage with oil (sesame), fomentation therapies and dietary modification suggested to relieves serious consequences of poison.
- *Pitta* aggravating poison can be treated with cold affusion, uses of *Stambhana* medicines which arrest movement of fluids in the body and detoxification measures, etc.
- *Visha Chikitsa* for *Kapha Dosha* involves *Lekhana*, *Chedana*, fomentation and emetic therapies.

Visha Chikitsa for Specific Organs

1. Treatment of Hrud gata Visha

Jangamavisha causing burning sensation in cardiac region requires purgation and emesis followed by *Samsarjana Krama*.

2. Treatment of Shirogata Visha

Effects of *Jangamavisha* in head & scalp requires scrapping of scalp, which after meat, blood of cock and crow is applied over it.

3. Treatment of Chakshu gata Visha

The *Jangamavisha* affecting eyes can be cured using *Anjana* of *Pippali*, *Maricha*, *Kshara*, *Vacha*, *Saindhava* and *Shigru*.

4. Treatment of Kantha gata Visha

The *Jangamavisha* affecting throat can be treated with *Feronia limonia* along with sugar and honey.

5. Treatment of Koshtagata Visha

Effects of *Jangamavisha* in the colon can be treated using *Pippali*, *Haridra*, *Daru Haridra* and *Manjistha*, etc. The paste of these herbs with cow's bile offers benefits in *Koshtagata Visha*.

6. Treatment of Raktagata Visha

Effects of *Jangamavisha* in the blood can be treated using root, bark and branches of *Selu*, *Badara* and *Udumbara* along with *Katabhi*.

7. Treatment of Mamsagata Visha

Jangamavisha affecting muscle tissue can be cured using *Bala*, *Maha-Bala*, *Madhuka* and *Nata*.

Sarpa visha Aushadha

Pippali, *Nagara*, *Jatamamsi*, *Kunkuma*, *Patra*, *Rajani*, *Nata*, *Chandana*, *Manahshila*, *Vyaghra Nakha* and *Surasa*, etc. are used as *Sarpa visha Aushadha*.

Medicines for insects poisons

Bark of *Ksheeri Vrukshas*, *Chandana*, *Ushira*, *Sirisha*, *Nata*, *Patala*, *Udichya* and *Sariva*, etc. can be used for insect bite.

Drugs for spider poisons

Flower of *Kusumbha*, *Go-danta*, *Svarna- Ksiri*, *Danti*, *Trivrt* and *Saindhava*, etc. are suggested for spider poisoning.

Drugs for scorpion poison

Citrus limon, *Shirisha*, *Shankini*, *Sunthi* and *Karanja*, etc. are advised for scorpion poisoning.

Drugs for fish poison

The *Sunthi*, *Pippali* and *Maricha* are useful in curing fish poison.^[6-9]

CONCLUSION

The general treatment of poisoning involves stabilization of poison, removal of poison, uses of antidotes and psychiatric care of patient, etc. The scorpion poisoning can be pacify by fomentation and massage, affusions with warm ghee along with salt also provides relief in such cases. The maintenance of crab poisoning requires covering of site of the bite with a thick layer of sand mixed with lukewarm water. *Aushadhas* like *Pippali*, *Jatamansi*, *Nata*, *Chandana*, *Manahshila*, *Surasa*, *Shirisha*, *Sunthi* and *Karanja*, etc. are also useful for the management of animal poisoning.

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