

## REVIEW ARTICLE ON AMAVATA

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## ABSTRACT

Amavata is disease of Rasavaha strotasa it is generally compared with Rheumatoid Arthritis. Amavata is the outcome of Agnidushti, Amotpatti and Sandhivikruti. The therapy which normalize Agni, Metabolizes Ama, and Regulates Vata and maintain healthy Sandhi and Sandhitha Shleshma will be the supreme one for this disease. Many peoples in society are unaware about disease and its complications which is responsible for lifelong joint deformities. Many herbal as well as Ayurvedic preparations are mentioned in the classics which are very effective remedy in Amavata.

**KEYWORDS:** Amavata, Ama, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Agni-dushti, Amotpatti, Sandhivikruti.

## INTRODUCTION

Amavata is the most common endogenous disease which is produced due to frequently formation of Ama in the human body. It is the commonest among chronic inflammatory joint disease in which joints becomes swollen, painful & stiff. Due to its chronicity & complications it has taken the foremost place among the joint disease. It continues to pose challenge to the physician due to severe morbidity & crippling nature. Amavata described in Ayurvedic classics is similar to Rheumatoid Arthritis in various means.

In 1591 Guillaume Baillou, the French physician wrote first book on Arthritis named "Rheumatism" to describe a condition characterized by inflammation, soreness, stiffness in the muscles & pain in & around the joints.

In 1859, sir, Alfred Garrod, the London physician, coins the clinical term "Rheumatoid Arthritis" & the 1st reference is made in medical literature.

The onset is more frequently during 4th & 5th decades of life with 80% of patients developing disease between the age of 30-40 years.

Women are affected approximately 3 times more often than men. Studies suggest that genetics & environmental influences are important in the susceptibility to R.A. There is no doubt modern system of medicine play an important role in overcoming agony of pain, restricted

movement & disability caused by the disease. Simultaneously prolonged use of allopathic medicines are not only giving rise to many side effects, toxic symptoms & adverse reactions even including many organic impairments.

## Etymology of Amavata

1. "Ama sahita vata Amavata". The virulent Ama circulates in the whole body propelled by the vitiated vata doshas producing blockage in the body channels that stations itself in the sandhi giving rise to Amavata.
2. The combination of Ama & Vata form Amavata, it shows the predominance of Ama & vata in the samprapti of Amavata.
3. Ajeerna produce Ama & along with vata it produce Amavata.

Definition Ama is produced by Agnimandya of both Jatharagni and Dhatwagnis. Even though Ama is a cause for various diseases, in Amavata it is the main causative factor. Ama & Vata vitiated simultaneously & disease is manifested mainly in joints of hasta, pada, sira, trika, gulpha, janu & uru. The main symptoms produced are Angamarda, aruchi, trishna, Alasya, Gouravam, Apaka & Shotha.

Role of Ama in Amavata The main causative factor for the manifestation of Amavata is Ama. So it is necessary to know ama in detail.

**Etymology of Ama**

1. The unprocessed or undigested food partical is Ama.
2. Ama means “which is subject of digestion.

**Definition of Ama**

1. Due to hypo-functioning of Ushma the 1st Dhatu „Rasa” is not properly digested, instead the Anna rasa undergoes fermentation being retained in the Amashaya. This Rasa is called as Ama. 2. The Adya Ahara Dhatu is known as Ama, which is undigested & formed due to hypo-functioning of Agni, in Amasaya. 3. The food material which will not undergo vipaka, leads to Durgandha, which is large in quantity, which is picchila & which leads to Gatra Sadana is called Ama. 4. Due to impairment of digestive fire the undigested remained food material is Ama. 5. Apakva Anna Rasa is Ama & some other considers the accumulation of mala as Ama & still other opines the 1st stage of vitiation of dosha as Ama. 6. The 1st phase of Dosha dusti is Ama. Ama may be classified as below: Ama produced due to hypo functioning of Agni i.e.

**Classification of Ama-Vata**

A)- Classification according to Doshanubandha 1- Anubandha of one dosha

Vatanuga Amavata

Pittanuga Amavata

Kaphanuga Amavata

2- Anubandha of 2 dosha

Vata-pittanuga Amavata

Pitta-kaphanuga Amavata

Kapha-vatanuga Amavata

3- Anubandha of all dosha

Tridoshaja Amavata

B)- Classification according to severity

Samanya Amavata

Pravridha Amavata

In samanya Amavata, the symptoms are more or less general, less severe & not associated with complication in comparison to pravridha Amavata

C)- Classification according to chronicity

Navina Amavata

Jirna Amavata

**Nidana**

The word “Nidana” is used in Ayurvedic classics in a broad sense. This word is derived from the Sanskrit dhatu “Ni” which carries the meaning to determine (Ni - Nischaya deeyate Jnanam). This word either refers to etiopathogenesis of the disease in general or the etiology of the illness in particular from the perspective of treatment. Nidana is most important as the avoidance of etiological factors forms the first & foremost line of treatment.

**Madhavakara has described**

1. Viruddhahara (unwholesome diet)
2. Viruddhacheshhta (Erroneous habits)

3. Mandagni (diminished agni)
4. Nishchalata (sedentary life)
5. Exertion immediately after taking Snigdha Ahara is the causative factors for disease Amavata.

**Samprapti of Amavata**

As discussed earlier whenever the function of Agni is disturbed in the body Ama is produced. This produced Ama is slimy in nature, such Ama get together with Dushit Vata / Prakopit Vata and circulates all over the body through Shira and Dhamani and gets lodged in Kaphasthana i.e. Sandhi because Shleshak Kapha is located in Sandhi and Amvata is developed.

**Samprapti Ghataka**

Dosha - Vata pradhan tridosha

Dooshya - Rasadi dhatu; Asthigata snayu; Sira

Agni - Jatharagni; Rasadhatwagni

Ama - Jatharagnijanya & Rasadhatwagnijanya

Srotas - Rasavaha, Asthivaha

Udbhava Sthana - Amashaya

Adhishthan - Asthisandhi

Rogamarga - Madhyama

**Pathogenesis**

- 1) Synovitis (Synovial cell hyperplasia, Hypertrophy with CD4 lymphocytic infiltration and synovial effusion)
- 2) Pannus formation
- 3) Cartilage loss
- 4) Fibrosis
- 5) Bony erosion, deformity, fibrous and bony ankylosis
- 6) Muscle wasting
- 7) Periarticular osteoporosis.

**Lakshana of Amavata****Samanya lakshana of Amavata**

1. Angamarda – Body ache
2. Aruchi – Anorexia
3. Trushna – Thirsty
4. Gourav – Heaviness in the body
5. Aalasya – Lethargy
6. Angashunata – Swelling in the body
7. Jwara – Pyrexia
8. Apaki – Indigestion

**Pratyatma lakshana of Amavata**

1. Sandhi shotha – Swelling in multiple joints
2. Sandhi shoola – Pain in the joints
3. Gatra stabdhata – Stiffness in the body

**Clinical features of Amavata in Comparison with Rheumatoid Arthritis**

- 1) Hasta sandhi shotha & shoola – Inflammation & severe pain in metacarpo-phalangeal joints & proximal inter phalangeal joints are affected most severely in Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- 2) Paad sandhi shotha & shoola – The feet are often involved especially the metatarso phalangeal joints & subtalar joints are affected.

- 3) Jaanu gulfa sandhi shotha – R.A. involves first smaller joints of hands & feet and then symmetrically affects the joints of wrist, elbow, ankle & knee.
- 4) Angagourav – Feeling of heaviness in the body.
- 5) Stabdghata – In R.A. stiffness of joints, particularly observed in morning hours.
- 6) Jaadhya – Due to deformity limited movements in the joints, weakness in grip or triggering of fingers occurs in R.A.
- 7) Angavaikalya – Deformity in joints.
- 8) Sankocha – Contractures.
- 9) Vikunchana – This can be compared to volar subluxation, ulnar deviation which occurs at metatarsophalangeal joints and bilateral flexion contractures of the elbow are observed in R.A.
- 10) Angamarda – Body ache, myalgia occurs in R.A.
- 11) Other joints are involved in Chronic Rheumatoid Arthritis

#### Joint Deformity in R. A.

- 1) Swan neck deformity in interphalangeal joint.
- 2) Boutonniere (Deformity in R.A. with flexion at proximal interphalangeal joint & hyperextension at distal interphalangeal joint).
- 3) Z deformity in the thumb.
- 4) Volar subluxation and ulnar deviation occurs at metacarpophalangeal joint.
- 5) Bilateral flexion contractures of the elbow.
- 6) Synovitis at the wrist may cause carpal tunnel syndrome.

#### Diagnosis of R.A.

The diagnosis of R.A. is essentially clinical since there is no specific laboratory test to diagnose it. The occurrence of symmetrical peripheral inflammatory polyarthritis along with early morning stiffness should suggest the possibility of R.A. American Rheumatism Association (A.R.A.) Criteria for Diagnosis

- 1) Morning stiffness (>one hour)
- 2) Arthritis three or more joints area
- 3) Arthritis of hand joints
- 4) Symmetrical arthritis
- 5) Rheumatoid nodules
- 6) Presence of Rheumatoid factor
- 7) Radiological changes (hand & wrist)

#### Prognosis of Amavata

It is depending upon the involvement of doshas, dhatus, number of symptoms and upadrava exhibited in the patient. Considering its severity Madhava opines that Amavata is a dreadful disease. The nature of disease is such that the patient will go to acute condition very immediately. Commenting on the involvement of joints and its complication Madhava concludes that the management of Amavata is very difficult, if the swelling and pain are affected to all the joints. When compared to other diseases amavata is very difficult to cure.

#### CONCLUSION

Amavata has been named keeping view two predominant pathological factors viz Ama & Vata. Ama means unripe, uncooked, immature & undigested material as a consequence of the impaired functioning of Agni.

Description of Amavata seen in different ancient Ayurvedic textbook of Ayurveda but after medieval period it started dominating & nowadays it is very common dreadful disease.

In our text we can clearly see that pathogenesis of Amavata start after formation of Ama. As we know autoimmune disease occur due to the harmful response of self immune system when immune system started attacking of body tissue as anticipated response against antigen/toxins or Ama. The inflammatory response occur in auto-immune disorders triggered by Ama or antigen at cellular level. Antigen or Ama modulate signaling at cellular levels leading to incompatible auto-immune response that damage tissues.

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