

Literature review on Prativisha (Antidote) in Ayurveda

Dr. Nilofer Paigamber Shaikh, Dr. Priyadarshan Joglekar

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ABSTRACT:

Agad Tantra is the one branch of Ashtang Ayurveda. It deals with all poison whether it is animate or inanimate. Treatment options are described for every type of poison. Prativisha is one of the specialized treatments that are administered in addition to general management. Prativisha is similar to an antidote in modern science. Pharmaceuticals called antidotes are used to counteract the effects of toxins. They function by altering the chemical structure of the toxin or preventing it from adhering to biologic locations; in either case, the inverse interferes with the neurotoxin to lower rates of morbidity and mortality. Even though for the use of Prativisha, some specific indication and contraindication are clarified. If these rules are not followed then patients life would get endangered. For the animate poisoning condition, some plant poisons are described as an Antidote and for the inanimate a specific way is described to use animate poison as an Antidote. This kind of treatment is only used by folkloric Vaidyas in particular areas of the nation; however, not everyone uses it. Because of the potential risk to life and ethical concerns, this subject of study is not well investigated in research. There are very few studies on the use of Prativisha available. Hence, in order to understand the mechanism by which a poison molecule might be changed into a less toxic molecule, the field needs to be explored first through a lab experiment. The next step is to do animal testing to determine Prativisha's safety and effectiveness in all aspects before using it as a treatment for human patients. This paper highlights the importance of Prativisha in ayurveda.

Keywords : Prativisha, Antidote, Ayurveda

I. INTRODUCTION:

An Ayurvedic branch that treats different poisons is called Agada Tantra. In modern science, Toxicology, is the branch of science, in which various poisons, including those originating from plants and animals, as well as their management, are covered. Visha is the material which, on entering the body, vitiates healthy dhatus or kills

healthy people. On the other hand, Visha is the substance which makes the world sad⁽¹⁾. In modern science, the term Antidote is derived from Greek word Pharmakon which means "Remedy". A substance that neutralizes a poison's harmful effects without endangering the body itself is known as an antidote. The purpose of the medications known as antidotes is to stop or minimize the effects of poisoning.⁽²⁾

In Ayurveda, the term for an antidote is Prativisha. Prativisha is described in depth in Ashtanga Sangraha Uttara sthana 48th Adhyaya. If the effects of poisons have not diminished even after using medicinal treatment and pharmaceuticals, after the fifth stage has concluded but before the seventh stage has started, then Prativisha has to be given with the patient's consent.⁽³⁾ According to Acharya Charaka, if a visha (poison) is taken correctly, it can become a very good oushadha; however, if an oushadha is taken incorrectly, it can also become poison.⁽⁴⁾ Acharya Charak lists Prativisha as one of the Chaturvimshati upakramas.⁽⁵⁾

Aim : To study the concept of Prativisha mentioned in the Ayurveda.

Objective : To review "Prativisha" in detail from different Ayurvedic Granthas.

Material and Methods:

Ayurvedic grantha like Charak samhita, Ashtang Sangraha, Sushrut Samhita, modern medical textbooks and various research journals, articles, online databases like Google scholar, were reviewed for the collection of information. It is a literature review article.

Prativisha :

Prativisha is an antidote to visha. It consists of just two words: i.e. Prati + Visha. 'Prati' means against and 'Visha' means those destroy body. In short Prativisha is a substance which reduces the visha utpanna lakshana. As Sthavara and Jangam visha are opposite to each other due to their qualities so they can destroy each other. In jangam visha for treatment purpose i.e. for internal

administration or lepa, sthavar visha should be used and in sthavara visha, jangam visha should be used wisely.⁽⁶⁾

Indication For Prativisha:^{(7),(8)}

- The individual whose body is purified by Ghrita (Ghrut sanskrit sharir), who is taking healthy food (Hitbhoji), Who is strong and Healthy mind (Satvik Prakruti person). In such person Prativisha or Antidote should be administered after sunrise (Suryodaya), during winter (Sheetkala), Vasanta. And in summer in case of emergency (Atyayeeeka) condition.
- When Mantra-Tantra practices, other Aushada Upakarma, and medicine management fail to reduce the poison's effect.
- Whenever Visha-Pidita has arrived at the fifth Vega but has not yet arrived at the seventh. That is in the sixth or seventh Visha Vega.
- The Prativisha should be used in case of emergency or when all other treatment choices have been given and failed to subside the effects of poison.

Conta - Indication For Prativisha:⁽⁹⁾

- During the rainy season or cloudy days, Prativisha should not be used.
- In Individuals who have Pitta problems and suffering from Pitta problem.
- In individuals who are so weak and thin.
- In a starving person and a thirsty person.
- In a person who is suffering from a primary organ disease.
- In children, old age people and pregnant women.

Dose of Prativisha:

The Stavara Visha should be used, for Jangama Visha treatment. The doses are as follows:⁽¹⁰⁾

1. 4 Yava - Heena Matra (Minimal Dose)
2. 6 Yava - Madhyama matra (Moderate dose)
3. 8 Yava - Uttam Matra (Maximum dose)

On the basis of type of bite i.e. Dansha, the doses of sthavara visha are as follows:⁽¹¹⁾

1. For Keeta dansha - 2 Yava Matra
2. For Vruschika dansha - 1 Tila Matra

What can be given as Prativisha :⁽¹²⁾

Two types of agad formulations are documented for the treatment of poisoning conditions: Savisha Agad (containing poison) and Nirvisha Agad (containing no poison). The doctor should only utilize Nirvisha Agad (without poison

content) if they are unsure if the patient is envenomed or not. When a doctor is confident that envenomation has occurred, Savisha Agada (which contains poison) should be employed. The decision was made because the patient would die if the Savisha agad was applied in a situation known as Nirvisha, or no envenomation. Saaktuka, Mustak, Shringi, Vaalak, Sarshapa, and Vatsnabh are Snigdh, Ghana, and Guru Guna, they should only be used as Prativisha. Kaalkuta is not recommended at all. Among these, only Vatsnabh is identifiable in the modern age; the others have either vanished from existence or are no longer recognized. If any person had taken the inanimate poison, then he should be made to bite with snake. If person is bitten by animate poison, then patient should be given inanimate poison through oral root and in form of Lepa (paste) at bite site.

In Sthavra Visha:⁽¹³⁾

One flesh fragment is obtained and it is made to bitten by angry snake then it should be converted in powder form after drying up. The patient who had ingested poison, this powder should be provided as antidote.

In Jangama visha:⁽¹⁴⁾

When poison is given as Prativisha, it should be administered with milk, honey, and ghee. Also, can be given with Tagar (Valeriana wallichii) and Sinduvara (Vitex negundo); Acharya Vagbhatta also named it as Mritsanjeevana. In Aakkhu Visha (rat poisoning), poison should be given with Shirish pushpa (Albizia lebbek) and Tagar (Valeriana wallichii).

Probable action of Prativisha :

In treatment of poisoning, poison is said to be the best anti-toxic drug. It could be due to Visha Guna, Visha Gati and Doshatava.

Visha Guna :⁽¹⁵⁾

In an emergency involving poisoning, where vital signs are being lost every second, a medication with rapid action would be required. Poison possessing Aashu and Vyavayi guna are the responsible for having rapid action in body without spending time in absorption and metabolism. Because of Sukshama and Laghu Guna, Prativisha enters extremely small channels to counteract Visha's (poisonous) effects.

Visha Gati :⁽¹⁶⁾

Visha Gati is told to be opposite of animate and inanimate poison. Animate poison is having the Urdhava gati (upside moving) and inanimate poison having Adhogati (downward moving).

Dosha of Visha :⁽¹⁷⁾

Sthavar Visha (inanimate poison) have the characteristic like of Kapha and Jangam Visha (animate poison) possess the qualities of Pitta. These Kapha and Pitta are having qualities opposite to each other so they produce opposite physiological action; hence they neutralise and balance each other's action in body.

Analysis of rules to use Prativisha :

Prativisha is stated to be utilized in Ayurveda to treat poisoning conditions, but certain guidelines are also supposed to be closely followed to. Therefore, poison is said to be the best antitoxic treatment; however, this does not imply that a doctor must utilize poison in treating every poisoning case. Other Agad formulation and procedure have to be adhered to first. The only appropriate application of poisoning is in the last stages, when all other treatments have failed and the patient's life is hopeless. The rationale is that there won't be any guilt if a patient dies from poisoning. It's recommended that poison be administered in combination with Anupana, another anti-poisonous medication, to protect the patient from any unintended side effects.

In cases of animate poisoning, only four plant names are designated as Prativsha due to their Snigdha (unctuous) and Guru (heavy) qualities, which prevent their Ruksha (dryness) and Laghu (lightness) from having any unfavorable effects. Instead of being directly bitten by a snake or scorpion in cases of inanimate poisoning, a fresh flesh section is bitten by a snake because the fresh blood absorbs the poison molecule or perhaps there is a chemical reaction that changes the toxin molecule into a less toxic one. To counteract the negative effects of the Prativisha, it is recommended to combine Sthavar (inanimate) poisoning with other anti-poisonous medications such as ghee, milk, Tagara Sinduvar, etc.

Some examples how Prativisha counteract the effect of Visha :

In Sarpa Visha, particularly in Darvikara Sarpa which are Vatta Prakopaka⁽¹⁸⁾ and Rajimantha are Kapha Prakopaka⁽¹⁹⁾; therefore,

Mahavisha should be utilized as Prativisha. Nowadays, only Vatsnabha is recognizable in Mahavisha. Therefore, Vatsnabh should be administered as Prativisha. The snake venom of Darvikara and Rajimantha Sarpa causes pain by acting on nerves, and Vatsnabh is considered to be Vednasthapaka.

Dhatura is explained in the Alarka visha chikitsa. Sangyavahi Srotas is involved in Alarka Visha which is Kapha-Vataj⁽²⁰⁾, while Dhatura is Kapha Vata Shamak, mostly affects the central nervous system. Lalastrava (mouth) is one of the symptom of Alarka Visha, and Dhatura acts on it by acting as an anticholinergic and reducing all bodily secretions.

Vatsanabha (Aconitum Ferox) was taken as Prativisha against cobra venom (Naja naja), in wistar rats. Two doses (medium and High-16.83mg/kg & 22.5mg/kg body weight) were chosen against the venom of cobra (Naja naja) LD50 0.49 mg/kg. Survival time was found increased in medium dose group and show protection on heart and liver cell.⁽²¹⁾

In one study, three sets of albino Wistar rats, six in each group were taken. For ten days, Kuchala was administered daily at a dose of 45 mg/kg. One group received only distilled water, another received a trial drug called Jambu, and a third group received the standard medication Valporic acid for thirty days. The study found that Jambu seeds were 64.7% effective in preventing convulsions and also demonstrated regenerative changes in a histopathological examination of the spinal cord.⁽²²⁾

II. DISCUSSION :

Since ancient times, people have regularly been subjected to poisoning, which has led to serious health issues. In Ayurveda, poisoning is treated with antidotes. Antidotes can be correlated with the prativisha. Prativisha refers to the treatment administered at the very end of visha chikitsa in the event that all other methods are unsuccessful. Only at a certain point, after the fifth and before the start of the seventh vega, should one practice specific poisons. This can be asserted as a final try in case of poisonous scenarios. The visha-upayogiya medicines must be taken carefully because they are all quite toxic. However, the prativisha does not pose a serious hazard to human life, hence it cannot be regarded as particularly toxic.

III. CONCLUSION :

Despite being an imported branch of Ashtang Ayurveda, there aren't many practitioners of agadtantra in the field, with the exception of a few folklore practitioners. Treatment for Dooshivisha and Garavisha is the only focus of clinical therapy. Treatment for poisoning is careless since it is not as applicable, especially in the case of Prativisha because of ethical considerations. The value of Prativisha, or an antidote, in reducing the consequences of poisoning is recognized by Ayurveda. Prativisha, which counteracts and neutralizes the effect of poison, is used by dravyas because Visha has traits similar to those of Laghu, Aashu, Sukshma, Vyavayi, Vikashi, and others that allow them to enter Sukshmatikushma srotas swiftly. Internal and external applications should be developed using these prativisha. Evaluating traditional prativisha (antidotes) scientifically involves considering their effects, dose, safety, and application in particular. Emergency situations and routine healthcare practice might both benefit from it.

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