

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

www.ejpmr.com

Review Article
ISSN 2394-3211
EJPMR

SJIF Impact Factor 6.222

A REVIEW ARTICLE ON THE FOUR STANCHIONS OF CHIKITSA

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Article Received on 05/11/2019

Article Revised on 25/11/2019

Article Accepted on 15/12/2019

ABSTRACT

Ayurveda a biological science, which is based on the three principles of life which are termed as: *Trisutra* viz, *Hetu*, *Linga* and *Aushadha*. Thus, the concept of *Chikitsa* is considered as a complete holistic approach to the elimination of the root cause of any disease. The success of *Chikitsa* depends totally upon four factors which are known as *Chikitsa Chatuspada*. These *Chatushpada* includes *Bhishak*, *Dravya*, *Upastha* and *Rogi*. *Chatushpada* endowed with their qualities are then responsible for the cure of disease. These four factors are mutually dependent on each other. These *Chatushpadas* are considered mandatory to provide relief to the patient. In absence of any one of these, the treatment would not be possible. Each of the four factors possess four qualities essential for a treatment to be successful. When all these four factors are favourable, then treatment will be successful. In this review article, an attempt is made to explain the importance of *ChikitsaChatushpada* in detail.

KEYWORDS: Chikitsa Chatushpada, Bhishak, Vaidya, Rogi, Upastha, Dravya, Aushadha.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is one of the most ancient medical sciences of the world. It gives simple emphasis on the preventive aspects, helps in promotion and prolongation of a healthy and happy life. In Ayurveda the success of Chikitsa depends totally upon the four factors which are known as Chikitsa Chatushpada. [1] Chikitsa means treatment, Chatush means four and Pada means limbs. The concept of Chikitsa Chatushpada is probably the first of its kind to be explained in any medical book. It deals with four important limbs or members or pillars of a treatment protocol. It demands the qualitative involvement of each member towards effective healing. [2] They are *Bhishak*, *Dravya*, *Upastha* and *Rogi*. But these factors can succeed in the cure of disease only when they are actively engaged in the fulfillment of the objects. Among these four factors of treatment, the Bhishak or Vaidya (physician) occupies the most important place, therefore he has been enumerated first. [4] Then comes in the order of merit, i.e second place the *Dravya* (medicine). The selection of a proper dravya in the management of disease is very important. Third place is given to Upastha (medical attendant) and later to the Rogi (patient). These Chatushpada are enumerated here from the point of view of their actions leading to the cure of disease and their importance. Each of these four have further four qualities called Shodashakala. [5,6] Shodasha means sixteen, Kala means qualities. Each limb of the treatment set up said to have four qualities. Thus totally the four limbs will have sixteen qualities. These qualities

should mandatorily be present in the concerned limb for the medical system to work to their best of compliance.

Qualities of each *Pada* are as follows *Gunas* of *Vaidya/ Bhishak* (Qualities of physician)

According to Acharya Charaka, ideal physician should possess the following four qualities^[7] –

- 1) Shrute Paryavadatatva— Excellence in medical knowledge
- 2) BahushoDrustakarmata Extensive practical experience
- 3) Dakshya Skill, alert or dexterity
- 4) Shoucha- Cleanliness i.e purity of mind and body

According to Acharya Sushruta, a Vaidya should have qualities like $^{[8]}$ –

- *Tatvadhigata Shastrartha* Who is well versed in the science and should have properly studied the subject with its ideas.
- *Drushta Karma* Should have undergone the demonstrations of surgical procedure.
- Swayamkrute A person who gains experience by doing the procedures on his own.
- Laghuhasta Firm and light in hand.
- Shuchi Clean and pure.
- Shura Brave or Courageous.
- *Sajjopaskara bheshaja* Fully equipped with surgical instruments and drugs.
- Pratyutpannamati Having presence of mind.

<u>www.ejpmr.com</u> 237

- Visharada Intelligent to manage any critical situations.
- Satyadarmaparo Devoted to truth and virtue.

According to Acharya Vagbhata, the Vaidya should be [9]

- 1) Daksha Expert.
- 2) *Tirthashastrartha* Academically qualified.
- 3) Drustakarma Experienced or practical knowledge.
- 4) Suchi Hygienic.

Guna of Bheshaja/Dravya/Aushadi (Qualities of medicine)

According to Acharya Charaka, the *Bheshaja* administered to the patient should possess the following four ideal qualities^[10]—

- 1) Bahuta Availability in abundance
- 2) Yogyatva Suitability or disease specific action.
- 3) AnekavidhaKalpana Various pharmaceutical forms or multiple uses.
- 4) Sampat Potency or with all qualities.

According to Acharya Sushruta, the drug should be $from^{[11]}$

- Prashastha Desha Sambhutam Grown in commendable place.
- Prashasteahani<u>u</u>ddrutam Collected or obtained on precious day and time.
- *Yuktamatram* In proper dose.
- *Manaskantam* Pleasing to the mind.
- *Gandhavarnarasanvitam* Endowed with good smell, colour and taste.
- *Doshaghnam* Able to alleviate the doshas.
- Aglanikaram/avikari Without causing discomfort to the patient, also effective in less dose and harmless in an overdose.
- Sameekshyadhatakala Is judiciously administered at the opportune time. Such medicine is proper for treatment.

According to Acharya Vaghbhata^[12] –

The *Aushadi* to the patient should possess the following four ideal qualities:

- 1) Bahukalpa Capable for use in various pharmaceutical modes and dosage forms like kwatha, choorna, taila, vati etc.
- 2) Bahuguna Having enormous qualities.
- 3) Sampanna Endowed with virtues or readily available.
- 4) Yogyam Suitable and appropriate for specific diseases.

Guna of Upastha/ Paricharaka(qualities of medical attendant –)

According to Acharya Charaka, the attendant attending the patient should possess following four qualities^[13]

1) *Upacharajnata* – Knowledge of attendance i.e perfectly trained in nursing profession or intelligent enough to understand the physician's instructions and act accordingly.

- 2) Dakshya Skillful, alert or active.
- 3) Anuraga Attachment or affection towards patient.
- 4) Shoucha Cleanliness i.e purity of mind and body.

According to Acharya Sushruta, a person is fit as a *Paricharaka* who is^[14]

- Snigdho Affectionate.
- Ajugupsu Tolerant and non reapproaching
- Balavan Strong (physically and mentally)
- Yuktovyadhitarakshana— Devoted to service of patient (strictly and indefatigably follows the instructions given by the physician)
- Vaidyavakyakrudashranta strictly and indefatigably follows the instructions given by the physician.

According to Acharya Vagbhata, the *Paricharaka* should be^[15]

- 1) Anurakta loving, caring or kind hearted.
- 2) Suchi Purity (clean by mind and body).
- 3) Daksha Skilled (have situational understanding).
- 4) Buddhiman Intelligent.

Gunas of Rogi/Atura (Qualities of patient) -

According to *Charaka*he patient undergoing treatment should possess the following four ideal qualities. He should have^[16]

- 1) Smruti Good memory.
- 2) *Nirdeshakaritva* Obedient, submissive, under the control and supervision of doctor or surrendering nature.
- 3) *Abhirutva* Fearless, courageous.
- 4) *Jnapakatva* Providing all information about the disorder.

According to Acharya Sushruta, patient should be [17]

- Ayushman Have a good life span.
- Satvawan Strong will power (mentally strong).
- Sadhya Suffering from curable disease.
- Dravyavan Rich i.e wealthy enough to afford the treatment.
- Atmavan Self control.
- Asthiko Who believes in a kind and all merciful providence or good fearing.
- *Vaidyavakyastha* Strictly obeying the instructions of the physician.

Such patient is proper for the treatment.

According to Acharya Vagbhata, patient should be [18]

- 1) Adhya Rich enough to afford treatment.
- 2) Bhishagvashya Obedient to the physician.
- 3) *Jnapaka* Good memory power or concentration.
- 4) Satvavan Courageous and strong will power.

Table showing the different qualities of Chikitsa Chatushpada

Chikitsa Chatushpada	According to Acharya Charaka	According to Acharya Vagbhata	According to Acharya Sushruta
1) Bhishak/Vaidya	· Shrute paryavadatatva · Bahusho drusta karma · Dakshya · Shoucha	 Daksha Tirthashastrartha Drustakarma Suchi 	 Tatvadhigata Shastrartha Drushtakarma Swayamkruti Laghuhasta Shuchi Shura Sajjopaskara bheshaja Pratytpannamati Visharada Satyadharmaparo
2) Bheshaja/Aushadhi Dravya	· Bahuta · Yogyatva · Anekavidha Kalpana · Sampat	 Bahukalpa Bahuguna Sampanna Yogyam	Prashastadesha Sambhutam Prashasteahani uddrutam Yuktamatram Gandhavarna rasanvitam Sameekshyadatta kale Doshaghnam Aglanikaram Avikasi
3) Upastha/Paricharaka	 Upachurajnata Dakshya Anuraga Shoucha	AnuraktaSuchiDakshaBuddhiman	 Snigdho Ajugupso Balavan Yukto vyadhitarakshana Vaidya vakyakrudashranta
4) Rogi/Atura	· Smruti · Nirdeshakaritva · Abhirutva · Jnapakatva	· Adhya · Bhishagvashya · Jnapaka · Satvawan	 Ayushman Satvawan Sadhya Dravyavan Asthiko Vidyavakyastha

Importance of Vaidya (Physician)

All four limbs equipped withtheir sixteen qualities are responsible for the success in any type of treatment. Among them *Vidya*, by the virtue of his keen knowledge, managing quality and knowledge of administration occupies the most important position among them.^[19]

Importance of Bhishak are highlighted with example of Paka (procedure of cooking) - Patra (utensils), Indhana (fuel), Anala (fire) are the helping factors for the cook in the process of cooking. [20] Vijeturvijaye (in the victory victorious) - Bhumi (land), Chamu (armv) and Praharanani (weapons) are helping factors for the conqueror similarly in the success of treatment the Rogi, Paricharaka and Aushadha are helpers to the vaidya. Mruth (the clod of mud), Danda (stick), Chakra (wheel) and Sutra (thread) are of no use without Kumbhakara [21] (potter). In the same way without vaidya other three pada's are of no use without a good physician even if the remaining three limbs are of good quality the treatment becomes unsuccessful. Only an ideal physician having good qualities always rescues patients from ocean of diseases. [22] And also Acharya Charaka says Atmahuti (death) is better than to be treated by an ignorant physician, because like a blind person moving with the help of his hands or like a boat being driven by the wind, a quack physician proceeds in the therapeutic

management with too much fear. [23] So meritorious physician alone is always ableto carry the patient through as the helmsman saver the boat in river even in absence of assistants. [24] All these statements say that physician plays the most important role in the process of treatment.

Acharya Charaka gives clear picture of different types of physician such as:

Qualities of Pranabhisara Vaidya (Saviour of life)

A physician devoted to Shastra (scriptures), Artha (understanding), Vijnana (application) karmadarshana (practical experience) is called as Saviour of life. ^[25] Only he who is committed towards an extensive theoretical and practical learning can be a successful physician and help the patients to get rid of their morbidity and also save the life of the patients. And also Pranabhisara Vaidya has qualities like - Kulinaha (born in a good family), Paridrusta Karmano (having practical experience), Paryavadaata Srutaha (well versed in the science), Daksha (skillful), Suchi (pure), Jitahasta (Accomplished), Jitatmana (self controlled), Sarva Upakaranavantha (who is well equipped), Sarva Upapannaha (with all sense organs), Indriya Prakrutijnah (who knows the nature of disease), Pratipattijna (rationality), Nihsamsayaha (undoubted knowledge about whole body i.e Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology knowledge). Vypagatasandeha(undoubted

knowledge in *Nidana Panchaka* and *Sadhyasadhyata* of disease). [26]

Qualities of RajaVaidya (Royal Physician)

The physician who possesses the four fold knowledge regarding *Hetu* (cause), *Linga* (symptoms), *Prashamana* (cure), and *Roganam Apunarbhava* (prevention of recurrence of disease) is said to be *Raja Vaidya*. [27]

Qualities of Vaidya Gunayukta Vaidya (genuine physician)

The *Vaidya* who is endowed with practical knowledge, scriptural knowledge, accomplishment and can bring out happiness to the patient are saviours of life such physicians come under the category of genuine physician. [28]

Qualities of UttamaVaidya (excellent physician)

If a *Bhishak* possess the following six qualities then nothing remains unachievable-

- *Vidya* (knowledge)
- *Vitarka* (interpretation of textual reference)
- Vijnanan (insight into other allied sciences)
- Smruti (good memory)
- *Tatparta* (dedication in the field of practice)
- *Kriya* (expertise in treatment and prescription)^[29]

And also who possess the auspicious qualities like *Vidya* (knowledge), *Mati* (wisdom), *Karma* (practical knowledge), *Drusti* (experience), *Abhyasa* (accomplishment), *Siddhi* (success in treatment) and *Ashraya* (guidance from the teacher) deserves to be called as "An Excellent Physician", who can give comforts to all living beings. [30]

VaidyaVrutti (Aims of physican)

Physician should have *Maître* (friendly attitude or friendliness), *Karunyamaarteshu* (compassion towards the diseased), *Shakye Prithi* (concern with curable diseases) and *Prakrutistheshubhutheshuupekshanam* (neglect the person towards death or keeping away from treating the impossible disease). Here, Acharya Charaka explained the doctor – patient relationship.^[31]

Shastrajyoti (knowledge from scriptures) provide Prakasha, knowledge of objects and physician's atmabuddhi is like darshana (vision). A Bhishak endowed with both these factors does not commit mistakes in the treatment. [32]

DISCUSSION

The four limbs of treatment adorned by their sixteen qualities form the base of successful treatment protocol. Among all the limbs, the *Bhishak* has an extensive knowledge of medicines and treatment, who controls and commands the attendants and nursing staff, who prescribes the best medicines and treatment for ailing patient is the most important member of *Chatushpada*.

An efficient physician who is working towards the successful accomplishment of his treatment will have to get synchronised help from the medicines, attendants and the patients. But still, the physician is the key factor in the success of treatment. Hence it is important to stress more on these four limbs to improve the quality of services in the health sector. A water, weapon and scripture have merits and demerits, depending upon who uses it for what. So a physician should always have pure thoughts and intellect for the sake of giving proper treatment.

CONCLUSION

Among four fold *Chatushpada*, the absence of any one of the four limbs doesn't fulfil the format of treatment or rather become meaningless. We cannot imagine a chair or table to be standing devoid of one of its legs. The treatment line up or hospital protocol too becomes incomplete or imbalance in the absence of any one of the above said four limbs. The whole system will be imbalanced and will be a failure if one or more of the above said four limbs fail to work towards perfection or if they are inadequately equipped or if they are not working to their best and maximum.

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