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CONCEPT OF MUTRAVIRECHANA AS SHODHANA

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda has given prime importance to Mutravaha srotas and srotogata vikara. Mutravaha srotas being responsible for maintaining homeostasis of fluids in the body also detoxifies the body by eliminating certain waste products through urine. Shodhana is nothing but elimination of vitiated doshas from the body through nearest possible route. This article emphasizes on the shodana property of Mutravirechana.

KEYWORDS: Mutravirechana, Shodana, Mutra, Mala.

INTRODUCTION

The procedure by which Dhatus are brought into equilibrium is termed as Chikitsa.^[1] In a broder sense Chikitsa is divided into two category Shodhana and Shamana. Shodhana is the method of eliminating the vitiated doshas from the body to pacify the disease.[2] There are five types of Shodhana explained in classics-Niruha, Vamana, Kayavireka, Shirovireka Asravisruti. [3] According to Acharya Sharangadhara Shodana means the procedure which detaches the accumulated mala from their respective places and expels it in upward or downward direction. So, the principle of Shodhana is to eliminate the doshas from the body. The doshas can be identified based on symptoms or on laboratory findings. In case of mutravaha sroto dushti Urea, Creatinine, Sodium, Potassium, Oxalate, Calcium, Phosphorus can be considered as the Mutragata dosha. These can be eliminated out of the body through Mutravirechana dravyas. So an attempt has been made to prove the shodana property of Mutravirechana dravyas in certain Mutravaha and Udakavaha sroto vikara.

Mutrotpatti

Mutra is one among the Trimala. According to Ayurveda urine formation is very much related to process of digestion. Urine is the liquid portion derived from food and drinks after digestion. [4] It is formed by the action of Pachaka pitta and Samana vata on Ahara rasa causing separation of sara and kitta bhaga. After vibhajana the liquid portion is taken to the bladder by innumerable vessels. [5]

Modern medicine gives at most importance to kidneys in the urine formation but according to Ayurveda the formation of mutra starts from pakvashaya & there is no direct reference of vrukka participating in mutrotpatti. At the end of sthulpachan of chaturvidha aahara by pachakapitta in grahani, it is separated into rasa, mala & mutra. Mutra according to dalhana is the udaka or poshak mutra or the precursor for urine. In the pakvashaya this udaka is absorbed by innumerable udakavahi dhamani having minute openings. Modern science have similar concept of absorption of 80% of water in large intestine through various capillaries. The absorbed udaka enters circulation producing several waste products of metabolism called kleda. This mixture is brought to the vrukka by the 2 Toyavaha dhamanis which can be confirmed by the statements of Dalhan that udakvahasrotas ends by joining mutravahasrotas.

Mutra karma

Mutra fills the Urinary bladder and eliminates the excess kleda from the food. ^[6] The function of Urinary system is removal of waste products mainly Urea and Uric acid, regulation of electrolyte balance, acid-base homeostasis, controlling blood volume and maintaining Blood pressure.

Mutra Virechana

The drugs which causes increased output of urine is considered to be Mutra virechaneeya dravyas. These dravyas cause diuresis by increasing the production of urine, causing easy flow of urine and stimulating the organs of the urinary system. Ikshu (Saccharum officinarum Linn), Shali(Oryza sativa Linn.), Ksheera(Milk), Navadhanya being sheeta, increase Kapha and dravata in the Shareera. Whereas, dravyas like Ela, Gomutra (Cow's urine), and Vana palandu (Urginea indica Roxb), being Ushna veerya, cause virechana of the mutra.

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Diuretic is any substance that promotes diuresis, the increased production of Urine. They act by either increasing the Glomerular filtration or by decreasing the tubular reabsorption. Diuretics are used to maintain urine volume, to mobilize edema fluid or to control high blood pressure. Clinically diuretics are prescribed in Edema, Congestive Cardiac failure, Acute Respiratory failure, Poisoning, Hypercalciuria, Premenstrual tension.

As per Ayurveda in Shota, Udara, Mutrakrucchra, Mutraghata and Ashmari chikitsa drugs having mutravirechana property are being mentioned.

Mutravirechana in Shota

Kaphaja Shota presents with the cardinal feature of pitting oedema with gradual onset, progressive in nature. The edema will be prominent during night time and presents with puffiness of the face and Anaemia. [7] While mentioning about nidana of Shota, Acharya Charaka has mentioned Marmopaghata as one of the nidana. [8] Considering these factors Kaphaja Shota can be compared wiyh that of Cirrhosis of liver, Nephropathy and Congestive Cardiac failure.

The discussion regarding symptoms of *kaphaja shotha* remains incomplete unless the relation between *kaphaja shotha* and *jalodhara* are discussed. These disorders are closely related and appear one after another, above all there is much similarity in *samprapti* of these. After discussing *Shotha* in 12th chapter of chikitsa sthana, in 13th chapter Acharya Charaka describes *Udararoga*. Chakrapani commenting on this considers *udara roga* as type of *shotha* only. [9] Its particularly to *kaphaja shotha* and jalodhara. Even present day observation in cirrhosis of liver oedema is followed by distention of abdomen from ascitis. In other conditions (cardiac and renal) oedema precedes ascites. Hence shotha can lead to jalodhara similarly jalodhara can lead to shotha.

In end stage nephropathy as the function of *Mootradharakala* becomes fully impaired, there is failure in the removal of *Kledamsa* and *Udaka Bhavas*, which leads to their accumulation in the body. These *Malas* may take *Sthanasamshraya* thereby producing different symptoms like *Shopha*, uraemia etc. Microalbuminuria is the condition of *Kledavridhi* in *Mutravaha Strotas* where *mutravirechana* is the line of management.

Mutravirechana in Udara

If the person who is *kshina*, *ati krisha* suffering fom *mandagni* indulges in *atyambupaana* after *snehapana* the *vata* located in *kloma* gets interrupted with *kapha* and *udakadhatu*, increases the quantity of water in the obstructed channels of circulation resulting in *Udakodara*. [10]

Acharya Charaka has also mentioned that the *avarodha* of *sweda* and *ambuvaha srotas* causing collection of fluid in the peritonial cavity. This caused due to vitiation

of *prana vayu*, *agni* and *apana vayu*. [11] Here we can consider, Pranavayu as cardiac involvement, Agni as liver involvement and Apana as renal involvement leading to ascites.

While mentioning about the Chikitsa of Udara Acharya Charaka has mentioned that initially Ap doshahara chikitsa should be done by administering gomutra, kshara and teekshna dravyas. [12] So in initial stages of Udara mutravirechana is more beneficial.

Mutravirechana in Mutrakrichra and Mutraghata

The aggravated dosha in the Basti causes obstruction to the mutramarga leding to Mutrakruchra. ^[13] In the treatment of mutrakruchra along with abhyanga, sweda. Avagaha mutra virechana drugs are being mentioned.

Mutravirechana in Ashmari

While explaining the formation of ashmari Acharya Susruta narrates that, the manner in which even clean water collected in the pot precipitates in the bottom after sometime, so also the process of hardening of ashmari occurs with the crystals of kapha present in urinary system. [14] In ashmari chikitsa administration of Mutravirechana drugs acts by breaking the formed stones and flushing it out through bastishodana (Diuresis).

CONCLUSION

Mutravirechana dravyas like punarnava, gokshura etc by there property causes diuresis and hence are used in the treatment of hypertension, nephrotic syndrome, oedema, ascitis. In disease like shota, hrudroga, pandu, pliha, prameha, udara mutrala dravas are being indicated by our Acharyas. Some of the Mutravirechaneeya drugs act by increasing the GFR there by increase the ellimination of urea, creatinine. Some act by increasing the urine output. Like in case of mutra ashmari, mutra krichra. Mutravirechana though not mentioned under pancha shodhana can be considerd as a shodana procedure in conditions of Mutravaha and Udakavaha srotodushti as it eliminates the toxins from the body.

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