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CONCEPTUAL STUDY OF GARBHASHAY GRIVA GATA VRANA WITH SEPCIAL REFERENCE TO CERVICAL EROSION

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ABSTRACT

Gynaecology is a branch of medicine that deals with diseases and routine physical care of reproductive system of women. Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely absence of reproductive disease or infirmity. Cervical ectropion or cervical erosion is highly prevalent condition among females of reproductive age. Although self limiting and benign this disease can progress to chronic condition and can cause unpleasant and distressing symptoms. Ayurveda's healing approach holds an answer to the issue of chronicity and recurrent occurrence of ectropion. One of the most bothersome diseases, *Garbhashay Grivagata vrana* which manifests persistent vaginal discharge, itching, backache, infertility and can even be cancerous. Although it has not been directly explained in any ayurvedic texts *Ashtanga hridaya* has done so by referencing *Yoni Vranekshana yantra*. Hence an attempt has been made to study the concept of *Garbhashay griva gata vrana* with special reference to Cervical erosion.

KEYWORDS: Cervical erosion, Garbhashay Griva Mukhagat vrana, Vrana.

INTRODUCTION

Cervical erosion is a benign condition that is regarded as normal variant found in women of mostly reproductive age group. Pathologically it is a state of replacement of squamous epithelium of exocervix by columnar epithelium of endocervix. Clinically it is an outward and visible manifestation as the portio vaginalis as red granular surface due to invisible chronic endocervicitis. This condition has many names in medical terminology – ectropion, erythroplakia, macula rubra, erosion. Usually diagnosed during routine Pelvic examination or pap screening, prevalence of cervical ectropion is estimated to be between 17 to 50% globally. Although benign Cervical erosion can cause range of symptoms including vaginal discharge, post coital or intermenstrual bleeding, dyspareunia, chronic cervicitis and susceptibility to sexually transmitted diseases.

Cervical erosion can be understood as *Garbhashay Griva Mukhagat Vrana* as it resembles features of *vrana* explained in classics. As there is no direct reference to this topic, there is a need of collecting, analyzing and detailed studying of the concept and current literature regarding the topic from the relevant texts and understanding the approach of ayurveda towards management of cervical erosion.

ETIOLOGY

विकारनामकुशतो न जिन्ह्यात कदाचन | न हि सर्व विकाराणां नामतोस्ति ध्रुवा स्थिती: | (अ. ह. सू. 12/64)

It is not obligatory that one must get a reference of each clinical condition by its name. Ashtanga hridaya in reference to Yoni vranekshana yantra and Yonikshata in Hansraj nidan has described Garbhashay Griva Gata Vrana.

Sushruta has also described it in reference of vrana sadhya asadhyatva. In the context of yoni vrana, considering the shape of yantra for examination directly resembles the speculum with the help of which maximum part of vaginal path can be viewed upto the cervix.

SAMANYA HETU

Yonivyapada can be taken into consideration for hetu of Garbhashay griva mukhagat vrana.

- Mithya achara
- Pradushta artava
- Beej dosha
- Daiva

Samanya hetu of Vrana

• Nija (Doshaja)

• Agantuja (aghataja)

Aharaj, Viharaja

These can cause vitiate *doshas* and they need suitable seat to manifest a disease I.e. *kha vaigunya* or *dushya* is needed as causative factor for the disease.

SAMPRAPTI

When etiological elements are taken into account the formation process may be broken down to stages. As vitiated *doshas* pass on *sanchaya*, *prakopa*, *prasara avastha* in due time respectively. In *vrana samprapti* they are often in subclinical phases. They vitiate *rasa*, *Rakta*, *mamsa dhatus*. These cause all three *dosha dushti* to occur.

SAMPRAPTI GHATAK

- Tridosha
- Rasa, Rakta, mamsa dhatu dushya
- Kha mala
- Rasavaha, raktavaha, artavavaha srotas
- Jatharagni, dhatvagni
- Artava, Raja dushti
- Garbhashay griva sthana

PURVARUPA

Pitta +kapha dushti- Shopha which leads to vrana formation

According to severity of *dosha dushti*, *Srava*, quantity, *swarupa*, *gandha* differ.

But uniquely main *dosha* in picture remains same- *kapha pittaja vrana*.

RUPA

Doshaja lakshana

- Kaphaja- Srava, kandu, shoth
- Pittaja-Yonidaha, mutradaha, vivarnata
- Vataja- Vedana (yoni, Kati, udar)

All these can lead to Maithuna asahatva, Vandhyatva, mutravikara.

Sushruta has mentioned Prajanana vrana as sukhasadhya vrana. (Sushrut sutrasthana 23/5)

Thus considering all these factors Garbhashay Griva Mukhagat Vrana is Nija- agantuja, Twak mamsagata, sukhasadhya vrana.

CERVICAL EROSION ETIOLOGY

PHYSIOLOGICAL- Elevated hormonal levels cause Ectopic growth of endocervical mucosa on To portio., regressed spontaneously on puerperium.

PATHOLOGICAL

- Congenital
- Acquired
- Inflammatory
- Hyperplastic Hyperoestrogenism

The Inflammatory or hormonal stimulus causes columnar epithelium of endocervix to grow downwards and cover the ectocervix. Process may occur in 3 ways.

- 1) Simple erosion (flat type)
- 2) Papillary erosion
- 3) Follicular erosion

DIAGNOSIS

On per speculum examination- Red granular surface with well defined margins may be seen on anterior, posterior, lip or circumorally on ectocervix. Mucopurulent discharge may be present.

INVESTIGATIONS

Hanging drop (HD) and culture of discharge Pap smear

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

Tuberculus ulcer, CIN/ Ca cervix, Chancre (syphillitic sore).

TREATMENT

Depends on age

- Young unmarried girl-No active treatment, needs reassurance
- 2) Pregnancy- no active treatment
- 3) Women on oral contraceptive pills-reassurance and change of contraceptive method
- 4) Symptomatic erosion in reproductive age-Antibiotics, Cauterisation
- 5) Perimenopausal women- rule out malignancy by Pap smear prior to cautery.

AYURVEDA'S APPROACH OF CHIKITSA

Chikitsa for Garbhashay griva mukhagat vrana involves several general principles. It is primarily attributed to vitiation of kapha and Pitta dosha. Sthan in this condition is within yoni.

STHANIK CHIKITSA: It is drawn from numerous Bruhatryis sources or 3 primary ayurvedic literature Charak, Vagbhata and Sushruta. Depending on patient's prakruti, food, season different permutations and combinations are practically used.

- Ksharakarma
- Agnikarma
- Yoni pichu
- Yoni dhavana
- Yoni dhupana
- Yoni varti
- Yoni purana

PATHYA APATHYA

Meals prepared with yava, sidhu, taila, abhaya arishta should be used.

Pippali, lauhabhasma should be used. *Lashuna* should be included in any form of diet in daily routine.

Manda in contraindicated to the women suffering from Yonivyapada.

DISCUSSION

Early and correct diagnosis, proper awareness, management of diagnosed disease and maintainance of health is important to overcome diseases. Thus proper understanding of *Hetu*, *purvarupa*, *rupa*, *samprapti*, extent of vitiation of *doshas* will help us choose the treatment modality. Due to its signs and symptoms *pittaja* and *kaphaja yonivyapada* are most often acceptable when we link with *yonivyapadas*. However, *vrana* is the most suitable option. *Adhishthana* as *Yoni*, and *Srava* as symptom can be used to interpret *Twak mamsa gata vrana*.

CONCLUSION

In modern medicine, Garbhashaya Grivagata Vrana can be compared to Cervical Erosion on the basis of various signs and symptoms. By improving general health and personal hygiene of women, we can avoid the occurrence of cervical erosion. Treatment of Garbhashay Grivagata Vrana is mainly based on drugs that are predominantly kashaya rasa and Pitta shamak property. Taking into account the general principals of Vrana Chikitsa, it is necessary to treat Garbhashaya Grivagata Vrana. By understanding the disease thoroughly, diagnosing it early and providing appropriate treatment according to doshas, we can avoid dangerous complications such as cervical malignancy and infertility.

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