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**GENERAL PRINCIPLES & THEORIES INVOLVED IN CLINICAL ASPECTS
OF AGAD TANTRA: A REVIEW**

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Abstract

Ayurveda believed in logical, scientific and holistic approaches of health management and in this regards Ayurveda emphasizes different theories related to the toxicology under the heading of *Agad Tantra* which mainly deals with study of poisons (*Visha*) and their treatment. Poisonous plants, venom of snake, spiders & scorpion, food poisoning, artificial poisoning and heavy metal poisoning, etc. mainly causes medical emergency which needs immediate attention to arrest fatal effect of poisons. *Ayurvedic Samhitas* described uses of *Vishaghna* (antitoxic) drugs for managing such types of poisonous conditions. These Ayurveda drug exerts anti-toxin action through various principles including *Dravya prabhava*, *Guna prabhava* and *Dravya Guna prabhava*. These drugs offer *Raktashodhaka*, *Tridoshaghna*, *Hridya* and *Ojvardhaka* effects thus helps in poisoning complications. Similarly *Chaturvishanti Vishopkrama* is Ayurveda concept utilizes to treat poisonous conditions.

Key-Words: *Ayurveda, Agadatantra, Toxicology, Visha*

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda toxicology (*Agadtantra*) is branch of Ayurveda (*Astanga*) which works around various aspects of poisons like; identification of poison, assessment of poisoning symptoms and their treatment. *Agadtantra* involves study of animal poisoning induced by the bite of *Sarpa*, *Keeta*, *Lutaa* and *Musaka*, this branch also deals with *Sthavara* (inanimate) poisoning caused by chemical, gases and other reagents. Poisons are two types; *Akrutrima visha* and *Krutrima visha*, *Akrutrima visha* further subdivided into *Sthavara visha* and *Jangama visha* as depicted in **Figure 1** based on their origin.

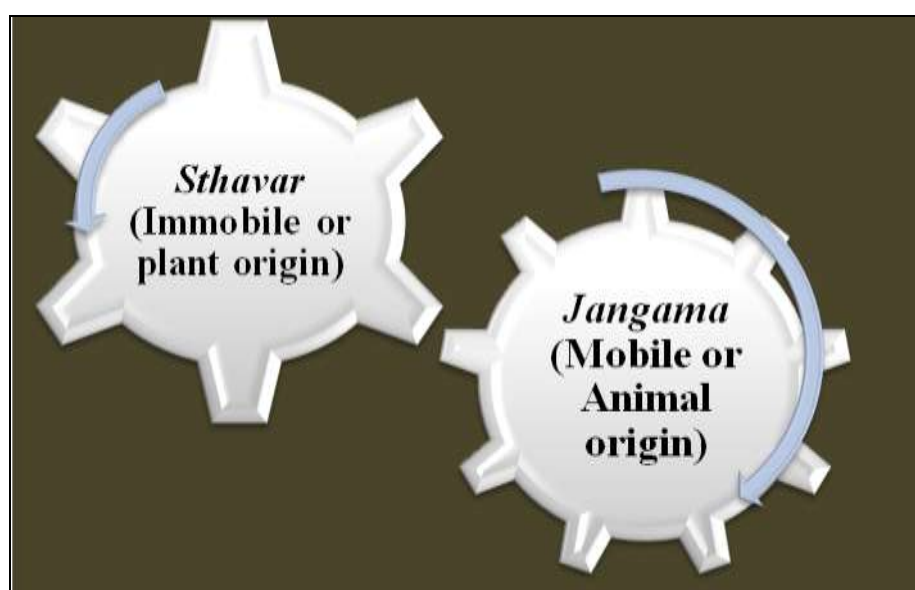


Figure 1: Types of *Visha* based on their origin.

Agad Tantra focuses on *Virudha Ahar*, *Gara Visha* and *Dooshi Visha*. *Virudha Ahar* described harmful effects associated with incompatible food, *Gara Visha* resembles concocted poison and *Dooshi Visha* resembles latent poison. These all can cause many harmful effects inside the body including; cardiovascular disorders, cancer, neurological problems, renal failure, skin diseases and disorders of digestive system, etc. *Agad Tantra* suggested many therapies for the management of such conditions like; *Nirvishikarana* which involves detoxification measures (*Shodhana Chikitsa*), *Raktashodhana* (blood purification technique), *Hridaya* (therapy to restore cardio action), *Ojavidhana* (rejuvenation therapy) and *Tridoshaghata* (approaches to

establish equilibrium in body humors). These methods along with antitoxic formulations help to control fatal effects of poisons.

The ayurveda therapies in case of poisoning symptoms offer following beneficial effects on various systems affected by poisons:

- ✚ *Hrudayuttejit & Shothnashan* effects on *Swasansanshtan*
- ✚ *Mutrajanan* effects on *Mutravah Sansthan*
- ✚ *Bhedan Krumighna* effects on *Pachanvah Sansthan*
- ✚ *Medhya & Balya* effects on *Nadisansthan*
- ✚ *Swedjanam & Kushtagnha* effects on *Twaka*

Gara visha is concocted poison, as discussed earlier *Akrutrima visha* are two types; *Sthavara visha* and *Jangama visha* while *Krutrima visha* is considered as *Garavisha* which means artificial poison. *Gara visha* causes acute as well as chronic manifestation of poisoning like; *Shopha, Pandu, Udara, Unmada* and *Durnam*, etc. Generally not causes fatal manifestation due to their delayed assimilation inside the body. *Chakrapani* considered *Gara visha* as *Nirvisha Dravya* (nontoxic substances).

Dooshivisha means latent poison which not causes potent poisoning effects. When poison become less potent due under the influence of antitoxic substances, exposure to heat & sunlight and self degradation then such types of latent poison termed as *Dooshivisha*. These poisons not cause fatal effects due to diminish potency and may reside in the body for long time since enveloped by *Kapha*. The invasion of such poison may cause symptoms like; heaviness, sleepiness, yawning, temporary unconsciousness, irritation, discolored complexion, fainting, vomiting, stammering speech and loss of sense. *Dooshivisha* aggravates *Kapha - Vata* when accumulated in stomach and vitiates *Vata - Pitta* when accumulated in colon.

Chaturvishanti Vishopkrama means specific procedure to be adopted for poison treatment described in *Agadtantra*. *Chaturvishanti Vishopkrama* considers various aspects while treating poisoning symptoms. *Mantra, Arishta, Utkartana, Nishpidana, Chooshana, Agni, Parisheka, Avagaaha, Raktamokshana, Vamana, Vireka, Upadhaana, Hrdayaavaraña, Anjana, Nasya, Dhooma/ Dhoopa, Leha, Oushadha,*

Prasamana, Pratisaarana, Prativisha, Samjnasamsthapana, Lepa and *Mritasanjeevana* are critical aspects and procedures of *Chaturvishanti Vishopkrama*.

MANAGEMENT OF SPECIFIC POISONS AS PER AYURVEDA:

Sthavara visha

Sthavara visha means poison originated from plant it causes symptoms like; pain, delusion, yawning, delirium, vomiting, burning sensation, flatulence, roughness, fainting, hiccup, tingling of the teeth and rigidity, etc., following treatment options can be recommended:

- ✚ Decoction of *Kosataki, Agnika, Amrita, Abhaya, Patha, Suryavalli, Selu, Sirisha, Trikatu, Brihati, Bala, Sariva, Kinhi, Haridra, Punarnava*.
- ✚ *Sanjivan Agada, Mritajivana Agad, Yapana Agada, Dasanga Agada, Brahma Agada* and *Sivakrita Agada*

Visa Justa Anna

Visa Justa Anna means poisoned food, it leads symptoms like; fainting, vomiting, loss of taste, diarrhea, emaciation and abdominal cramps. *Vamana* and purgation along with *Jivan Agada* and *Dusi Visari Agada* can be suggested for such types of condition.

Visa Justa Jala

Visa Justa Jala means poisoned water causes mouth irritation, bad smell, gastric disturbances and burning sensation. *Sigravadi Agada* and *Guduchi* can be recommending along with detoxification measures.

Sarpa Dhamsa

Sarpa Dhamsa means snake bite, the poison of snake causes severe fatal manifestation including blue colouration of face, nails and eye, dryness, problem in speech, rigidity, unconsciousness and excessive salivation. Root of *Sinduvaraka* with honey, *Pakala* with honey, *Manjisth* and *Grahadhuma, Kanini, Girikarnika* and *Matulanga*, collyrium as nasal medication, etc. are beneficial in case of *Sarpa Dhamsa*.

Alarka Visa

Alarka Visa means poison of rabid dog, causes sleepy unconscious and oozing of black coloured blood from affected area, pain in heart, pain in head, rigidity, fainting and thirst. Fear to touch and sound of water along with other mental symptoms. Juice of *Apamarga* flowers offers benefits when squeezed on affected site, roots of *Nala*, *Dhurdhuraka* fruit, *Virechana* drugs with *Arka* milk also suggested.

Vrischika Damsa

Vrischika Damsa means scorpion bite, cause swelling of tongue, rigidity, pain, vomiting, and loss of sense, fainting, mouth dryness, anxiety and unconsciousness. The ayurveda recommended fomentation with *Rajani*, *Sandhava* and *Vyosa* flowers, *Vidarigraham taila* for bathing purpose, *Shirish* fruits, *Palash* seeds, *Arka* milk and tooth of camel with *Saivala* to destroys poison of scorpion.

Luta Visa

Luta Visa means spider bite which causes pain, ripening, burning sensation, exudation, edema and sloughing, etc. Ayurveda suggested uses of *Agnikarma* with *Jambavostha*, bloodletting, *Bodhi* paste, Collyrium, *Vyosa*, *Haridra* and *Bilva* roots offers benefits with goat's urine.

Musika Visa

Musika Visa means rat bite causes tumours, rashes, swellings, reddish patches and fever. The management of this condition can be done using paste of *Agradhuma*, *Rajani*, *Saindhav* and *Manjishtha*. Decoction of *Madan Phala* and *Ghee* of *Tanduliyaka* also suggested.

CONCLUSION

The concept and theory of *Agadatantra* described in *Astanga Samgraha* and these principles of *Agadatantra* helps in understanding poisoning manifestation and management of various poisoning conditions. The knowledge of poison is very essential since many deaths still reported due to the poisons world widely. *Visha* when enter inside the body then it causes symptoms like; pallor, gastric disturbance, emaciation, sleepiness, abdomen distension, laziness, swelling, flatulence, dryness,

confusion, unconsciousness and death also. *Sushruta Samhita* mentioned different *Gana* for antitoxic drugs like; *Aaragwadhadi Gana*, *Arkadi Gana*, *Rodhradi Gana*, *Patoladi gana*, *Shyamadi Gana*, *Anjanadi Gana*, *Trapvadi Gana* and *Utpaladi gana*. These antitoxic drugs offer therapeutic response when used either singly or in combination. *Vishaghna Yogas* such as; *Siddhartakadi Gulika*, *Kshara agada*, *Maha agada*, *Ajita Agada*, *Ajeya Ghrita*, *Bilwadi Gulika*, *Dooshivishari Agada*, *Mandar Agada* and *Sanjeevana Agada*, etc. are utilized for specific poisoning conditions. Similarly *Chaturvishanti Vishopkrama* is ayurveda concept involving procedure of poison treatment.

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