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CLASSICAL REVIEW ON LUTA VISHA AND ITS MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

As per modern view more than 20000 species of spiders are identified and is classified into 60 families. Out of that some are not dangerous. Whereas Sushruta describes 16 species of Luta whereas Vagbhata says about 28 variety. Acharya Vagbhat included this Luta visha under the Keetavisha (insects) since it possesses the features of insects. The doshaavastha of Luta is Pittakaphaadhika. That means Pitta Kapha Lakshanas will be predominant. In spider poisoning pain, swelling and itching are the main symptoms. The spider bite are both poisonous and non poisonous. Venomous proves fatal in a week. Moderately poisonous would take more time to prove fatal. Whereas bite by mild poisonous brings death within a fortnight. Luta visha is included in Keeta visha. In Ayurvedic Granthas there are various Agadas mentioned that are used as Prativisha (antidotes) to act on poison due to Luta visha.

Keywords_ Luta visha, Keetavisha, Agada, prativisha

Introduction

As per Acharya Vagbhat Luta visha is included in Keeta visha as it possesses all the features of insect. Luta originates from the perspiration of the Vasistha that fallen on grass. There are various types of the Luta visha that are based on Sadhyaasadhyata, potency, doshprabhava, based on site of poison. Some of them are poisonous and some of them are non poisonous. The venom contains several neurotoxins, vusculotoxins and several necrolytic enzymes that cause severe neurological symptoms and destroys the cell membrane, blood vessels and that leads to gangrene within 24 hours. In Ayurved there are many Agadas mentioned that are useful in Luta visha poisoning. Both external and internal medication are mentioned. In local treatment such as Pithashamana kriya, lepana, seka, raktamokshana, cold applications are explained whereas in systemic Pittashamana drugs and Shodhana therapy are useful.

Origin of Luta

Lutas germinated from the drops of perspiration of the holy sage vasistha fallen on the cut grass^[1].

Classification of Luta

1. **Based on Prognosis** ^[2]
 - a. Krcchasadhya Luta- 8
 - b. Asadhya Luta – 8
2. **Based on Doshaprakopa**
 - a. Vatika
 - b. Paittika
 - c. Slesmika
 - d. Sannipatika
3. **Based on Visaprabhava** ^[3]
 - a. **Mild** - Death occur within 15 days
 - b. **Moderate** - Death occur within 7 to 10 days
 - c. **Severe/Violent** - Death occur within 7 days

Site of Poison

^[4]

- a. Shwas (breath)
- b. Damshttra (fangs)
- c. Purisha (Fecal matter)
- d. Mutra (Urine)
- e. Shukra (Semen)
- f. Lalastrava (Saliva)
- g. Nakh (nails)
- h. Aartava (Menstrual fluid)

Symptoms of poisoning

General Symptoms

- Round shape rashes present white black, red, yellow or bluish in colour, is soft elevated
- Its centre is black or blue and its edges resembles like net.
- It spreads like visarpa, swollen with burning sensation, painful, fever, ulceration, exudation, sloughing, destruction of muscle tissue. ^[5]

Specific Symptoms

Based on Dosha vitiation ^[6]

Sr. No.	Luta Types	Symptoms
a.	Vayavya Luta	Roughness in swelling, blue in colour, joint pain
b.	Agneya Luta	Burning sensation, thirst , vesicles, fever
c.	Saumya Luta	Hard swelling, which is white in colour, itching, mild pain
d.	Sannipatik Luta	Burning sensation spread all over the body. It is the combination of all the three doshas.

Based on site of poison ^[7]

Sr. No	Acc. Site Types	Symptoms
a.	Breath	Swelling associated with fever and burning sensation
b.	Teeth	Swelling associated with pricking pain and burning sensation
c.	Excreta	Foul smell swelling, burning sensation, itching, pricking sensation
d.	Urine	Swelling has red coloured edges, black centre, emits foul smell, burning sensation
e.	Semen	Tumour is hard and painful
f.	Saliva	Elevated rash, mild pain, itching and soft to touch
g.	Nails	Burning sensation, itching, eruption
h.	Menstrual Blood	Eruption red in colour resembles like garland

Stagewise Symptoms of Spider ^[8]

Sr. No.	Days	Symptoms
a.	1 st	No discolouration over the affected part Slight itching, pain
b.	2 nd	Raised edges, surrounded by eruptions Change in colour of skin Itching, depressed in the centre
c.	3 rd	Fever, red patches, horripilations, pain, discharge from hair follicles
d.	4 th	Profound swelling, dyspnoea, giddiness
e.	5 th	Gives rise to symptoms of poisoning related to doshas
f.	6 th	Poison invades all vital organs
g.	7 th	Destroys life

Acc. to Krcchasadhya and Asadhya ^[9]

Sr. No.		Symptoms
a.	Krcchasadhya Luta Lakshan	Pain, itching at the site of bite, headache
b.	Asadhya Luta Lakshan	Bleeding, fever, burning sensation, diarrhea and disorder due to the concentrated action of all the three deranged dosas of the body

Treatment

According to Acharya Sushruta ^[10]

1. Nasya (Snuff)
2. Anjana (Medicated Collyrium)
3. Abhyangana (Unguent)
4. Pana (Potion)
5. Dhuma (Fumigation)
6. Avapidhana (Administration of nasal drops)
7. Gandusa (Gargling)
8. Vamana (Emesis)
9. Virecana (Purgation)
10. Siravyadhana (Blood letting)

1. **Chedan (Incision)**^[11]

With the help of scalpel damsha vrana (bite site) should be cut down.

2. **Agnikarma (Cauterization)**^[12]

The bite site is cauterized with heated stone etc.

Contraindication-

- a. If the bite site is very rough, hairs are damaged, located in vital parts and joint and is spread to all parts
- b. When the bite is pitta predominant

3. **Lepana (Coating)**^[13]

- a. Paste of Agada, Madhu and Saindhava is applied
- b. Paste of Pippali, Ahlesmataka, Aksha is applied

4. **Parishechan**^[14]

With the help of decoction of the bark of four ficus tree seka is done.

5. **Raktamokshan (Blood letting)**^[15]

Blood letting should be done from the affected part by using shringa. After raktamokshan (blood letting) seka with ghee and milk should be done.

6. **Vaman (Emesis)**^[16]

Purification done with the help of vishnashak vaman. Removal of increased kapha with the help of yashtimadhu (liquorice), Madan (emetic nut), Ankol (alangium), Jaalini (Ridged gourd), Saindhava (rock salt) in kanjika

7. **Virechan (Purgation)**^[17]

Purgation is done by giving triphala, trivritta and nilini.

8. **Ghrita (ghee)**^[18]

Ghrita intake is useful in poisoning.

9. **Agada**

- a. Padmaka agad ^[19]
- b. Champaka agad ^[20]
- c. Gandhamadnagad ^[21]
- d. Mandaara Agada ^[22]
- e. Lodhraadi Yoga ^[23]
- f. Hreeberaadi ^[24]
- g. Rajanyaadi ^[25]
- h. Vilvaadi ^[26]
- i. Gomayras, sugar, ghee, Madhu ^[27]

10. Nasya

- a. Nasal medication with the help of Tulasee Svarasa
- b. With the help of shyama, yavaphal, Shirish nasal medication is done. ^[28]

11. Anjana

Collyrium prepared with the leaves of surasaa, vyosha, roots of bilva, surahvaya and haridra mixed with goats urine is used for anjana. ^[29]

External and Internal use of Medicines

External Application

1. Turmeric and sacred basil
2. Root of sacred basil with milk
3. Rock salt and honey
4. Asafoetida with juice of betel leaf
5. Fresh turmeric and leaves of vitex negundo

Internal Use

1. Turmeric and sacred basil with milk
2. Lodhraadi lehya
3. Neeleetulsyaadi decoction
4. Neeleedalaadi ghrita
5. Katabheemoolaadi ghrita

Karnikaa patanam

For Karnikaa patanam paste made of safflower (kusumbh pushpa), Gypsum

(Godantee), Mexican poppy (swarna ksheeree), Excreta of pigeon (kapota vit), Turpeth

(Trivr'it) rocksalt (saindhava) ans baliospermum montanum (Dantee)

Specific Management

Sr. No	Types	Management
1.	Trimandala	Compound prepared by arka root, rajani nakuli, prsnaparni ^[30]
2.	Shveta	Agada prepared from chandana, rasna, Ela, Kustha, Nalanda ^[31]
3.	Kapila	Agada prepared by padmaka, kustha, ela, karanja, durva, bramhi, arkaparni, apamarga, Sthira ^[32]
4.	Paitika	Agada composed by kutaja, kadambha, kakumbha bark ^[33]
5.	Ala-visa	Agada composed of Priyangu, kustha, satapushpa, sprouts of pippala ^[34]
6.	Mutra-visa	Manasila, Ela, yastimadhu, kustha, chandana, padmaka ^[35]
7.	Rakta	Agada of toya, chandana, ushira, padmaka, bark of arjuna and amrtaka ^[36]
8.	Kasana	Agada of toya, chandana, ushira, padmaka, bark of arjuna and amrtaka ^[37]

CONCLUSION

Loota vish are more dreadful than keet visha and are of 16 types. In some granthas it is said to be of 28 types. Loota vish is predominantly pittakaphaadika. So pitta kapha lakshana predominantly seen. Burning, redness and pus will be there. The venom contains several neurotoxins and vasculotoxins and necrolytic enzymes. The treatments that are described in ayurvedic granthas are local and systemic. locally raktamokshana, cold application, lepana are described and in systemic shodhana therapy and pitta shaman drugs are included. There many agadas that are mentioned in the text that are vilwadi gulika, dashaangam gulika, Tiktakam ghritam, Shatadhauta ghritam, Aaragwadhadi kwath etc. As luta visha is having predominancy of pittakaphadika So in that case pittashamana kriya is very useful.

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