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Review Article

A Critical Study on Clinico – Etiopathological Study of Kushtha

Agrawal Monika¹, Byadgi P. S.², Dwibedy B. K.³

¹Research Scholar, Department of Siddhant Darshan, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi -221005, India.

²Professor, Department of Siddhant Darshan, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi -221005, India.

³Assistant Professor, Department of Vikriti Vigyan, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi -221005, India.

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Abstract

Kushtha is one of the dermatological disorders mentioned in almost all samhitas and it develops mutilation in the skin and develops deformity in the skin structures. Abnormal interaction of vitiated doshas with rasadi tissues causes abnormal complexion of the skin and produces the deformity of tissues. Incompatible diet and activities associated with sinful activities leads to development of kushtha. Sushruta was the first one who clearly described that Kushtha caused by one or more abnormalities in the genome, especially a condition that is present from birth (congenital) and it is passed down from the parents' genes. There are two main categories of kushtha mentioned i.e. Mahakushtha and Kuhdrakushtha depending on the dhatugatavastha (involvement of the tissues) and signs and symptoms of the diseases. Kushtha can be classified into seven types, eighteen types and in innumerable types. Kushtha is a chronic, contagious & severs disease. Though the provocative morbid doshas are the same in all the varieties yet they are differentiated by the different amount of morbidity, sequela and location which produce the difference in their characteristic pain, colour, seat, effect, name and treatment.

1. INTRODUCTION

The whole body becomes despised and contemptible and destroys the body parts and make the appearance of the individual ugly is known as Kushtha. Charaka has mentioned 7 types of Kushthas in Nidanasthana based on dosic predominance¹ and 18 types of Kushthas described in Chikitsasthana². These 18 types again subdivided into Maha Kushtha & Kshudra Kushtha³. Though Kshudra Rogas are not described in Charaka, some of the conditions like Tilakalaka, Nilika, Nyachcha, Vyanga have been described by Charaka Samhita in Shvayathu chapter and in the description of Tvak⁴. The same diseases have been included in Kshudra Rogas by Sushruta and Vagbhata. Charaka while mentioning the disease of Rakta has included Kotha, Kandu, Pidika in it⁵ and Kotha, Kandu are the Purvarupas of Kushtha⁶. Kushtha is included under Santarpanjanyarogas⁷. It is also mentioned under Raktadoshaja Roga. Bleeding should not be controlled in the initial stage of Raktapitta otherwise it causes development of many diseases including Kushtha⁸. Diarrhea should not be controlled in the initial stage of Raktapitta of Amatisara causes many diseases including Kushtha⁹. Romantika, Masurika that are skin disorders similar to Kushtha have been described in Shvayathuchikitsa. Sushruta was the first one who clearly described that Kushtha caused by one or more abnormalities in the genome, especially a condition that is present from birth (congenital) and it is passed down from the parents' genes. He also described that Krimiis one of the causative factor of Kushtha¹⁰ and also mentioned nidana separately in the etiogenesis of Kushtha. Development of Kushtha at tissue level was clearly mentioned. Sushruta has explained skin disorders under the heading of Maha Kushtha, Kshudra Kushtha & kshudraroga¹¹.

*Corresponding Author:

Byadgi P. S.,
Department of VikritiVigyan,
Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences,
Banaras Hindu University Varanasi -221005, India.
Email: psbyadgi@rediffmail.com,
Mobile - +91-9450711759, Office no. 05426702168

2. CLASSIFICATION OF KUSHTHA

Kushtha can be classified into seven types, eighteen types and in innumerable types. No any single variety of Kushtha can be produced by the vitiation of one Dosha. Though the provocative morbid doshas are the same in all the varieties yet they are differentiated by the different amount of morbidity, sequela and location which produce the difference in their characteristic pain, colour, seat, effect, name and treatment.

Acharyas have classified Kushtha into two broad type's viz. Maha Kushtha & Kshudra Kushtha. Chakrapani says that in Kushtha involvement of Doshas & appearance of lakshanas are less in Kshudra Kushtha in comparison to Maha Kushtha¹². The term 'Mahat' means that it has the ability to penetrate deeper Dhatu while the Kshudra Kushtha does not have the ability to penetrate into the deeper tissue. Others mentioned that Mahakushtha occurs due to excessive involvement of Doshain the beginning of disease process-'Bahu Bahula Dosha Arambhata'. While in Kshudra Kushtha there is no such severe & extensive vitiation of Doshas from the beginning¹³.

Kanthadatta said that in Madhava Nidana commentary, Doshic involvement in Uttarotar Dhatu is Shighra in Maha Kushtha.

Table 1: The difference between Maha Kushtha & Kshudra Kushtha

| S. No. | Maha Kushtha | Kshudra Kushtha |
|--------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Bahudosha | Alpadosha |
| 2. | Bahu Lakshana | Alpa Lakshana |
| 3. | Excessive pain | Less pain |
| 4. | Penetrates deeper Dhatu rapidly | Less tendency to penetrate deeper Dhatu |
| 5. | Mahat Chikitsa | Alpa Chikitsa |
| 6. | Chronic | Less Chronic |
| 7. | Loss of function of skin like anesthesia | Less functional deformity of skin |
| 8 | Excessive morphological changes with deformity | Less morphological changes with minimal skin residual changes |

Table 2: Classification of Mahakushtha According to Different Acharyas¹⁴⁻¹⁷

| Name | Charaka | Bhela | Sushruta | Vagbhata | B. P. | Madhavakara |
|------------|---------|-------|----------|----------|-------|-------------|
| Kapala | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Audumbar | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Mandala | + | + | - | + | + | + |
| Risyajihwa | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Pundarika | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Sidhma | + | + | - | - | + | + |
| Kakanaka | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Dadru | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| Aruna | - | - | + | - | - | - |

Table 3: Classification of Kshudra Kushtha According to Different Acharyas

| Name | Charaka | Bhela | Sushruta | Vagbhata | Bhav Prakash | Madhavakara |
|-------------|---------|-------|----------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| Ekakustha | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Charmakhya | + | + | - | + | - | - |
| Kitibha | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Vipadika | + | + | - | + | + | + |
| Alasaka | + | + | - | + | + | + |
| Dadru | + | + | - | - | + | + |
| Charmadala | + | - | + | - | - | - |
| Pama | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Visphotaka | + | - | - | + | + | + |
| Shataru | + | + | - | + | + | + |
| Vicharchika | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Sthularuska | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Mahakustha | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Visarpa | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Parisarpa | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Sidhma | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| Raksa | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Gajacharma | - | - | - | - | + | + |
| Kachchu | - | - | - | + | + | + |
| Svitra | - | + | - | - | - | - |
| Visaja | - | + | - | - | - | - |

2.1 Classification according to HaritaHarita has described some different types as follows¹⁸:

- Mandalika
- Gojihva
- Bahuvrana
- Kinam
- Sahaja
- Hastibala
- Lohitamandala
- Kandu
- Karmaja
- Pandura

2.2 Classification according to Acharya Kashyapa

Acharya Kashyapa has classified the 18 types of Kushtha as Sadhya & Ashadhyas which are described under the title of Sadhya Ashadhyata.

3. NIDANAS OF KUSHTHAVarious Acharyas mentioned different etiological factors for the genesis of kushtha are described below¹⁹⁻²¹.

| Sr. No. | Nidana | C. | S. | A.H. | Bhel. | Ha. | M.N. | B.P. |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|------|-------|-----|------|------|
| 1. | Aharatmaka Hetu | | | | | | | |
| (a) | Viruddha Ahara | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| | Cilicima Matsya Sevana | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Hayanaka, Yavaka, Cinaka, Uddalaka, Koradusa, Kola, Prayanica Annani, Ksira, Dadhi, Kulatha, Masa, Atasi, KusumbhaSnehavanti | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Mulaka, Lasuna Ksirenasaha | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Gramya Anupa, Udaka Mamsani Va Payasa AbhiksnamAsato | - | + | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Pippali, Kakamachi, Lakuca with Dadhi and Sarpi | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Mrga Mamsa with Ksira | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Mulaka with Guda | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Madya + Ksira Sevanatiyoga | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Amla Ksirena Saha | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Atimatra Sevana of Haritasaka with Ksira | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Madhu, Mamsa Sevanam UsnamAnu Va | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Matsya Nimbukam Ksirena | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| (b) | Mithya Ahara | + | + | - | - | + | + | + |
| | Navanna, Dadhi, Matsya Amla Lavana, Nisevana | + | - | - | - | - | + | + |
| | Tila, Ksira, GudatiSevana | + | - | - | - | - | + | + |
| | Drava, Snigdha, GuruAtyarthasevana | + | - | - | - | + | + | + |
| | Snehasyatimatram | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Ati-abhyasa of Madhu, Phanita | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Vidahi Ahara Sevana | | | | | | | |
| | Adhyasana | + | + | - | - | + | + | + |
| | Ajirnasana | + | + | - | - | + | + | + |
| | Asatmya Ahara | - | + | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Dusta Jala Sevana | - | + | - | - | - | - | - |

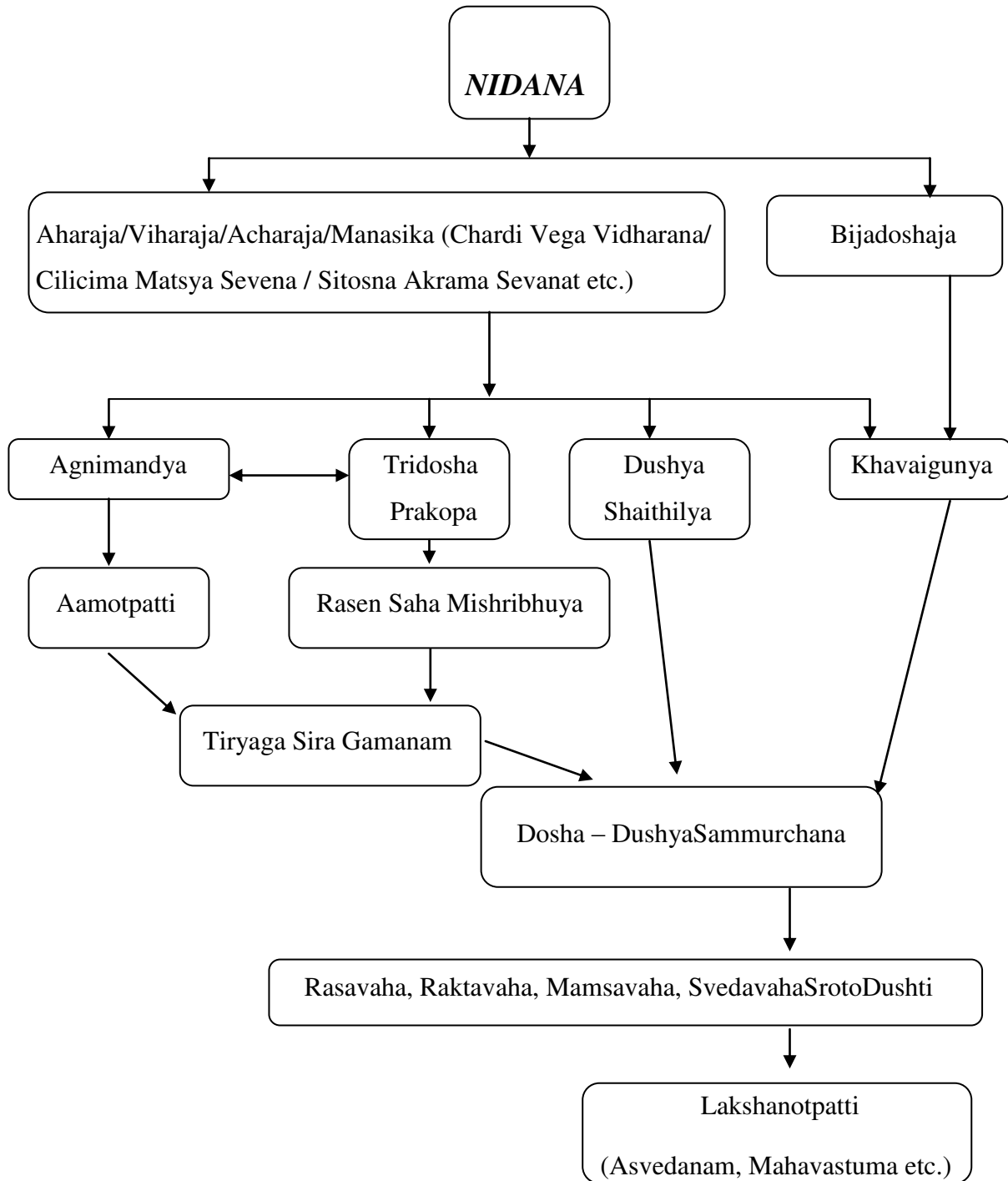
| Sr. No. | Nidana | C. | S. | A.H. | Bhel. | Ha. | M.N. | B.P. |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|------|-------|-----|------|------|
| 1. | Aharatmaka Hetu | | | | | | | |
| (a) | Viruddha Ahara | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| | Cilicima Matsya Sevena | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Hayanaka, Yavaka, Cinaka, Uddalaka, Koradusa, Kola, Prayanica Annani, Ksira, Dadhi, Kulatha, Masa, Atasi, KusumbhaSnehavanti | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Mulaka, Lasuna Ksirenasaha | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Gramya Anupa, Udaka Mamsani Va Payasa AbhiksnamAsato | - | + | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Pippali, Kakamachi, Lakuca with Dadhi and Sarpi | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Mrga Mamsa with Ksira | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Mulaka with Guda | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Madya + Ksira Sevanatiyoga | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Amla Ksirena Saha | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Atimatra Sevana of Haritasaka with Ksira | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Madhu, Mamsa Sevanam UsnamAnu Va | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| | Matsya Nimbukam Ksirena | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| (b) | Mithya Ahara | + | + | - | - | + | + | + |
| | Navanna, Dadhi, Matsya Amla Lavana, Nisevana | + | - | - | - | - | + | + |
| | Tila, Ksira, GudatiSevana | + | - | - | - | - | + | + |
| | Drava, Snigdha, GuruAtyarthaSevana | + | - | - | - | + | + | + |
| | Snehasyatimatram | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Ati-abhyasa of Madhu, Phanita | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Vidahi Ahara Sevana | | | | | | | |
| | Adhyasana | + | + | - | - | + | + | + |
| | Ajirnasana | + | + | - | - | + | + | + |
| | Asatmya Ahara | - | + | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Dusta Jala Sevana | - | + | - | - | - | - | - |

4. PURVARUPA OF KUSHTHA ^{22,23}

| Sr. No. | Nidana | Ca. | Su. | A.H. | Bhel. | Ha. | M.N. | B.P. |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-----|------|------|
| 1 | Aswedanam | + | + | + | + | + | + | - |
| 2 | Atiswedanam | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| 3 | Parusyam | + | + | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 | Atislaksnatvam | + | - | + | - | + | + | + |
| 5 | Vaivarnyam | + | - | + | + | + | + | + |
| 6 | Kandu | + | + | + | - | - | + | + |
| 7 | Nistoda | + | - | + | - | - | + | + |
| 8 | Suptata | + | + | + | + | - | + | + |
| 9 | Paridaha | + | - | + | + | - | + | + |
| 10 | Pariharsa | - | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| 11 | Lomaharsa | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| 12 | Kharatvam | + | - | + | - | + | + | + |
| 13 | Usmayanam | + | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| 14 | Gauravam | + | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| 15 | Swayathu | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16 | VisarpagamAbhiksnatam | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 17 | BahyaChidresuUpadeha | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18 | PakvaDagdhaDasta - Bhagna - Ksata - UpaskhalistsuAtimatramVedana | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 19 | SwalpanamApiVrananamArohanam | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 | SwalpanamApiVrananamDusti | + | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 21 | Kothonnati | + | - | + | - | - | + | + |
| 22 | Srama | + | - | + | - | - | - | - |
| 23 | Klama | + | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| 24 | NimiteAlpeApiKopanam | - | - | + | - | - | + | + |
| 25 | Davathu | - | - | - | + | - | - | - |

5. SAMPRAPTI OF KUSHTHA

Due to consumption of etiological factors tridosha become agitated and brings looseness in tissues mainly rasa, rakta, mamsa and ambu and manifest kushth characterised by rashes, patches, erythema, roughness, discharge in skin etc.²⁴



6. COMPLICATIONS

If treatment is not initiated early leads to development of krimi over skin, muscle tissue, blood vessels and blood as a result body becomes mutilated.

7. CONCLUSION

The whole body becomes mutilated and make the appearance of the individual ugly is known as Kushtha. 18 types of Kushthas described and these again subdivided into Maha Kushtha & Kshudra Kushtha. Sushruta was the first one who clearly described that Kushtha caused by one or more abnormalities in the genome, especially a condition that is present from birth (congenital) and it is passed down from the parents' genes. He also described that Krimi is one of the causative factor of Kushtha. Development of Kushtha at tissue level was clearly mentioned. Sushruta has explained skin disorders under the heading of Maha Kushtha, Ksudhra Kushtha & kshudraroga. Kushtha develops due to incompatible dietetic and abnormal activities.

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