



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Published by JK Welfare & Pharmascope Foundation

Journal Home Page: www.ijrps.com

A critical review on vrischika visha W.S.R. to keraliya visha chikitsa

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Article History:

Received on: 12 Jan 2021
 Revised on: 16 Feb 2021
 Accepted on: 18 Feb 2021

Keywords:

Literary Review
 Vrischika Visha,
 Keraliya Visha Grantha,
 Scorpion

ABSTRACT

Scorpion stings are major public health problem especially in rural parts of India. Envenomation from Scorpions if estimating on yearly basis it is about 12 lakh people per year and is responsible for nearly about 3250 deaths. There are about 1400 species of scorpions identified worldwide out of this only 53 are reported to be dangerous to humans, In India we have identified around 86 species. Poison due to insect bite is common and can be accompanied with a variety of symptoms ranging from simple itching to life threatening situations. Many may go through minor problems like swelling, tingling or numbness due to the sting. Scorpion sting usually results in severe symptoms, as its venom is more potent. Young children and older adults may require immediate treatment. Vrischikadamsha is such a specific envenomation that requires medical attention. There are ample references treatment modalities and medicines in Keraleeyavisha chikitsa granthas and ayurvedic classics which are described for managing vrischikavisha. Many of the keraliyavishagrantha are written in Malayalam hence there is a need to explore and bring out the remedies. So in this article a humble effort is made to bring out the different vrischika and treatment modalities described in keraleeyagrandhas along with the specific symptoms.



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ISSN: 0975-7538

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26452/ijrps.v12i2.4649>

Production and Hosted by

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INTRODUCTION

Agadatantra is a single subject in which maximum number of books is written in keraliyavisha chikitsa grantha and samhitas. Keraliyavishavaidyas has an ancient and renowned background. In this system, both vedic and non-Vedic schools of thoughts were

present. The renowned keraliyagranthas which have description on vrischikavisha are VishaVaidya-Jyotsnika: Classification, symptoms and treatment of vrischikadamsha, vegalakshanas are described in the 12thadhikara named 'vrischikavisavijnaniyaprishedam'. Written by SreeleekhaK.G, PrayogaSamuchaya in saptamapariccheda we get reference of origin, classification, signs and symptoms and treatments of vrischikadamsha. Written by KochunniTamburaan. Narayaniyam which is also well known as Tantra Sara Sangraha gives Different Yogas used in vrischikadamsha are explained 10thpatala written by Narayanan. KriyaKoumudi by Sri V M KuttiKrishnaMenon detailed description about vrischika, vegalakshnas, vrana and upadrava due to vrischikadamsha.

Origin of Vrischika

According to acharyavagbatta those born from the cadaver of snakes are Mahavisha, Born from cadaver

Table 1: Morphological Features of Vrischika

Vrischika	SU	AH	AS
Teekshnavisha Vrischika	White or variegated colours, brown or reddish in body, belly being red, white, reddish blue, yellowish red, bluish yellow, pink, bluish white, red or grey, having 2 joints in tail, having different shapes and colours are terrifying (Susrutha and Samhita, 2010).	Appear like fire, have one joint, belly is red, black or white (Vahbata, 2011a).	Reddish brown, spotted variegated colour, resembles blood or fire, have only one joint, belly is reddish black or white in colour (Vaghbhata, 2020b).
Madhya vishavrischika	Red, yellow or brown colour in body, smoky in belly, three joints in tail	Smoke coloured abdomen, 3 joints, brown, slight red, reddish brown body spotted, variegated and resembling blood.	Smoke coloured abdomen, 3 joints brown or reddish brown in colour
Mandha vrischika	visa Colours such as black, blue, brown, white and colour like cows urine, coarse (dull), blue-black, yellow or smoky, having hair on their belly resembling algae, red or white, having more number of joints in the tail than others.	Yellow, white-blue, many colours of black, dry, hairy has many joints, abdomen red and pale	Yellow, white, blue, dry, rough, brown or dark brown in colour, hairs on the body, many joints belly being reddish or white.

of animals killed by poisoned arrow are Madhyavisha, and Born from the putrefied dung of cow and other animals are Mandavisha ([Vaghbata, 2011a](#)).

According to sushrutaacharya those born from decomposed dead body of snakes and such other poisonous animals are termed as TeekshnaVisha. Those born from decomposed materials wood and brick are termed as Madhya Visha. Those born from decomposed cow dung are termed as Mandavisha ([Samhita, 2010](#)). According to Prayogasammuchaya the four types of vrischika- vata, pitta, kapha and sannipathika – are born from the decayed faeces, urine, semen, egg, and dead bodies of snakes ([Tamburan, 1999g](#)). According to kriyakoumudivrischikas are born from the cadaver of snakes, decomposed materials or from dead body of animals killed by poisoned arrow, Born from decomposed cow dung ([Menon, 1986b](#)).

Classification of Vrischika

Based on potency (AS ([Vaghbhata, 2020a](#)), AH ([Vahbata, 2011b](#)), Prayoga Samuchayam (P.S) ([Tamburan, 1999c](#)))-3 TYPES

1. Mahavisha – Powerful Poison
2. Madhya Visha – Moderate poison

3. MandaVisha – Mild poison

According to Su. Ka ([Samhita and Susrutha, 2010](#)) and VishaVaidyaJyotsnika(V.V.J)

1. MahaVisha -15 types
2. Madhya visha- 3 types
3. Mandavisha- 12 types ([Sreelekha, 2013](#)).

Thus total vrischika are 30 types. In Table 1 Morphological Features of Vrischikas are shown.

According to Kriya.Kaumudi(K.K)- 2 Types

1. Ugravisha
2. Alpaveeryavisha ([Menon, 1986c](#))

Based on effect of poison (Ch.chi)

1. DooshivisajaVrischika
2. Pranaharam/Asadhyam ([Caraka and Samhita, 2005a](#))

But a detailed description regarding this type of vrischika is not available in charaka Samhita

Based on dosha predominance

According to P.S: 4 Types

Table 2: Lakshanas of vrischikavisha

No.	Signs and symptoms	A.S	PS	KK	CS
1.	Penetrating nature	+			
2.	Burning sensation	+	+	+	+
3.	Ascends quickly and descends, settles at the site of bite	+			+
4.	Pain	+	+	+	+
5.	Bluish Discoloration	+			
6.	Pricking pain	+			+
7.	Burning sensation	+			
8.	Sarpatulyavishavega		+		
9.	Swelling		+		
10.	Foul smell of blood		+	+	
11.	Heaviness of head and eye		+		
12.	Fainting	+	+	+	
13.	Giddiness		+	+	
14.	Severe sweating	+	+	+	
15.	Palpitation		+	+	
16.	Karnika		+	+	
17.	Fever	+	+	+	
18.	Anorexia		+	+	
19.	Shivering		+	+	
20.	Vomiting		+	+	
21.	Mental instability	+	+	+	
22.	Horripilation		+	+	
23.	Redness		+	+	
24.	Grief and discomfort	+		+	
25.	Severe thirst			+	
26.	Swelling of tongue	+			
27.	Rigidity of body	+			
28.	Black color blood comes out from all the orifices	+			
29.	Loss of sensory perception	+			+
30.	Dryness of the mouth	+			
31.	Wasting of the muscle	+			+
32.	Probably even death	+			+

A.S-Astanga samgraha ([Vagbhata, 2020b](#)); P.S-Prayogasamuchchayam ([Tamburan, 1999f](#)); KK-Kriya Koumudi ([Menon, 1986e](#)); C.S-Caraka Samhita ([Caraka and Samhita, 2005b](#))

Table 3: Symptoms Produced by Different Types of Vrischika

Visha bheda	Symptoms Acc to SS and VVJ
Maha visha	Manifestation of symptoms of all stages at once, development of vesicles, dizziness, burning sensation, fever, black blood flows out from orifices and with these dreadful symptoms the person dies quickly.
Madhya visha	Produces aggravation of doshas similar to the three kinds of snakes, Give rise to swelling of the tongue, obstruction to swallowing of food, severe fainting.
Manda visha	Pain, shivering, stiffness of the body, flow of black colored blood from site of sting. When bitten in the extremities pain travels upwards, giving rise to burning sensation, sweating, oedema at the area and fever.

Table 4: Damsha Lakshana According to Dosha Predominance

VatajaVrischikaDamsha	PittajaVrischikaDamsha	Kaphajavrischikadamsha
Pain in the region of heart, stoppage of movement of vata in upward direction, engorgement dilatation or formation of network of vein, pain in joints and bones, rolling on the ground, twisting pain in the calves and blue discoloration of the body	Loss of consciousness, warm expiration, burning sensation in the heart, bitter taste in the mouth, tearing of muscles, swelling which is reddish yellow in color.	Vomiting, loss of taste/appetite, nausea, excess of salivation, running nose, feeling of cold and sweet taste in mouth (Vaghbata, 2011b).

Table 5: Dathugata Vrschika Damsha Lakshana

Dathu	PS	KK	VishaVaidhya Sara Sangraha
Twak	Soochibhirivatudyati	Pricking pain, vomiting, convulsions, delirium	Muhusthodam
Rakta	Paramadaham	Twakgatalakshana, Daham, jwara, atisara	Angadaham
Mamsa	Sopham Hikka	Hikka, Granthi	Hikka, Granthi
Meda	Greevashushkata	Gala sosam	Kandasosham
Asthi	jwaram	Jwaram	TeevraJwara
Majja	Manahasantapam	Manaprayasam	Manasthapa
Sukra	Raktanetra (Tamburan, 1999a); Maranam	Raktanetra, hridayaroga, marana (Menon, 1986).	RaktaNetra (Pisharadi and Pisharadi, 2020).

PS-Prayogasamuchchayam; KK-Kriya Koumudi

Table 6: Dosha Predominance of Vrischika Visha According To Different Acharyas

Grantha	Dosha predominance
Charaka samhita	Vatolbana
Ashtanga sangraha	Vatolbana
Ashtanga hridaya	Vatolbana
Sushruta samhita	Did not mention specific dosh predominance for vrischikab mentions vatakapha predominance for keetavisha
Prayoga samucchaya	Mostly vatapittapradana, very few are Kapha predominance,
Kriya koumudi	Mostly vatapittapradana, Rarely of kapha predominance.

1. Vatapradhana

2. Pittapradhana

3. Kaphapradana

4. Sannipatika (Tamburan, 1999d)

According to K.K

1. Vatapradana (vayavyam)-18

2. Pittapradana (agneyam)- 24

3. Kaphapradana(soumyam)-13

4. Sannipatikam(sankeernam)-12 (Menon, 1986c).

Adhithana of Vischika

According to P.S VrischikaVisha is situated in the tail (Tamburan, 1999e).

Bhavamishra also gives similar explanation in Bhavaprakasa. He says that the pain in vrischikadamsha will be like a fire or burning sensation, radiating upward which afterwards will get settled at the site of the sting (Srikantamurthy, 2009). Asadyavrischikadamshalakshanas are mentioned it can be considered as sannipatikavrischikavishalakshana, which includes

severe pain at hridaya, nasika, Jihwa: patient feels as these organs have stopped functioning .skin at the site of the sting starts is necrosed and sheds. Prayogasamuchaya explains the symptoms similar to vaghbatta with some differences. The symptoms of vata pradhana pain in region of heart, regurgitation, stretching pain in the nerves, rigidity of body, pain in joints and bones, dizziness and pain at the site of bite. The symptoms of pittapradanavrischikadamsha are loss of consciousness, dyspnea, fainting, fuming sensation with burning pain mainly in chest region, breakdown and fall of musculature, inflammation with redness. In Table 2 Lakshanas of vrischikavisha have been explained and in Table 3 -Symptoms Produced By Different Types Of Vrischika have been enumerated.

The kaphapradhana vrischikadamsha lakshanas are vomiting Alpavishaveerya, anorexia, salivation, watery discharge from nose, chest congestion, dominance of sweet taste I moth and chills (Tamburan, 1999b). KriyaKoumudi also gives explanations for the dosha predominant symptoms of vrischika. The symptoms of vata predominant vrischika include sirastoda, astitida, hridvyada, urdwavayu, darkness and pain in the veins. The symptoms of paittikavrischikadamshalakshana include swasavridhi, raktapitta, moha, burning sensation and heartburn. The symptoms of kaphajavrischikadamsha are hrillasa, chardi, saitya, mukhamadhurya and excessive salivation (Menon, 1986a). Two types of vrischika –and ugravishaveerya. Alpavishaveeryavrischika produces severe pain, numbness, swelling and burning sensation. Ugravisha has vegas similar to that of snake and effects nerves. The power of visha depends upon the size of vrischika (Menon, 1986d). PrayogaSamuchaya and KriyaKaumudi explained signs and symptoms of vrischikadamsha in step by step as it enters deeper and deeper in subsequent dhatus. It is referred as vega of vrischikadamsha. In Table 4 -Damsha Lakshana According To Dosha Predominance have been told. And in Table 5 -Dathugata Vrschika Damsha Lakshana have been enumerated. The Table 6 -Shows The Dosha Predominance Of Vrischika Visha According To Different Acharyas.

CONCLUSION

From all these references it can be concluded that vrichikas are numerous in nature so the vishalakshanas associated with each of them are unique in nature and the treatment protocols that should be adopted to each vrichikavishadamshas must be specific according to the nature of vrichika, also it can

be noted that majority of acharyas have described vrischikavisha as vatolbana in nature and some as vatapittolpana in nature. Prayogasamuchaya explains the symptoms similar to vaghbatta with some differences. The symptoms of vata pradhana pain in region of heart, regurgitation, stretching pain in the nerves, rigidity of body, pain in joints and bones, dizziness and pain at the site of bite. The symptoms of pittapradanavrischikadamsha are loss of consciousness, dyspnea, fainting, fuming sensation with burning pain mainly in chest region, breakdown and fall of musculature, inflammation with redness. The symptoms of kaphajavrischikadamsha are hrillasa, chardi, saitya, mukhamadhurya and excessive salivation. Two types of vrischikaugravishaveerya. Alpavishaveeryavrischika produces severe pain, numbness, swelling and burning sensation. ugravisha has vegas similar to that of snake and effects nerves. The power of visha depends upon the size of vrischika.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have a great pleasure to acknowledge all the supports and cooperation that I have received from my teachers, parents and friends during the conduction of this research.

Funding Support

No Funding Supports were availed from any agencies for the conduction of this research.

Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was reported during this Research work.

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