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A review article on different treatment of *Dushi visha* as per *Brahutryee*

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Abstract

A poison, with fewer properties or less potent properties that an poison have which has attained a latent or hidden stage in the body not capable of death but in later stage with favorable condition and atmosphere able to produce harmful effect on body is known as *Dushi Visha*. Low potency of 10 qualities of *visha* is responsible for delayed action in other words cumulative toxicity in the body. The concept of *Dushi Visha* is still considered as enigma as not very much detailing is done in the classical texts except from *Aacharya Sushuta*. But, its clinical importance is so that all of the *Aacharya* of *Brahutryee* has mentioned it. Although an small description is found in texts different *Aacharya* has suggested different line of treatment of it. To get a proper answer to all these practical quires, it is very much necessary to go through the clinical impact & pathological understanding of *Dushi Visha*. Here an attempt is made to review the concept of *Dushi Visha* in detail.

Keywords: *Dushi Visha*, cumulative toxicity, *Virudhahara*, latent poison

Introduction

The term *Dushi Visha* is a combination of two different words that are, 'Dushi'+ 'Visha'. 'Dushi' means impotent, denatured, latent, vitiated. *Visha* means poison. Thus *Dushi Visha* means denatured poison or those poison which does not excretes out from the body fully. *Susruta* and *Vagbhata* described *Dushi Visha* as any kind of poison originating from plant or animal sources or any artificial poison (*Kritrima Visha*) which remained retained in the body after partial expulsion or which has provisionally undergone digestion by the anti-poisonous drugs, forest fire, the wind or the sun is termed as *Dushi Visha*. Any Poison that has less potent natural ten properties of *Visha*, incapable of producing a cute symptoms of poisoning or death is designated as *Dushi Visha*. A poison, which is having fewer properties, which means less than ten classical properties that actually a poison have, or either the poison, which is having lesser potency of all the ten properties, attains a hidden stage in the body that when found favorable condition produces symptoms is known as *Dushi Visha*. Low potency of all the ten qualities is said to be responsible for the delayed action and cumulative toxicity effect on the body [6]. Because of the low potency of the poison, it usually won't causes sudden death but due to enveloping (*Avarana*) action by *Kapha dosha*, these low potency poisons remain hidden in the body for a long period without producing any grave or fatal symptoms.

Clinical features of *Dushi Visha*

The prodromal symptoms of *Dushi Visha* are narcolepsy, heaviness of the body, yawning, laxity of joints, & body ache. Patient of *Dushi Visha* will suffer from loose motion, altered complexion, foul smell of mouth, olfactory senses will be impaired and he will feel thirsty. Slurring and broken speech, vomiting, and sudden unconsciousness is also seen, and symptoms of Ascites is seen. The above symptoms are followed by indigestion, anorexia, sense of intoxication after consuming food, appearance of red patches all over the body, edema of body and extremities, urticaria, fainting, discoloration, epileptic attacks, intermittent fever and increased thirst.

Symptoms of *Dushi Visha* on settlement on site

When *Dushi Visha* is retained in stomach (*Amashaya*) it produces the diseases due to *Kapha* and *Vata* like unconsciousness, vomiting, diarrhea, tympanitis, burning sensation, tremors, altered sense etc. When located in intestines (*Pakwashaya*), it produces diseases of *Vata* and *Pitta* like burning sensation all over the body, fainting, diarrhea, tympanitis and anemia.

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Symptoms according to *Dosha*

S. No.	<i>Dosha Name</i>	Symptoms of <i>Dosha</i>
1.	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Hrtpeeda, Urdhwanila, Sthambha, Asthiruk, Parvaruk, Udveshtana, Gatrasada</i>
2.	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Sanjnanasha, Ushmanishwasa, Hrtidaha, Katukasyata, Sopha</i>
3.	<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Chardi, Arochaka, Hrilasa, Praseka, Gourava, Shaitya, Mukhamadhurya</i>

Factors that aggravates *Dushi Visha*

Desha, Kala, Anna (toxic food) and *Diwaswapna* are factors that aggravate *Dushi Visha*. Existing *Dushi Visha* in the body is aggravated by the presence of these factors.

Aacharya Dalhana has explained these symptoms in detail.

Complications of untreated *Dushi Visha*

Complications of untreated *Dushi Visha* are pyrexia, burning

sensation in the body, hiccough, distension of abdomen, sterility, edema of body parts, diarrhea, fainting, cardiac disorders, insanity, and similar other complications of untreated *Dushi Visha*. These complications should be treated with the respective remedial measures like use of anti-poisonous drugs etc.

Prognosis of *Dushi Visha*

S. No.	Prognosis	Clinical feature
1.	Curable	Newly healthy patient
2.	Cure during T/t & reverse after discontinue	Old Poisonous Patient
3.	Incurred	Poisonous patient who having wasting & not follow the instruction of <i>vaidya</i> .

Treatment of *Dushi Visha*

According to *Aacharya Sushruta*

Aacharya Sushruta in *Kalpa sthan* chapter 2 *sloka* 50-52 has stated the treatment principle of *Dushi Visha* as, A patient suffering from *Dushi Visha* should be first done *Swedana* and follow the *Vamana* and *Virechana Karma* according to *Dosha* predominance. After *Deha Shodhana* (purification therapies), daily *Agadapana* (anti-toxic drugs) with *Dushi Vishari* agada is to be done.

Contents of <i>Dushivishari Agada</i>		
S. No.	Name of drug	Botanical name
1.	<i>Pippali</i>	<i>Piper longum</i> Linn
2.	<i>Dhyamaka</i>	<i>Cymbopogon martinii</i> (Roxb.) Wats
3.	<i>Jatamamsi</i>	<i>Nardostachys jatamamsi</i> (D.Don) DC.
4.	<i>Lodhra</i>	<i>Symplocococcus racemosa</i> Roxb.
5.	<i>Ela</i>	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i> Maton.
6.	<i>Suvarchika</i>	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.
7.	<i>Kutannatum</i>	<i>Oroxylum indicum</i> (L.) Benth. ex Kurz
8.	<i>Natam</i>	<i>Valeriana wallichii</i>
9.	<i>Yastimadhu</i>	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L.
10.	<i>Kusta</i>	<i>Saussurea lappa</i> DC.
11.	<i>Chandana</i>	<i>Santalum album</i> L.
12.	<i>Gairika</i>	<i>Gairika</i>

According to *Aacharya Vagbhata*

Aacharya Vagbhata has also accepted the view of *Aacharya Sushruta* and given the same line of treatment as, A patient

suffering from *Dushi Visha* should be first done *Swedana* and follow the *Vamana* and *Virechana Karma* according to *Dosha* predominance. After *Deha Shodhana* (purification therapies), daily *Agadapana* (anti-toxic drugs).

According to *Aacharya Charaka*

Aacharya charaka has stated a different line of treatment for *Dushi Visha*. *Charaka* in *Chikitsa sthan* chapter 23 *sloka* 63 states that *Dushi Visha* in *Rakta* (Blood) should be treated with *raktamokshan* by *shira*.

Also in chapter 13 of *Sutra sthan Sloka* 54-56 *Aacharya* has given details of person not fit for *Snehan* (Oilation Therapy) that those person suffering from *visha* are not fit for *snehan*.

In chapter 14 of *Sutra sthan Sloka* 17 *Aacharya* has given details of person not fit for *Swaden* (Steam Therapy) that those people suffering from *visha* are not fit for *Swedan*.

In chapter 3 of *Kalpa sthan Sloka* 4 *Aacharya* has given indication of *Ikshavaku kalpam* use in the patient suffering from *Visha* (*Dushi Visha*) should be given yoga from this as per the site of settlement made by the *visha*.

Also In chapter 10 of *Kalpa sthan Sloka* 5 *Aacharya* has given indication of *Sudha kalpam* use in the patient suffering from *Visha* (*Dushi Visha*) should be given yoga from this as per the site of settlement made by the *visha*.

Treatments by different *Aacharyas*

S. No.	Name of procedure	<i>Aacharya Sushruta</i>	<i>Aachrya Vagbhatt</i>	<i>Aachrya Charak</i>
1.	Swedan	√	√	×
2.	Induced Emesis	√	√	×
3.	Induced Purgation	√	√	×
4.	<i>Dushivishari Agada</i>	√	√	×
5.	Blood Letting	×	×	√
6.	<i>Ikshavaku kalpam</i>	×	×	√
7.	<i>Sudha kalpam</i>	×	×	√

Discussion

According to *Charaka*, *Dushi Visha* affects *Raktadhatu* and causes skin diseases such as *Kitibha* and *Kota*. *Dushi Visha* influences the *Doshas* one by one and at last causing death. Bloodletting should be done for all 5 types of *Siras*, which in practical way is not considered best as lot of blood will be lost

resulting into other complications so, for this *Aachrya* has indicated that according to site of settlement of *Dushi Visha* bloodletting should be done accordingly. And according to *Aachrya Charak Sweden* and *Snehan* is contraindicated in patients of *Visha*.

Aacharya Sushruta has stated to do *Sweden* and *Snehan* with

induced Emesis and purgation followed by use of *Dushivishari Agada*. *Vagbhata* has also endorsed the view of *Susruta*.

In classics it is very well mentioned that 'any type of poison irrespective of plant or animal or artificial poison will attain a stage called *Dushi Visha*, after they loses their potency to some extent or if they are improperly expelled or partially detoxified in the body. And some things are less potent toxic should be considered as *Dushi Visha*. Present food habits, life style and mental attitudes etc. are different from past. The basic essentials of life air, food and water are all polluted. So by considering factors such as *Viruddhahara* and *Ahitahara*, Alcohol, tobacco, Drugs like quinine, NSAIDs, steroids, Pesticides, metals, minerals, pollutants etc. can be considered as aggravating factors for *Dushi Visha*.

Conclusion

The concept of *Dushi Visha* is not clearly explained in many of Ayurvedic classics. Certain points need clarification like the topics of *Dushi Visha* or its extent. It is not explained anywhere in the Ayurvedic literature. It is felt that this is the proper time to consider these factors and these should further be studied separately under the heading of *Dushi Visha* for the better perception.

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