A Critical Review on Mooshika Dansha[Rat Poisoning] in Agad Tantra

Dr. Deepika Bhandari¹*

Abstract:
Ayurveda is an ancient Indian system of medicine having eight important branches. Agadtantra is among one of them which deals with Visha (poison) and its toxicological conditions and their management. Acharya Susruta in Kalpa Sthana of Susruta Samhita, and Acharya Vagbhata in Uttaratantra of Ashtanga Hridaya, moreover in other classics and regional texts have recited concerning the origin of Visha and mooshika Visha.
There are eighteen types of Mooshika, signs and symptoms of their bite and its treatment is described by Sushrutaacharya and Vaagbhataacharya. There are five modes of spread of Mooshika (rat) VISHA that are Shukra [Semen], Purisha [Feaces], Mutra [Urine], Nakh [scratches by nails] and Dant [bites with teeth of Mooshika] are poisonous. In case of Mooshika Visha, Dansha sthan [bite site] should be cauterized and Raktamokshana by blood letting should be done. After this various drugs paste should be applied on bite site. Various putrifictory therapies should be givene.g., Lepan, Vamana (Vomiting), Virechana (Purgation) Nasya (Nasal medication), Anjana (Collyrium) etc. Various Kalpanas [drug preparations] like Sanskarit Ghrita [medicatedghee], Kwath [decoctions], Kalka [paste of drugs], Swarasa [juice of drugs] aremetionedwhere source of infection is rat treatment of Mooshika Visha can be given.

Key words: Visha, Jangam Visha, Mooshika Visha, Agada Tantra

¹*Associate Professor, Smt. Urmila Devi, Ayurvedic College of Medical Scienes & Hospital, V.P.O Kharkan, Una Road, Hoshiarpur, Department of Agad Tantra Evum Vayavhara Ayurveda Evum Vidhivaidyaka, (Department of Medical Jurisprudence & Toxicology)

*Corresponding Author: Dr. Deepika Bhandari
*Associate Professor, Smt. Urmila Devi, Ayurvedic College of Medical Scienes & Hospital, V.P.O Kharkan, Una Road, Hoshiarpur, Department of Agad Tantra Evum Vayavhara Ayurveda Evum Vidhivaidyaka, (Department of Medical Jurisprudence & Toxicology)
Introduction:
There are two types of Visha i.e. Akritrim & Kritrim are explained in Agada Tantra. Acharya Susruta in Kalpa Sthana of Susruta Samhita and Acharya Vagbhata in Uttaratantra of Ashtanga Hridaya, moreover in other classics and regional texts have recited concerning the origin of Visha and Mooshika Visha. Acharya Sushruta described Mooshika Visha under Jangama Visha & explained 18 types of Mooshika. Laalan, Putraka, Krishna, Hansira, Chikkira, Chuchundra, Alasa, Kashayaadanta, Kulinga, Ajita, Chapala, Kapila, Kokila, Aruna, Mahakrishna, Mahashweta, Mahakapila, Kapota are the eighteen types of Mooshika. There are five modes of spread of Mooshika Visha. Semen, faeces, urine, scratches by nails and bites with teeth of Mooshika are poisonous. Mooshika semen is most poisonous. Contact with semen of Mooshika directly or indirectly (Substance contaminated with semen of rat) can cause poisoning.

Aims & Objective:
To study about types of Mooshika[Rat] and discuss about Mooshika Visha [Rat Poison] their symptoms, effect on body & its treatment.

Material & Method:
It is a literary review to study the Mooshika Visha and its management.

Literature Review:
According to Sushrutacharya there are 18 types of Mooshika: Laalan, Putraka, Krishna, Hansira, Chikkira, Chuchundra, Alasa, Kashayaadshan, Kulinga, Ajita, Chapala, Kapila, Kokila, Aruna, Mahakrishna, Mahashweta, Mahakapila, Kapota are the eighteen types of Mooshika. There are five modes of spread of Mooshika Visha. Semen, faeces, urine, scratches by nails and bites with teeth of Mooshika are poisonous. Mooshika semen is most poisonous. Contact with semen of Mooshika directly or indirectly (Substance contaminated with semen of rat) can cause poisoning.

According to Vagbhataacharya there are 18 types of Mooshika: Laalan, Putraka, Kashyadantar, Hasira, Chikkira, Chuchundra, Ajira, kulaka, Rasala, Patimbara, Asita, Chapala, Kapila, Kokila, Aruna, Shabal, Shweta, Kapota.

According to Gautameeya Kashyap Samhita there are 16 types of Mooshika: Kulachandra, Karsha, Krura, Vishaghathi, Bhritak, Ugra, Bhayanak, Tikshna, Meghanada, Kumud, Sinha, Akcharini, Sunansa, Sudaru, Sulbha, Sugarbha. According to Prayogsamucchaya there are 16 types of Mooshika: Kulachandra, Karangan, Vishathi, Bayanakan, Ugrar, Krooran, Bhootakan, Teekshan, Meghanaathan, Kumudhan, Simharyan, Ekachaari, Sunasan, Sudantan, Subalan, Sugarbhan.

Symptoms of Mooshika Dansha:
According to Vagbhataacharya:
Rakta Pradooshana, pallor, lumps, swelling, rashes and reddish patches on skin, giddiness, loss of taste, fever with rigors, severe pain, debility, shivering, arthralgia, horripilation, exudations, fainting of long duration and repeated vomiting of large quantity of mucoid material appearing like young ones of rat.

According to Sushrutacharya:

Incurable signs:
Faiting, Oedema all over body, discolouration of skin, exudation, loss of hearing, fever, heaviness of head, excess of salivation, haematemesis, retention of urine, discolouration of lips, body covered with small nodules resembling rat, body emitting smell of rat.

General treatment of Mooshika Visha:
1. Cauterization of Dansha sthana and blood letting from bite site should be done.

2. Drugs for local application after cauterization and blood letting,
Paste of Shireesh (Albizia lebbeck), Haridra (Curcuma longa), Kushtha (Saussurea lappa), Kesar (Crocus sativus), Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia) should be applied on the bite site.

- Paste of Trivrutta (Operculina trupethum), Shweta Aparaajita (Clitoria ternate), root of Bilva (Aegle marmelos) and Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia) should be applied on bite site.

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3. **Vamana (Vomiting)** Paste prepared by maceration roots of Shireesha (Albizia lebbeck), Katutumbi (Langenaria vulgaris), fruit of Madana (Randia spinosa) and Devadali (Luffa echinata) along with curd and consumed to induce vomiting. This is useful in all types of rat bite.  

4. **Virechana (Purgation)** For purgation use the paste of Trivrutta (Operculina terpethum), Danti (Baliospermum motanum) and Triphala (Terminalia chebula, Terminalia belerica, Emblica officinalis).  

5. **Nasya (Nasal medication)** Fruits of Shireesha (Albezia lebbeck) are used for preparing drugs for nasal administration.  

6. **Anjana (Collyrium)** Juice of cow dung mixed with Trikatu (Zingiber officinale, Piper nigrum and Piper longum) may be used for making preparation of collyrium.  

7. **Drugs useful in Mooshika Dansh:** In case of Mooshika (rat) bite when there is fever, decoction of following drugs should be given.

   - Kiratatikta (Swetia chiraita), Amruta (Tinospora cordifolia), Manjishtha (Rubia cordifolia), Arjuna Twak (Termalia arjuna), Palasha (Butea frondosa), Kashmarya (Gmelia arborea), Kshirvidari (Imomoea digitata).  
   - Kapitha juice (Limonia acidissima) and juice of cow dung along with honey should be given.  
   - Paste of Ativisha (Aconitum heterophyllum) along with honey useful.  
   - Tanduliyaka ghee (Amaranthus spinosus) is effective in Mooshika Visha.

**Treatment of poison which is remaining in the body for long time:**

The poison remaining in the body may be aggravated on cloudy days. Due to seasonal changes also the toxicity may increase. The treatment should be given as per Dooshivisha treatment.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNo.</th>
<th>TYPES</th>
<th>SYMPTOMS</th>
<th>TREATMENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hansira</td>
<td>Aversion to food, yawing &amp; Horrilalations.</td>
<td>Patient should be made to vomit well by use of drugs &amp; then drink the decoction of Aargvadhaadi Gana.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chuchundara</td>
<td>Thirst, vomiting, fever, debility, stiffness of neck, loss of sense of smell and gastroenteritis.</td>
<td>Decoction of Chavya (Piper cheba), Haritaki (Terminalia chebula), Shunthi (Euphoria nerifolia), Vidanga (Emblia ribes), Pippali (Piper longum), Ankota along with honey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kulingaka</td>
<td>Pain &amp; swelling at bite site.</td>
<td>Mudgaparni [Phaseolus trilobus], Maashparni [Termnus labialis]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ajita</td>
<td>Black discolouration of body, Vomiting, Fainting.</td>
<td>Paste of Paalindee (Operculina turpethum), Manjistha (Rubia cordifolia) macerated in milky sap of Snuhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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(Euphorbia nerifolia) along with honey.

Chapala
Vomiting, Fainting & Thirst.

Powder of Triphala (Terminalia chebula, Terminalia bellerica, Emblica officinalis), Devadaru (Cedrus deodora), and Jatamansi (Nordostachys jatamansi) along with honey.

Kapila
Ulcers with suppuration, Fever, Development of Tumors, Thirst.

Shweta Aparajita (Clitoria ternate), Shweta punarnava (Boerhavia diffusa) along with honey.

Kokila
Tumors, high grade Fever, Burning sensation.

Ghee prepared from Punarnava and Nilinee (Indigofera tinctoria).

Aruna
Aggravation of Vata & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.

Blood letting, putrifictory therapies and medicated ghee prepared by using Gunja (Abruus precatorious) and Kakmachi (Solanum nigrum) is useful.

Mahakrishna
Aggravation of Pitta & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.

Same as Aruna type of Mooshika Visha treatment.

Mahashweta
Aggravation of Kapha & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.

Same as Aruna type of Mooshika Visha treatment.

Mahakapila
Aggravation of Rakta Dosha & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.

Same as Aruna type of Mooshika Visha treatment.

Kapota
Aggravation of Tridosha & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.

Same as Aruna type of Mooshika Visha treatment.

Mooshika Chikitsa Vidhi by Kashyapa:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SrNo.</th>
<th>Mooshika</th>
<th>Chikitsa</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kulachandra</td>
<td>Lepa of Dwinisha Dhoom of Patali, Churna of Karkotaki for pana, lepa of Shifa mula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vishaghati</td>
<td>Lepa of Shirisha, Shifa along with kharya, Dhoop of Ankol parna, Shirisha Pushpa Paan along with Ghritu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bhayanak</td>
<td>Lepa &amp; Dhoop of Eshwari, Pan of Ankol etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Karsha</td>
<td>Lepa of Nirgundi, Pan of Trifla, Dhoop of Gulen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kura</td>
<td>Pan &amp; Lepa of Navamulaetc., Pan of Abhaya.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ugra</td>
<td>Leh, Yavagu, Gul-pan &amp; Lepa &amp; Dhoop of Nakul kesh fool with Dadhi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bhritiak</td>
<td>Lepa of Patali, Durga, Peya &amp; Ghritu for Lepan, Dhoom &amp; Pan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tikshna</td>
<td>Pan Shabdi Kalp, Dhoop of Shabdi, Lepa of Nirgundi etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Meghanada</td>
<td>For Pana Karanjmula, Dhoop, Pana &amp; Varti of Nakul Kesha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kumud</td>
<td>Pan &amp; Lepa Ashwa etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sinha</td>
<td>Karyari Shirish pusha mula, Pan &amp; Lepa, Yavagu, Dhoop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Akcharini</td>
<td>Lepa of Ankol, Kshir, Lepa of Dwinisha. Dhoop of Kapittha, Pan with Ghrita.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sunansa</td>
<td>Lepa of Ankolmula, Dhoop of Ankol Patra, Pan Ankol with Koshataki mula, Tail bhajan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sudaru</td>
<td>Pan &amp; Lepa of Asanya Twak.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sulbha</td>
<td>Gud with Dugdha, Lepa of Tului etc, Dhoop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sugarbha</td>
<td>Vyaghranta mula for Pana &amp; Dhoop.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concept of Vega:
Concept of Vega (phase) and Vegaantara (Inner phase) is a special consideration of Agada Tantra. A membrane separtes each seven tissues and transversing each membrane poison creates a phase. In context of Mooshika Visha, Samhitas don’t give any such description. In Prayoga Samucchya book tells about different phases of Mooshika Visha.

Mooshika Chikitsa Vidhi by Kashyapa:

<table>
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<th>PHASES</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Pain, Itching.</td>
<td>Kalka of Shireesha Panchaka with milk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Burning Sensation &amp; lump all over the body.</td>
<td>Jalaukavacharana &amp; milk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Headache, yellowish discolouration.</td>
<td>Ankola Twak &amp; milk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Fainting, thirst, vomiting, pain all over body, chance of death afterwards.</td>
<td>Nasya with Vishaghna Taila.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion:
Acharya have described the various types of Mooshika and the way of spread of Mooshika Visha is mainly through the semen of Mooshika (rat). Mooshika Visha is difficult to cure because it is spreading in nature and is relapsing because poison may remain in the body and aggravated on cloudy days. Acharyas have mentioned the treatment protocol to reduce the Dosha aggravation thus resulting in better prognosis. The treatment modalities also give flexible protocol as per Dosha predominance. Thus by using all methods described in Samhitas one should get better treatment for Mooshika Visha.

Conclusion:
By studying above it seems that Mooshika Visha causes more manifestation in man. The treatment is more important. Much research and development has been done in the Ayurvedic management of animate poisoning. Ayurvedic treatment methods and medicinal plants are still being practiced by Vishavaidya. Ayurvedic treatment of Mooshika poisoning can be given in all disease where source of infection is rat.

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