



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

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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 Uttarantra 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 putrifactory therapies should be given.g.*Lepan*, *Vamana*(Vomiting), *Virechana*(Purgation) *Nasya* (Nasalmedication), *Anjana* (Collyrium) etc. Various *Kalpanas* [drug preparations] like *Sanskarit Ghrita* [medicatedghee], *Kwath* [decoctions], *Kalka*[paste of drugs], *Swarasa* [juice of drugs] are mentioned where source of infection is rat treatment of *Mooshika Visha* can be given.

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

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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, Kashaayadanta, Kulinga, Ajita, Chapala, Kapila, Kokila, Aruna, Mahakrishna, Mahashweta, Mahakapila, Kapota* are the eighteen types of *Mooshika*.^[1] 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.^[2]

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, Kashaayadashan, Kulinga, Ajita, Chapala, Kapila, Kokila, Aruna, Mahakrishna, Mahashweta, Mahakapila, Kapota*.

According to *Vagbhataacharya* there are 18 types of *Mooshika*: *Laalan, Putraka, Kashaya-dant, Hasira, Chikkira, Chuchundra, Ajira, kulaka, Rasala, Patitombara, Asita, Chapala, Kapila, Kokila, Aruna, Shabal, Shweta, Kapota*.^[3]

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.^[4]

According to *Prayogsamucchaya* there are 16 types of *Mooshika*: *Kulachandrana, Karaganan, Vishathi, Bayanakan, Ugran, Krooran, Bhootakan, Teekshanan, Meghanaathanh, Kumudhan, Simharyan, Ekachaari, Sunasan, Sudantan, Subalan, Sugarbhan*.^[5]

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.^[6]

According to *Sushrutacharya*:

Inflammation, Lumps, Pimples, Visarpa, Kitibh, fever, Vomiting, Horripilation, Shortness of Breath, Anorexia, Weakness, Arthralgia.

Incurable signs:

Fainting, 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.^[7]

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.^[8]

▪ Paste of *Trivrutta* (*Operculina trupethum*), *Shweta Aparajita* (*Clitoria ternate*), root of *Bilva* (*Aegle marmelos*) and *Guduchi* (*Tinospora cordifolia*) should be applied on bite site.^[9]

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^[10]

4. Virechana (Purgation) For purgation use the paste of Trivrutta (*Operculina terpepethum*), Danti (*Baliospermum motanum*) and Triphala (*Terminalia chebula*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Embllica officinalis*).^[11]

5. Nasya (Nasal medication) Fruits of Shireesha (*Albezia lebbeck*) are used for preparing drugs for nasal administration.^[12]

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.^[13]

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 (*Terminalia arjuna*), Palasha (*Butea frondosa*), Kashmarya (*Gmelia arborea*), Kshirvidari (*Imomoea digitata*).^[14]
- 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.^[15]

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.^[16]

Symptoms & Treatment of Mooshika Dansh¹⁷

SNNo.	TYPES	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
1	Laalan	Salivation, Hiccup, Vomiting.	Tanduliyaka [<i>Amaranthus Spinosus</i>] With Honey.
2	Putraka	White Discolouration , weakness of body, Appearance of Small Nodules on body resembling Mooshika.	Paste of Shireesha [<i>Albizia lebbeck</i>] & Ingudi [<i>Balanites Aegyptiaca</i>] with Honey.
3	Krishna	Swelling, Haematesis.	Decoction of Shireesh fruit [<i>Albizia lebbeck</i>] & Kushtha [<i>Saussurea lappa</i>] with ash of Palaash flower [<i>Butea frondosa</i>]
4	Hansira	Aversion to food, yawing & Horrillalations.	Patient should be made to vomit well by use of drugs & then drink the decoction of Aargvadhadi Gana.
5	Chikkira	Headache, swelling, Hiccup, Vomiting.	Vaman Karma by drinking decoction of Jalini [<i>Langenaria vulgaris</i>], Madana [<i>Randia spinosa</i>] & Ankota [<i>Alangium salvifolium</i>]
6	Chuchundara	Thirst, vomiting, fever, debility, stiffness of neck, loss of sence of smell and gastroenteritis.	Decoction of Chavya (<i>Piper cheba</i>), Haritaki (<i>Terminalia chebula</i>), Shunthi (<i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i>), Vidanga (<i>Emblia ribes</i>), Pippali (<i>Piper longum</i>), Ankota along with honey.
7	Alasa	Stiffness of neck, pain at bite side & Fever.	Mahagada with honey & ghee.
8	Kashayadanta	More sleep, dryness of region of Heart.	Powder of Shireesh bark & fruit [<i>Albizia lebbeck</i>] with honey.
9	Kulingaka	Pain & swelling at bite site.	Mudgaparni [<i>Phaseolus trilobus</i>], Maashparni [<i>Termnus labialis</i>]
10	Ajita	Black discolouratipon of body, Vomiting, Fainting.	Paste of Paalindee (<i>Operculina turpethum</i>), Manjistha (<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>) macerated in milky sap of Snuhi

			(Euphorbia nerifolia) along with honey.
11	Chapala	Vomiting, Fainting & Thirst.	Powder of Triphala (Terminalia chebula, Terminalia bellerica, Emblica officinalis), Devadaru (Cedrus deodara), and Jatamansi (Nordostachys jatamansi) along with honey.
12	Kapila	Ulcers with suppuration, Fever, Development of Tumors, Thirst.	Shweta Aparajita (Clitoria ternate), Shewta punarnava (Boerhavia diffusa) along with honey.
13	Kokila	Tumors, high grade Fever, Burning sensation.	Ghee prepared from Punarnava and Nilinee (Indigofera tinctoria).
14	Aruna	Aggrevation of Vata & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.	Blood letting, putrifiactory therapies and medicated ghee prepared by using Gunja (Abrus precatorious) and Kakmachi (Solanum nigrum) is useful.
15	Mahakrishna	Aggrevation of Pitta & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.	Same as Aruna type of Mooshika Visha treatment.
16	Mahashweta	Aggrevation of Kapha & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.	Same as Aruna type of Mooshika Visha treatment.
17	Mahakapila	Aggrevation of Rakta Dosha & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.	Same as Aruna type of Mooshika Visha treatment.
18	Kapota	Aggrevation of Tridosha & development of Tumor, patches with small eruption & swelling.	Same as Aruna type of Mooshika Visha treatment.

Mooshika Chikitsa Vidhi by Kashyap¹⁸

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

Concept of Vega:

Concept of Vega (phase) and Vegaantara (Inner phase) is a special consideration of Agada Tantra. A membrane separates 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.

Symptomatic treatment [Veganusaar Chikitsa] of Mooshika Visha¹⁸

PHASES	SYMPTOMS	TREATMENT
1 st	Pain, Itching.	Kalka of Shireesha Panchaka with milk.
2 nd	Burning Sensation & lump all over the body.	Jalaukavacharana & milk.
3 rd	Headache, yellowish discoloration.	Ankola Twak & milk.
4 th	Pain in Joints.	Nasya with Shireesh Swarasa grinded with bed bug.
5 th	Fainting, thirst, vomiting, pain all over body, chance of death afterwards.	Nasya with Vishaghna Taila.

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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