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A CONCEPTUAL STUDY OF RAKTASHAYA W.S.R. TO YAKRIT AND PLEEHA VIKRITI

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Abstract:- Ayurveda is an ancient science of life. Science is the result of the curiosity of human being through which human beings has studied, analyzed, and come to the results of various natural processes occurring in the body. Today practically and scientifically the existence of everything has been proven. Ayurveda, being a part of this science also needs a deep study and research for Proving all the facts established by *Acharyas* in ancient times. The principles of *Ayurveda* are eternal. Every concept has its own importance. It should be understood with the help of references in different *Samhitas*. The meaning of the same word may differ in each *Samhita*. One of these is the concept of *ASHAYA* described in *Sushrut Samhita*. In the human body, various vital elements are Stored in hollow viscera called *Ashaya*. One of these is the concept of *ASHAYA* described in *Sushrut Samhita* & various texts and interpret it anatomically & Clinically.

Key words :- Raktashaya, sharir, saptadhatu, Rakt, Yakrit, Pleeha, Raktvahasrotas

Aim:-

- To Study on Raktashaya
- To Study on Yakrit & Pleeha from Ayurvedic and modern science point of View.

Objective:-

- Study of Yakrit & pleeha With respect to Raktashaya
- Detail study of *Yakrit* & pleeha with definition, description, location & its Importance.
- Treatment of Yakrutroga & pleeharoga.

Materials & methods- The study is conducted in 2 levels

Level 1- Study *Raktashaya*, *Rakta*, *Raktavahasrotas*, *Yakrit &Pleeha* from Ayurved textbooks modern textbooks, published Journals & Internet etc.

Level 2 Cadaveric study –Dissection of yakrit (liver) &pleeha.

Introduction:-Sushruta Samhita is best in Sharirsthan. Acharya Sushruta mentions Saptadhatu which are the basic elements of the body. Performing some Specific functions in the body for Example-Rasadhatu has prinana Means the function of nourishment. Rakta has jivanam i.e. maintenance of life. Acharya Sushruta assumes Rakta as a life in its basic concepts. Acharya Sushruta has mentioned seven layers of skin, seven Kalan seven Ashaya, seven Dhatu, and seven siras. These are seven and in which Raktashya will be done¹. In the human body, various vital elements are stored in hollow viscera called as Ashaya which is very important for life. Shonitasya sthaanam yakrut pleehaanu² jeeva Raktashya itu jeeva." The Raktashya is located in the yakrit (liver) and pleeha (spleen). They are called Raktashya because they are hemopoietic organs taking part in the formation and maturation of blood cells. The responsibility is greater on them when the child is in the mother's womb. Later the responsibility is transferred to the bone marrow but the liver and spleen will have their hold and effect on the process throughout the life as per *ayurvedic* references. Therefore they are called *Raktashya*. They carry memories of blood production. The *Pleeha* or spleen located towards the left of *hrudya* is the site of *Jeeva rakta* (blood which is in the form of life)^{3.} In Ayurveda, Yakrit is considered as one of the organs situated in koshta. The origin of word "vakrut" is from the root of "vakan "which means the liver. Yakrit is the constitution of two words "ya means activity", krit means "breakdown". Yakrit is also used as a synonym for the word "restoration". The word yakrit is defined as "yan samyaman karoti itu yakrut "by Sabdastomahanidhi which means to have control over ". Yakrit is one of the koshtanga and is considered the seat of Ranjaka pitta. It is situated on the right side of the udara (abdomen) below the hridaya. Sushruta considered yakrit as originating from the *rakta* and is maternal in origin⁴.

Significance of *Yakrit* **and** *pleeha* **as an organ:**-*Yakrit* and pleeha are considered to be the moola of *Raktavahasrotas* by *Charaka* ⁵. *Sushruta* includes *Raktavahadhamni* also ⁶. *Sarangadhara* in addition of *Raktadharakalan* has described *yakrit* and *plihadharakala*. Out of sixty-six *peshi* (muscles) found in the abdomen, six are situated in relation to the *Yakrit*, *Pleeha*, and *Unduka*. ⁷. *Sushruta* has described forty main *siras* out of which ten are *Raktavaha*, which are found to *Yakrit* and *pleeha* ⁸. If vitiated *Rakta* flows through these siras it causes various blood-borne diseases. *Yakrit* and *pleeha* are the sited of *ranjakapitta* . It is also known as *ranjakagni* and it colours the *annarasa* produced after digestion, *Raktadhatu nirmana*. *Yakrit* is considered as sitr of *buthgnivyapara*, *malapitta nirmana*.

Pleeha (spleen):-*Pleeha* is produced by *sonita* (blood). It is situated/placed on the left side below the cardiac region (*vamatohrdayadayan*). Great sages recognize it as the root of the *siras*, circulating the blood (*Raktavahasrotas*). *Garbha* is produced by the mother as *matrija bhava*. The various organs etc. specifically produced as *matrija* bhava which originated from the blood of the mother and these *matrija bhava* include the liver and spleen ⁹.

Bheda Of Yakrit vikara: Based on *doshic* Involvement, *Yakrit Vikara* is classified into 4 types - *Vataja*, *Pittaja*, *Kaphaja*, *Raktaja*^{10.}

Nidana:- Vidahi aahara i.e. kulattha, masha, sarshapa Shaaka etc. Abhishyandi Aahara is like the dadhi of Maheesh Kshira. Samprapti :-Nidana (vidahi & abhishyandi aahara)- Increase of rakta &kapha Yakrit vridhi Yakrit roga.

Types	Lakshana
Vataja	Nityamanaddha koshta, Nityodavarta peedita Vedanabhi pareeta.
Pittaj	jwara, pipasa daha, moha Peetagatra,
Kaphaja	Manda vyatha, S <mark>thoola,</mark> Kothing, Gourgyo, Arochaka,
Raktaja	klama, Bh <mark>rama, Vidah</mark> a, Vaivarnya, Gatra, Gourava, Moha, Raktodara.

Yakrdalyudara:-

Nidana:-Udara is said to be caused by factors such as intake Of excessive *usna*, *ksara*, *vidahi*, *amla* food, improper *Samsrajana karma*, intake of ununctuous, *viruddhahara*, Emaciation as a consequence of diseases like *Pliharoga*, *Arsas*, and *Grahani*, improper administration of *Panchakarma* therapy, suppression of natural urges, vitiation Of the channels of circulation, continued presence of *ama* in The body, intake of irritating foods and drinks, over nutrition.

Signs and Symptoms:- it is one of the *Udara roga*, which is Having enlargement of the *Udara*. *Ayurvedic* texts have described details of *plihodar*, on the basis of that *Yakrdalyudara* can be said to have the following general Symptoms: *daurbalya*, *arochaka*, *avipaka*, *varcograha*, *Mutragraha*, *pipasa*, *angamarda*, *angasada*, *kasa*, *svasa*, *Mrdu jvara*, *anaha*, *karsya*, *agninasha*, *parvabheda*, *Asyavairasya*, pain in the *kostha* due to *vata*, *tamahpravesha*. *Charaka* mentions appearing of *nila*, *harita*, *and haridra* coloured Lines on the abdomen, colour of the abdomen may change to *Arunavarna*, with generalized severe pale discoloration.

Types	Lakshana
Vataja	<i>Yakrdalyudara</i> : udavarta, ruja and anaha
Pittaja	Yakrdalyudara : jvara, moha, trishna and daha
Kaphaja	Yakrdalyudara : gaurava, aruci, kathina.

Bheda of pleeha vikara:-five types of disorders of spleen - vata, pitta, kapha, sannipata, Rakta.

Etiopathogenesis, Characters of pleeha, and clinical features of plihodara (splenomegaly):-

Etiopathogenesis - The person who after ingesting food rides a jerking vehicle or conveyance, does excessive physical activity, indulges excessively in sex, carries overweight, walks on foot for a long distance, and also had emaciation due to excessive use of emesis or due to any other disease, *pleeha* is located in the left side of abdomen gets displaced from its normal space and is thus enlarged. It also gets enlarged due to the increase of blood as a consequence of the increase of *rasa*^{11.}

Characters of enlarged *Pleeha*-The enlarged *Pleeha* is hard in the beginning like *asthila* or painless, gradually increases and becomes like a tortoise (hard, smooth center, protuberant sloping toward periphery). If neglected it (increases) gradually covers the (*kuksi*) belly and *Jathara* (abdomen) the seat of digestive fire, thus producing *udara roga* (abdominal disorder) ^{12.}

Clinical features of *Plihodara* (**Splenomegaly**):- It's clinical features are; Debility, dislike for food, indigestion, retention or suppression of feces and urine feeling as if entering into dark (due to fainting) polydipsia, body ache, vomiting, swoon, lassitude, cough,dyspnoea, mild fever, *anaha* (abdominal dIstension with constipation), diminution of digestive fire, emaciation, insipidity, arthralgia or pain in phalangeal joints, abdominal gases and pain in abdomen are the symptoms. The abdomen appears reddish or of abnormal colour, with blue, green, or deep yellow streaks¹³.

Enlargement of the spleen is due to two factors i.e. 1- displacement from its physiological location caused by agitation or irritation.

2- due to the increase of blood the features of the *pleeha* situated on the left side of the abdomen are described. Due to the increase of *rasa* and blood also increased.

Spleenomegaly -When aggravated *vata* elevating the spleen gets located there and produces gradually mild pain in the flank, then the spleen gets enlarged ^{14.}

Pleeha Roga Types: -

Raktaja pleeha- (spleen due	Tiredness, vertigo, burning sensation, discoloration, heaviness of body, stupor, and
to vitatation of blood)-	reddening of the abdomen are observed in splenomegaly due to rakta ¹⁵
Pittaja pleeha-(spleen due to	Fever, thirst, burning sensation, stupor, and yellowish discoloration of the body are observed
vitatation of <i>pitta</i>)	in splenomegaly due to Vitatation of <i>pitta</i> ¹⁶
Kaphaja pleeha-(spleen due	No pain or less pain, larger size, hardon palpation, heaviness, and loss of taste are observed
to vitatation of <i>kapha</i>	in splenomegaly due to vitiation of Kapha ¹⁷
Vataja pleeha – (spleen due	Persistent enlargement of the abdomen, continuous flatulence, reversed peristalsis and pain
to vitatation of vata)-	are the features of splenomegaly due to vitiation of vata dosa ¹⁸

Yakrit Vidradhi- If Vidradhi is In the liver, it produces increased/ difficult respiration and hiccough 19

Pleeha Vidradhi - if Vidradhi is In pleeha, there is an obstruction to the expiration ²⁰

Liver:-Liver is the most massive of the viscera, occupying a substantial portion of the abdominal cavity. It is essential to life since it carries out a multiplicity of metabolic activities necessary for homeostasis, alimentation, and defense. It is composed largely of epithelial cells (hepatocytes) where most of these biochemical operations occur, bathed by blood derived from the hepatic porta veins and hepatic Arteries, and draining into the inferior vena cava through the hepatic veins. The liver lies in the upper right part of the abdominal cavity, occupying most of the right hypochondrium and epigastrium and extending into the left hypochondrium as far as the left lateral line. The liver is having five surfaces, two-lobe ²¹

Clinical Correlation:-

- The liver is retained in a normal position by the attachment of the hepatic veins to the IVC. The coronary and triangular ligaments and muscular tone of the anterior abdominal wall contribute to a certain extent.
- The liver may be ruptured by a broken rib or by a stab injury. Due to its vascularity, the liver bleeds profusely.
- Cirrhosis of the liver is the scarring or fibrosis of liver parenchyma due to the toxic effects of ingested substances or drugs. Alcohol is the most common cause of cirrhosis.
- In congestive cardiac failure the pressure in hepatic veins is raised, which leads to venous congestion in the liver and cardiac cirrhosis.
- Hepatic carcinoma is the primary malignancy of liver parenchyma. The secondary malignancy of the liver occurs due to the spread of primary cancer elsewhere (in the gastrointestinal tract or ovary etc) via the portal vein. The malignant cells from the breast, lung, or pelvis may also metastasize to the liver ²²
- Liver biopsy Liver biopsy is a common diagnostic procedure. With the patient holding his or her breath in full expiration to reduce the size of the costodiaphragmatic recess and the likelihood of damage to the lung a needle is inserted through the right 8th or 9th intercostal space in the midaxillary line. The needle passes through the diaphragm into the liver, and a small specimen of liver tissue is removed for microscopic examination ²³

Spleen:- The spleen consists of a large encapsulated mass of vascular and lymphoid tissue situated in the upper left posterior region of the abdominal cavity between the fundus of the stomach and the diaphragm. The size & Weight of the spleen varies with the age, of the individual. The spleen has two major functions – removal of particulate material including aging erythrocytes from the circulation and the provision of lymphocytes and antibodies as part of the body's system of secondary lymphoid tissue ²⁴

Clinical Correlation:-

- **Splenic hypertrophy-** In individuals suffering a chronic breakdown of erythrocytes, for e.g In malaria and other hemolytic diseases, the splenic tissues may be permanently hypertrophied and the spleen greatly enlarged (spleenomegaly).
- **Splenectomy** Partial splenectomy is followed by rapid regeneration of lost tissue but even total splenectomy has few obvious effects, its function being largely assumed by the liver. However, especially In the early years of life, splenectomy may entail a general reduction in the rapidity of immune responses and consequent increased susceptibility to infection ²⁵
- Asplenia is the absence of a spleen. It is also known as right isomerism, in which bilateral right-sidedness occurs
- **Polysplenia** or left isomerism presents with bilateral left Atria and bilateral left lungs.
- Accessory spleens or splenuculi are formed if individual splenuculi fail to fuse during the development of the spleen. are found in the lienorenal ligament, gastrosplenic ligament, and greater omentum ²⁶
- **Trauma to the spleen** -Although anatomically the spleen gives the appearance of being well protected, automobile accidents of the crushing or run–over type commonly produce laceration of the spleen. Penetrating wounds of the lower left thorax can also damage the spleen ²⁷

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Pleehodara treatment:-

- Suvarn asamaka churanm ²⁸
- Employment of Serpent Venom ²⁹
- Cauterisation in spleenomegaly ³⁰

Fire will cast away spleenomegaly. Therefore it should be conquered by cauterization, particularly.

The patient should be given oleation and sudation therapies, suitable to the dosa, meals along with yogurt should be consumed and in order to let out blood, the vein in the left arm should be cut in the case of enlightenment of stomach caused due to the enlargement of spleen ³¹

- Badarka Patra use ³²
- The medicated oil prepared by cooking oil with the ash of *kadali,tilanala*, and *ksuraka* consumed daily is capable to cure enlargement of the spleen caused due to *Kapha* and *Vata* ³³

- **Treatment of** *Yakritroga* All the therapeutic measures prescribed for splenic enlargement can be used for hepatomegaly or for the disease of the liver. Bloodletting is done from the right upper limb. Burnt ash made of *vidanga*, *pippali*, and *putika* mixed with water and taken in the early hours of the day controls the disease of the spleen and liver. The dose depends upon the individual digestive capacity ³⁴
- Treatment is similar to spleen inclusive of cutting the vein of the right arm in the case of enlargement of the liver ³⁵
- Treatment for both –
- Yamanikadi churn.
- Vidangadi ksara
- Tala Puspa Ksara
- Rohitakabhaya kwath
- Manadya gudika
- Bhallatkadi modaka
- Lasunadi kalka
- Sarpunkha Kalka
- Venesection in plihajakrit roga
- Pippalyadi churn
- Bhrihat lokanatha rasa ³⁶
- Cadaveric study:-Liver, the spleen & stomach were Situated in the abdominal cavity close to each other while the lungs & heart were found in the thoracic cavity very close to each other. These all structures contain large amounts of blood. As *vagbhata* has mentioned *Amashaya* (which can be co-related with the Stomach) is a site of *Ranjakpitta* which Plays an important role in the formation of *Rakta* and lies very close to the liver & Spleen in the same cavity. Though stomach can be compared to *Aamashaya* it could not be included as *Raktashaya* anatomically. It lies very close to *Raktashaya*.Liver is termed a site of *Raktashaya* Due to its nature, colour & cadaveric histological appearance. There anatomically, the liver satisfies the criteria for being *Raktashaya*. The spleen is also termed as the site of *Raktashaya* due to its nature colour cadaveric appearance& histological appearance showing white pulp, and red pulp, Production of antibodies supporting tissue are fibro elastic were attributed to constriction & relaxation of blood Vessels. Relations of spleen & stomach were anatomically rising suspicion About their composite role information Of *Rakta.Liver* & Spleen both are termed As *Raktashaya* after the physiological & anatomical comparative study.
- Conclusion:-According to various activities the description of *Raktashaya* take into consideration related directly or indirectly to blood, like *phuphus*, *Hridaya*, *Urahsthan*, *Yakrit*, *Pleeha & amashaya*. These are the *Raktashaya*. The anatomical & physiological description of the liver &Spleen related to Ayurvedic sharir rachana & sharirkriya Of *Yakrit & pleeha* with respect to its Development structure & functions. A complete review of the above Ayurvedic study & the cadaveric study Shows evidence of *yakrit & pleeha* to be the seat of *Rakta i.e. Raktashaya* when Compared with modern anatomy. The causative factor of *Rakta&* their symptoms of *Raktadhatu*, and *Raktavahasortasdushti* signifies the degeneration of *Yakrit & pleeha* i.e. liver respectively. In this article, I conclude *Raktashya*, liver, and spleen their anatomical position, disease & treatment of liver & spleen.

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