

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF UNANI AND INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE



E-ISSN: 2616-4558
P-ISSN: 2616-454X
IJUIM 2021; 5(2): 118-122
Impact Factor (RJIF): 6.3
Peer Reviewed Journal
Received: 28-03-2021
Accepted: 30-04-2021

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Concept of *Kaphaj Shirorog* in Ayurveda with modern counterpart: A review

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Abstract

In today's world where everyone is going after advancement of living, the sturdy bond between human and nature is losing, and humans are exposed to mental and physical exhaustion due to sedentary and hectic lifestyle. Changes in living, dietary habits can cause the vitiation of *dosha* which in turn cause various diseases. Ayurveda has a unique approach towards the diagnosis and treatment of disease as Ayurveda does not treat the symptom it treats the cause of the disease hence providing maximum relief to the patient. The concept of *Ayurvedic* treatment is based on treating the vitiated *doshas*. Almost all the diseases classified has a common cardinal feature which is pain which can be very distracting and can hamper the daily activities performed by humans. Headache being the most common painful condition by which patient get disturbed in their lifestyle. A review study has been given regarding the relevant topic below to enlighten knowledge of *Kaphaj Shirorog* in modern perspective.

Keywords: *Kaphaj Shirorog*, ayurveda, modern counterpart

Introduction

In *Ayurveda*, all *Acharyas* had considered the importance of *Shira* by quoting it as "*Uttamanga*" [1]. *Shira* is one of the most vital organs of the body. In *Ayurveda*, it is one amongst the dash *Praanaayatana* [2], and three vital Marma (*hridaya*, *basti* and *shira*) it is also the centre of all *Gyanendriya* and controls the functioning of all the *Karmandriyas*. All the *Indriyapraanvahi Srotas* depends on the *Shira* for all their functions [3]. *Shira* is also the important vital organ for the transfer of various sensory and motor impulses to and from the various parts of the body. *Shirorog* implies the *rogas* which occurs in the *Baahya* and *Aabhyantarbhag* of *shira*. Various types of *shirorog* are mentioned in ancient texts and *KaphajShirorog* is one amongst them. *Kaphajshirorog* implies the *shirorog* which occurs mainly due to *kaphadosha*, the cardinal features of this disease is mainly mild/moderate headache and heaviness of head, the headache continues throughout the day and may increase at night.

Prevalence: Headache being among the common painful condition in which patient feels very disturbed when we see the prevalence figure is quite alarming.

- During a given year, 90% of people suffer from headaches of which about 1% have a serious underlying problem [4].
- Primary headaches account for more than 90% of all headache complaints,

In spite of such bad figures there are no particular treatment for headache which can provide a permanent relief to a patient, modern line of treatment includes analgesics which in long term use can cause gastric problems along with damage in kidney and liver.

when we look into the cure of this disease we find that the classical *Kriyas* mentioned in our texts like *Nasyam* and *Lepa* in context to the disease can be beneficial for the patients and provide them permanent relief.

Material & Methods

For the present review, detailed literary study has been compiled from various Ayurvedic Samhitas, modern literature like articles, journals etc. Various texts and information regarding *Kaphaj Shirorog* and its modern counterpart has been compiled under one review article.

Ayurvedic Review

Importance of *Shira* has been admitted in various samhitas. *Acharya Charaka* in chapter 17th of *sutrasthana* of *Charak Samhita* has considered the *shiraasutta manga*, and mentioned in *sloka* that *shira* is the *prana* of all the organism where all the *indriya* are situated, among the important *marmas* present on the body and *Hridaya*, *Basti* and *Shira* are the *Pradhan marma* in which if any injury is caused it can be fatal [5].

He also further mentioned that *Shira* has been compared with the Sun. *Acharya Charaka* explains that all the sense organs and the channels carrying the sensory and vital impulses from the *Shira* are like the rays from the Sun [6]. So, due to its importance it should be kept healthy and disease free. 11 types of *Shirorog* has been mentioned by *Acharya Sushruta* and *Kaphaj Shirorog* is one among them [7].

Kaphaj Shirorog Nidaan

आस्यासुखेः स्वप्नसुखेर्गुरुस्निग्धातिभोजनैः ।

श्लेष्माशिरसिसंदुष्टः शिरोरोगाय कल्पते ॥ च. सू17/24

Acharya Charak has mentioned *nidaan* for the *kaphajshirorog*:

Aasyasukha: to sit in a very comfortable posture for long time.

Swapnasukha: to excessively sleep in comfortable

Ati guru bhojana: excess of heavy diet.

Atisnigdhabhojana: excess of fatty, oily diet.

Rupa [8, 9, 10]:

Tridosha long with dominant *Kapha* gets aggravated and creates following symptoms of *Kaphaj Shirorog*.

S. no	Lakshana	C.S ⁸	S.S ⁹	A.H ¹⁰
1	<i>Shiromandaraja</i>	+	-	-
2	<i>Shirasupti</i>	+	-	-
3	<i>Shirastaimitya</i>	+	-	+
4	<i>Shirogaurava</i>	+	-	+
5	<i>Tandra</i>	+	-	+
6	<i>Alasya</i>	+	-	-
7	<i>Aruchi</i>	+	-	+
8	<i>Divamandruja</i>	-	-	+
9	<i>Shiraand Gala Kaphupadigdha</i>	-	+	-
10	<i>Siranishpandata</i>	-	-	+
11	<i>Sheetata</i>	-	+	+
12	<i>Shoonakshikutatvam</i>	-	+	+
13	<i>Karnakandu</i>	-	-	+
14	<i>Chhardi</i>	-	-	+
15	<i>Vadanashotha</i>	-	+	-
16	<i>Shirohimascha</i>	+	-	-
17	<i>Guru pratishtambha</i>	+	+	-

Samprapti

For *samprapti* of any disease *nidaansewanis* the most important factor [11]. *Ahaaraj Nidaanlike Guru*, *Snigdha*, *Sheeta*, *Madhuraadhar* or *Vihaaraj Nidaanlike Avyayaam*, *Diwaswapna*, *Maansik Nidaan* like *Achintan*, *Harsha*, leads to *kaphavardhan* in turn causing *Jatharagni Mandata* and production of *Aama*. This further leads to the formation of *Amavisha* [12] and subsequent *Ama Rasa Dhatu*. The *Ama Rasa Dhatu* leads to *Rasadhatvagnimandyata*.

Some etiological factors weaken the *Dhatu*s and some etiological factors affect the *Jatharagni* directly or indirectly. All these factors *Dosha Dushti*, *Khavaigunya*,

Dushyadushti and *Agnimandhya* are of profound kind of causes for pathogenesis of any disease, similarly *Nidana* which causes *kaphadoshprakop* travels in the whole body and gets accumulated in the *Shira*, *Khavaigunya* occurs in the *Uttamanga Shiraa* long with it the general etiological factors for *Shirorog* also causes *Srotodushti* which is necessary for *Sthanasanshraya* of *Dosha* [13]

Nidaan like *guru bhojana* or even light food taken in excess amount aggravates all the three *Doshas* affects *Jathragni* and produces *Agnimandya* [14] which is the main *Samprapti* of the disease.

Chikitsa

According to Charak Samhita [15]

- Shiroswedan*
- Dhoompaan*, *Nasya*, and *Pradhaman Nasya*.
- Kaphanashakdravya Pralep*, *Kaphashamakannapaan*, *puraanghritsewan*.
 - Teekshnashirovasti*
 - Dahan karma* in *vaatanubandh*.
 - Agarvadidhoomvartipaana*

According to Sushrut Samhita [16]:

- Continuous *Swedan*
- Pradhaman Nasya* with drugs like *madhuksaar*, *ingudi*, *meshashringi*, *Katphal*
- Vaman*
- Trikatu Gandusha* and *Kawal*
- Acchaghritpaan*

According to Ashtang Hridaya [17]:

- Snehapaan* with *Ghrita*
- Vaman*
- Rooksha*, *teekshna*, *Ushnaushadhi Sweda*, *Pralep* and *Nasya*
- Langhan*

According to Ashtang Sangraha [18]

- Nasyawith*:
 - Vidang* or *Sarshap Tail*. *Sarshap tail* and *trikatu*
 - Madhuk/ Meshashringi/ Ingudi Kalka*
 - Jatamanshichoorna Pradhaman nasya*
 - Teekshnashirovirechak Pradhaman* and *Marsh*, *Pratimarsh Nasya*
- Madhuk*, *Meshashringi*, *Ingudikshal Dhoomvarti*.

According to Chakradatta [19]

- Langhan*
- Rukshan*
- Teekshnaavpeeda Nasya*, *Dhoompana* and *Kawal*.
- Puranghritpaan* followed by *Swedan*
- Lepa* like *krishnaadilepa*, *devdarvadilepa*.

Headache

Headache is an extremely common symptom which proves to be discomfoting, debilitating having a significant impact on an individual's life. headache has no specific age, race, social status to have effect on, rather it indirectly has impact on the socioeconomic condition of an individual.

Around 95% of general population have experienced headache at some stage in their life with a 1- year prevalence of nearly 46% and 64% for lifetime prevalence [20].

National Institute of Health (NIH) classification of headache

The NIH classification of headaches consists of five types of headache [21] vascular, myogenic (muscle tension), cervicogenic, traction, and inflammatory.

- Vascular: most common type is migraine, characterized by severe pain on one or both sides of the head, gastric upset, disturbed vision (occasionally). Women are more affected than men.
- Muscular/myogenic: muscular headaches appear to involve the tightening or tensing of facial and neck muscles; they may radiate to forehead; tension headache is most common type.
- Cervicogenic: generally, originates from neck disorders, including the anatomical structures innervated by the cervical roots C1-C3. Cervical headache is often increased by neck movement and/or sustained uneven head positioning. It is often accompanied by restricted cervical motion, ipsilateral neck, shoulder or arm pain which is indefinite and can be radiating or non-radiating
- Traction and Inflammatory: traction and inflammatory headaches are symptoms of other disorders, ranging from stroke to sinus infection.

Specific type includes

- Tension headache
- Migraine
- Idiopathic intracranial hypertension (headache with visual symptoms due to raised IOP)
- Cluster headache
- Brain freeze (also known as: ice cream headache)
- Thunderclap headache
- Coital cephalalgia (also known as: sex headache)
- Ictal headache
- Vascular headache
- Toxic headache
- Coital headache
- Hemicrania continua
- Rebound headache (known as medicine overuse headache or MOH)
- Red wine headache
- Spinal headache (or post dural puncture headache) after Lumbar puncture or related procedure that will lower the intra cranial pressure.
- Hangover headache (due to heavy alcohol consumption)
- New Daily Persistent Headache (NDPH)

Pathophysiology

The human brain is not sensitive to pain, as it lacks pain receptors, some areas of the head and neck have nociceptors and can thus sense pain, such as extracranial arteries, middle meningeal artery, large veins, venous sinuses, cranial and spinal nerves, head and neck muscles, the meninges, parts of the brainstem, eyes, ears, teeth and the inner lining of the mouth [22, 23]

Headaches often result from traction to or irritation, inflammation or infection of the meninges and or any spasm or dilation in blood vessels, muscular tension can also stimulate pain receptors [23]. The pain receptors may be stimulated by head trauma or tumors and cause headaches. Once stimulated, a nociceptor sends a message up the length of the nerve fiber to the nerve cells in the brain, signaling

that a part of the body for pain.

When it comes to the types primary headaches are more difficult to understand than secondary headaches. The exact mechanisms which cause migraines, tension headaches and cluster headaches are not known.

Currently it is thought that Migraines are to be caused by dysfunction of the nerves in the brain [24]. Previous theory suggested that in migraine primary problem is with the blood vessels in the brain [25]. In this vascular theory, which was developed in the 20th century by Wolff, it was suggested that the aura in migraines is caused by constriction of intracranial vessels (vessels inside the brain), and the headache itself is caused by rebound dilation of extracranial vessels (vessels just outside the brain). Dilation of these extracranial blood vessels activates the pain receptors in the surrounding nerves, causing a headache [24, 26]. Studies have shown migraine head pain is not accompanied by extra cranial vasodilation, but rather only has some mild intracranial vasodilation [27].

At present maximum specialist have suggested that migraines are due to a primary problem with the nerves in the brain [24]. Auras are thought to be caused by a wave of increased activity of neurons in the cerebral cortex (a part of the brain) known as cortical spreading depression [28] followed by a period of depressed activity [29]. Some people think headaches are caused by the activation of sensory nerves which release peptides or serotonin, causing inflammation in arteries, dura and meninges and also cause some vasodilation. Tension headaches are thought to be caused by activation of peripheral nerves in the head and neck muscles [30].

Cluster headaches involve over activation of the trigeminal nerve and hypothalamus in the brain, but the exact cause is unknown [31].

Management

Primary headache syndromes have many different possible treatments chronic headaches the long term use of opioids appears to result in greater harm than benefit [32].

Migraine

Migraine can be improved by lifestyle changes, but most people require medicines to control their symptoms [33]. Medications prescribed are either to prevent getting attack, or to reduce symptoms once a migraine starts.

Treatment of migraine varies according to intensity and severity such as:

Mild to moderate headache

Acetaminophen or NSAIDS, if it proves unsuccessful triptan is given [34].

Dihydroergotamine (nasal spray, injection) [35]

Moderate to severe attacks

Treated directly with an oral triptan, a medication that mimics serotonin (an agonist) and causes mild vasoconstriction.

Nausea: [36]

Mild to Moderate

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting, an antiemetic such as metoclopramide (Reglan) can be given orally or rectally

Moderate to Severe

Parenteral (through a needle in the skin) triptans and antiemetics can be given.

- Preventive medications are generally recommended when people have more than four attacks of migraine per month, headaches last longer than 12 hours or the headaches are very disabling^[34, 37]. Possible therapies include beta blockers, antidepressants, anticonvulsants and NSAIDs^[37]
- The American Academy of Neurology guidelines for migraine treatment in 2000 stated relaxation training, electromyographic feedback and cognitive behavioral therapy may be considered for migraine treatment, along with medications^[38].

Tension-type headache

Tension-type headaches can usually be managed with NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen, aspirin), or acetaminophen^[34] Triptans are not helpful in tension-type headaches unless the person also has migraines. For chronic tension type headaches, amitriptyline is the only medication proven to help^[34, 39]. Amitriptyline is a medication which treats depression and also independently treats pain. It works by blocking the reuptake of serotonin and norepinephrine, and also reduces muscle tenderness by a separate mechanism^[39]. Studies evaluating acupuncture for tension-type headaches have been mixed^[40]. Overall, they show that acupuncture is probably not helpful for tension-type headaches.

Conclusion

This study focuses in contributing to improve the existing facts on *kaphajshirorog* which is the kind of topic on which there is very least study done and as the main feature of this disease is pain which is very disturbing and may hamper the daily living of any human. So brief study relevant topic has been done.

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