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Basic Concept of Shalakyia Tantra in Sushruta & Charak Samhita

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Abstract

An essential subfield of Ayurveda called Shalakyia Tantra studies and treats conditions pertaining to the eyes, ears, nose, teeth, throat, head, and mouth. Shalakyia Tantra is explained as "Shalakyah Yatkarma Shalakyam, Tat Pradhanam Tantram Shalakyam" by Acharya Dalhana. It denotes a place where Shalakas, or rod-like tools, are employed for therapeutic purposes. The Shalakyia Tantra branch of Ayurveda deals with therapy processes involving these instruments. It can be found sporadically in many Ayurvedic treatises nowadays. A significant portion of Shalakyia Tantra can be found in Sushruta Samhita. In Charak Samhita Vimansthana, medications called Shirovirechana and Karma are discussed. In contrast, the Charak Samhita Siddhithana discusses Shirovirechana Karma, indications, contraindications, and its sequelae. Following the completion of all issues pertaining to Charak Samhita Having covered every subject pertaining to Charak Samhita, we may conclude that Shalakyia Tantra is a significant Anga (section) of Ashtang Ayurveda. In addition, Charak discusses the initial treatment for Uttamang Chikitsa. Shalakyia Tantra, on the other hand, is the branch of Ayurveda that deals with Vyadhis and their treatment of Urdhwajatru (body parts above the clavicle bone, such as the head, neck, eye, ear, nose, throat, and mouth), as well as different kinds of therapeutic Shalakas and how they are applied.

Keywords: Sushruta samhita, charak samhita, shalakyia tantra, shalaka, shirovirechana

Introduction

In words of Sushruta Samhita "शालाक्यं नाम ऊर्ध्वजत्रुगतानां रोगानां श्रवण नयन वदं घ्राणादि संश्रितानां व्याधिनां उपशमनार्थम्" it means Shalakyia Tantra is the branch of Ayurveda which deals with the diseases and their treatment procedures which affects above Jatrupart (clavicle bone) like Shravana (ear), Nayan (eye), Vadana (mouth), Ghranadi (nose) etc.

Shalakyia Tantra in Sushruta Samhita

When we study Sushruta Samhita we find that basic principles, surgical principles and definitions are described in Sutrasthana. Nidan part of Mukharogas are described in Nidanshtana whereas their treatment parts are described in Chikitsasthana. Shirorogas and Netrarogas are described in Uttarasthana of Sushruta Samhita.

Shalakyia Tantra uses application of several methods and procedures for the cure of all the diseases of neck region. It is more important because it is dealing with the main sense organs of the body like eyes, ears, nose and tongue. The

scriptures of shalakyia tantra can be found on the ancient texts of Sushrut Samhita.

These includes all the diseases of eyes including conjunctivitis, cataract, glaucoma, pterygium, dryness of eye, wax in ear, migraine and mouth ulcers etc. the structure of eyes has also been discussed in detail in shalakyia tantra. The surgical methods of treatment of cataract and cosmetic surgery like rhinoplasty and auroplasty have also been mentioned here.

In the first chapter of Uttaratantra of Sushruta Samhita, Acharya explained about anatomy of eye. In the following chapters a detailed description regarding the diseases and treatment of Netra (eye), Karna (ear), Nasa (nose) and Shiras (head), different surgical procedures like Lekhana (scraping), Chedana (excision), Bhedana (incision), Vyadhana (punchuring) and special therapies like kriyakalpas (Tharpana, Anjana, Seka etc.) are mentioned.

Acharya Sushruta described about 76 different types of Eye Diseases which are well explained with the signs and

symptoms, different medical formulations and treatments are also explained.

In Sushruta Samhita itself Acharya Sushruta explained 28 Karna rogas (diseases of ear), 31 Nasa rogas (diseases of nose), 11 Shiro rogas (diseases of head) and their treatments. Acharya Sushruta explained about 5 different types of these kriyakalpas and these are helpful for the treatment of eye disorders. These are as follows-

- Tharpana (Therapeutic retention of medicated liquids over the eyes)
- Putpaka (Installation of medicated juices in the eyes, which is extracted after heating a bolus of herbs)
- Seka (Ocular therapy by steaming)
- Anjana (Collyrium)
- Aschyotana (Eye drops)

Shalaky Tantra in Charak Samhita

Here we discuss about Shalaky Tantra in Charak Samhita. Our aims are to find out the Shalaky Tantra related topics in Charak Samhita and to show the importance of Charak Samhita in Shalaky Tantra. For that purpose we went through all the eight sthanas and one hundred twenty chapters of Charak Samhita by studying various commentaries of Charak Samhita.

- We find twenty topics in Sutrasthana, one topic in Nidansthana, two topics in Vimansthana, three topics in Sharirsthana, six topics in Indriyasthanana, thirteen topics in Chikitsasthanana and four topics in Siddhasthanana which are related to Shalaky Tantra.
- Therapeutic drugs and procedures, Nidan (causative factors) of some diseases, physiological function of Indriyas under the topic Panchpanchak, Swedana procedure of Netra (eye), some diseases and some important drugs causing good and bad effects on Indriyas these are all related to Shalaky Tantra and described in Charak Samhita Sutrasthana.
- Some diseases as prodromal symptoms are described in Charak Samhita Nidansthana. Shirovirechana drugs and Karma is described in Charak Samhita Vimansthana. Anatomical structures related to Shalaky Tantra are mentioned in Charak Samhita Sharirsthana. Arishta Lakshanas related to Shalaky Tantra are mentioned in Charak Samhita Indriyasthanana. Specific drugs or formulations for specific diseases and surgical works related to Shalaky Tantra are mentioned in Charak Samhita Chikitsasthanana. Whereas Shirovirechana Karma, indications, contraindications and its complications is mentioned in Charak Samhita Siddhasthanana.
- After going through all the topics related to Charak Samhita we can say that Shalaky Tantra is an important Anga (part) of Ashtang Ayurved. Charak also describes first treatment for Uttamang chikitsa.

Shalaky Tantra in Sutrasthana

- Shirovirechana dravyas like Moolini, Phalini, Mahasneha, Nasya, Varti, Anjana and five salts used for Shirovirechana Karma are described in Sutrasthana chapter no. 1.
- Some Shirovirechana preparations and Yavagus for throat diseases are described in Sutrasthana chapter no. 2.
- Some Lepa (locally applied preparations) for headache are described in Sutrasthana chapter no. 3.
- Some Mahakashaya (group of ten drugs) like Kanthya (for wellness of throat), Shirovirechanopaga (helping drugs for Shirovirechana Karma) and Sangyasthapana (sense

stabilizing drugs) are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 4.

- Some Anjana Yogas (preparations for eye diseases), Dhoompana Yogas (medicinal smoking drugs), Nasya (preparations for nasal disorders), Sneha Gandusha (preparations for oral disorders), Karnapoorana (preparations for aural disorders) and Padabhyanga Karmas are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 5.
- Some disorders due to Dharana of Adharaniya Vegas like Kshavathu, Vaspa and Nidra are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 7.
- Physiological function of Indriyas and Panchpanchaka are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 8.
- Some Pravicharana of Snehas like Gandush, Karnapurana, Nasya and Akshitarpana are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 13.
- Swedana procedure of Netra is mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 14.
- Nidana, Samprapti, Lakshana and Bheda of Shirorogas and definition of Shira are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 17.
- Some diseases like Upajihvika, Galganda, Galashundi, Galgraha, Shankhak, Karnamoolika shotha and Rohini are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no.18.
- Bheda of Shiroroga, Akshiroga, Karnaroga, Pratishtaya and Mukharoga are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 19.
- Some diseases like Kanthodhwansa, Hanubheda, Oshthabheda, Akshibheda, Dantabheda, Dantashaithilya, Mukatva, Waksanga, Kashayashyata, Mukhashosha, Arasaggyata, Ghrananasa, Karnashoola, Ashabdashravana, Uchchahishruti, Badhirya, Vartmastambha, Vartmasankocha, Timira, Akshishoola, Akshivyudasa, Shankhabheda, Lalatabheda, Shiroruk, Keshabhoomisphutana, Arditavata, Asyapaka, Galapaka, Akshipaka, Mukhashrava, Kanthopalepa, and Galaganda are described as Nanatmaja vyadhis in Sutrasthana chapter no. 20.
- Some diseases like Shirahshoola, Galamaya, Peenasha and Ardhabheda are described in Sutrasthana chapter no. 21.
- Some diseases like Mukhapaka, Akshiroga, Pootighranasygandhita, Upakusha and Shirorogas as Raktaja vyadhis are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 24.
- Some drugs and their effects like Ama Kapittha as Akanthya, Pratyakpushpa as Shirovirechana, practicing of Gandusha as Dantabalakara and Ruchikara, Madhuka as Chakshushya, Keshya and Kanthya are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 25.
- We found that some rasas and their Karma as Madhur rasa Kshadindriya prasadana, Keshya and Kanthya. Katu rasa-Kaphasravaka from nose and Jalasravaka from eyes is mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 26.
- Some diseases as Asyavairasya, Mukhapaka, Adhimamsa, Arbuda, Galashoola, Galashundi, Alaji, Ganda, Gandamala and Upajihvika as dushta rasaja rogas, Adhyasthi, Adhidanta, Dantabhed and Dantashoola as dusta Asthirogas are mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 28.
- Shalakyatantra as a part of Ashtanga Ayurveda is mentioned in Sutrasthana chapter no. 30.

Shalaky Tantra in Nidanasthanana

Some diseases as symptoms of other diseases like

Ghranamukhakanthaushthatalupaka as a symptom of Pittaja Jwara, Pratishtyaya and Mukhamadhurya as symptom of Kaphaja Jwara, Mukhavairasya and Chakshushoakulatwam as general purvaroop of Jwara are mentioned in Nidanasthana chapter no. 1.

Shalaky Tantra in Viman Sthana

- Shirovirechana as Apakarshana chikitsa in treatment of Krimiogas is mentioned in Vimanasthana chapter no. 7.
- Some Shirovirechana drugs and their seven useful forms as Phala, Patra, Moola, Kanda, Pushpa, Resin and Twak are mentioned in Vimanasthana chapter no. 8.

Shalaky Tantra in Sharir Sthana

- Some anatomical parts like Jihva, Nashika, Chakshu, Shrotra and their adhisthanas, Murdha and Kantha as Pratyangas, Chibuka, Otha, Srikkani, Dantaveshta, Talu, Galashundi, Upajihvika, Gajihva, Gandasthala, Karnashaskuli, Karnaputrika, Akshikoota, four Vartma, Kaneenaka, eyebrows and Avatu as Pratyangas area mentioned in Sharirasthana chapter and Seven big openings of body as eyes, ear, nose and mouth are mentioned in Sharirasthana chapter no. 7.
- Some body parts like Shira as Prashasta Anga (important body part), Lalata, Karna, Bhru, Netra, Nasika, Mukha, Jihwa, Talu, Oshtha and Hanu are mentioned in Sharirasthana chapter no.8

Shalaky Tantra Indriya Sthana

- Prakrita and Vaikrita Swara are mentioned in Indriyasthana of chapter no. 1.
- Some Arishta Lakshanas related to Danta, Pakshma and Netra are mentioned in Indriyasthana of chapter no.3.
- Some Arishta Lakshanas related to Netra, Karna, Ganda and Jihwa are mentioned in Indriyasthana of chapter no.4.
- Some Arishta Lakshanas related to netra are mentioned in Indriyasthana chapter no. 7.
- Some Arishta Lakshanas related to eyebrows and fore head, nose, Danta and Jihwa are mentioned in Indriyasthana chapter no. 8.
- Some Arishta Lakshanas related to Netra and Shankhaka roga are mentioned in Indriyasthana chapter no. 9.

Shalaky Tantra in Chikitsa Sthana

- Some drugs and their formulations for specific diseases like-Haritaki for Shiroroga, Swarabheda and Asyasrava, Chyavanprashavaleha for Swarabheda. Pippali rasayana for Swarabheda, Peenasa and some astonishing effect of rasayanas as Divya Netra and Shruta due to use of Dronipraveshika rasayana, uttama swara due to use of second Indrokta rasayana. Some successful medical and surgical works by Ashvinau as Sandhana Karma of Head (head transplant), dental implant and treatment of disorders of eye are mentioned in Chikitsa Sthana chapter no. 1.
- Vrishya Ghrita for vocal problems is described in Chikitsa Sthana chapter no. 2.
- Some symptoms and diseases as Shiroruk (headache), Kanthasyasosha (dryness of mouth and throat), raktavarna of Netra (congestion of eye), Vedana in ears (otalgia), Kanthashook (pharyngitis), Krishna varna of Jihwa (blackishness of tongue), Shirovirechana, Karnamoolika Shotha (parotitis) and their treatments are described in Chikitsa Sthana chapter no. 3.

- Seven major openings in head for pathway of Urdhwanga Raktapitta, Galagraha and Putinasya as a disease due to haemostatis of Dushtarakta, treatment of Nasagata Raktapitta, Dushta Pratishtyaya, Shiroroga, Putinasya, pungent nauseating smell from nose, loss of sense of smell, presence of Dushta Krimi in Nose and Avapida nasya as a part of treatment of Nasagata Raktapitta are mentioned in chikitsasthana chapter no. 4.
- Shirah shola, Kanthodhwansa, Swarabheda, Pratishtyaya as a sign of Rajyakshma, some formulations for treatment of Mukhavairasya, aetiopathogenesis of Swarabheda and treatment of Pratishtyaya are mentioned in chikitsasthana chapter no. 8.
- Symptoms and treatment of Shirah shoola, Shalooka, Vidalika, Taluvidradhi, Galaganda and Gandmala are described in chikitsasthana chapter no. 12.
- Dhoompana as a treatment part of Pratishtyaya is described in chikitsasthana chapter no. 18.
- Treatment of Galaganda is described in chikitsasthana chapter no. 21.
- Nasya as a treatment part in poisoning and Anjana for blindness due to poison are described in chikitsasthana chapter no. 23.
- Symptoms and treatment of Shiroroga, Pratishtyaya, Dushta Pratishtyaya, Kshawathu, Nasa Pratinaha, Putinasya, Nasikapaka, Nasarbuda, Nasarunsika, Mukharoga, Kantharoga, Netraroga, Talushosha, Vidalika as a treatment part in Netra roga and treatment of Swarbheda are described in chikitsasthana chapter no. 26

Shalaky Tantra in Siddhi Sthana

- Ayoga, Atiyoga and Samyakyoga of Shirovirechana are described in Siddhisthana chapter no. 1.
- Indication and contraindication of Shirovirechana are described in Siddhisthana chapter no. 2.
- Symptoms and treatment of Shirah shoola due to Bastivvyapat is described in Siddhisthana chapter no. 7.
- Symptoms and treatment of Shankhak, Ardhwabhedaka, Suryawarta and Anantavata, Nasya Karma in Shirorogas, types of Nasya Karma, method of Shirovirechana, Nasya, Pratimarsha Nasya, Nasya karma in pregnant lady, method of Dhoompana and aetiology of Timira roga (a type of diminution of vision) are described in Siddhisthana chapter no. 9.

Discussion and Conclusion

Anatomical part of eye, classification of diseases of eye, Nidan, Samprapti, Lakshana and treatment of Netra rogas, Kriyakalpas, introduction, classification, aetiopathogenesis, symptoms and treatment of Karna rogas. Introduction classification, aetiopathogenesis, symptoms and treatment of Nasagata rogas. Introduction, classification, symptoms and treatment of Shirorogas are described in Sushruta Samhita. After going through all the topics we can say that Shalaky Tantra in Sushruta Samhita is in a scattered manner but all concerning topics of Shalaky Tantra is present in Sushruta Samhita. So it is the first treatise in present era having voluminous knowledge of Hetu, Ling and Aushadha of Shalaky tantra. All the topics related to Charak Samhita we can say that Shalaky Tantra is an important Anga (part) of Ashtang Ayurved. Charak also described first treatment for Uttamang chikitsa its mean being the primary treatise for Kayachikitsa he knows the importance of Shalaky Tantra. Charaka Samhita is first treatise who first explained Shira

(head) as Uttamanga. Shalkya Tantra in Charak Samhita is in scattered manner.

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