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"DHUMAPANA: AYURVEDIC HERBAL SMOKE THERAPY"

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ABSTRACT

Dhumapana is a unique practice in Ayurveda, the traditional Indian system of medicine. It involves inhaling herbal smoke for various health benefits. Dhumapana is about inhaling fragrant smoke from herbs, minerals, and other natural substances. This practice is designed to keep the sensory organs healthy and prevent Dosha imbalances in the parts above the clavicular region, mainly related to Kapha dosha. There are different types of Dhumapana, each with specific purposes. For instance, it can relieve headaches, respiratory issues, or eye problems and even help with emotional well-being. Dhoomanetra is a special instrument used to perform Dhumapana. This is designed in such a way that makes sure the smoke is inhaled properly. There are specific instructions to be followed based on the type of herbs and substances used for Dhumapana. However, it's crucial to be aware of the Dhumapana contraindications, such as being too young or old or suffering from specific Pitta-related health issues. Dhumapana can have negative effects if performed improperly or excessively, although these effects can be controlled using ayurvedic treatments. Dhumapana can be included into a daily schedule to assist maintain a healthy body, mind, and senses. It is both therapeutic and preventative measures.

Keywords: Dhumapana, Dhumanetra, Dhumavarti

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda, with its focus on holistic well-being and the individual as a complete entity, offers profound wisdom and practices. In Ayurveda daily routines, known as Dinacharya, are essential to protect and strengthen the Indriyas (sensory organs), which help to perceive the jnana. Shiras is the main Sthana of Kapha Dosha¹ and the Ashraya of all the Indriyas². Incorporating Dhumapana into daily routine can protect against potential Kapha-related disorders, promoting overall health³. It is a unique practice that involves inhaling herbal smoke for various health benefits. Understanding its basics can help to explore its potential in maintaining well-being.

Materials and methods

Classical ayurvedic textbooks of *Brihathtrayis* and *Laghutrayis* served as the study's main data source. Concepts have been compiled from other classical texts of *Ayurveda* and research articles from different journals of standard e-database. In this review study, aspects regarding *Dhumapana*, *Dhumapana yantra*, types, types of *Dhumapana*, indication & contraindications, *Dhumavarti* preparation, procedure of *Dhumapana*, *Samyak Asamyak Lakshanas*, complications were compiled and reviewed & detail description was done.

DHUMAPANA

The word *Dhumapana* is comprised of two words, *Dhuma* and *Pana*. "*Dhuma*" refers to the fragrant smoke of medicinal plants, minerals, herbs, and animal parts, while "*pana*" signifies inhalation, denoting the therapeutic practice of smoking in *Ayurveda*. The practice involves inhaling medicated *Dhuma* through the nose or mouth using a specially designed pipe like instrument called *Dhumanetra* for a specified duration. ⁴

Although *Dhumapana* is an effective *Dinacharya* regimen, it is less commonly practiced in modern times. *Charaka Samhita* mentions different types of *Dhumapana*, covering descriptions, apparatus, procedures, types, drugs, indications, contraindications, proper and improper usage, characteristics of appropriate *Dhumapana*, dosages, timings, and potential complications.

Dhumavarti is made with specific drugs that have Ushna, Teekshna, Kaphahara properties to produce the desired therapeutic effect. This practice can be advised at various stages of treatment and is instrumental in preventing emotional and seasonal outbreaks while addressing diverse disease conditions. Dhumapana is the most effective treatment for vitiated Vata and Kapha dosha. Through Indriya Shodhana, the primary goal is the purification and renewal of the body, mind, and spirit. Dhumapana is advised to remove excessive Kapha dosha deposition from the skull, which offers relief right away. A balanced and healthy existence and well-being are supported by this straightforward activity, which also benefits the sense organs.

DHUMANETRA

For the purpose and practice of *Dhumapana* a special equipment is used called *Dhumanetra*. The word meaning of '*Netra*' is 'the one which can pass out' *Dhumanetra* is the one through which medicated fumes will be passed. This helps in slowing down the flow of fumes or *Dhuma* reducing the *Teekshnatva* or intensity of fumes. Depending on the condition and purpose the material, length, duration, and drugs will differ for the procedure.

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF DHUMA-NETRA^{6,7,8}

Dhumanetra is a nozzle made by similar to *Basti Netra*. *Bastinetra Dravya* like *Swarna*, *Rajatha*, tin, lead, copper, bellmetal, etc *Dhatus* even wood or reed can be used.

The shape of *Dhumanetra* is one which is *riju* (straight), with 2 openings at each end having which its size of a *Kolaasthi* fruit. *Dhumanetra* has 3 compartments, with equal spacing of 4 inches.

The length of *Dhumanetra* depends on the types of *Dhumapana*. The girth of such a pipe should be equal to that of the smaller finger at its mouth with an inner circumference as large as *Kalaaya* and its girth at its root or base should be equal to that of thumb, while the girth of the inner aperture or near at the moola should be fit for the *Dhumavarti* to insert. There

should be 2 finger spaces at both ends. The moola can be prepared with wood also⁹.

Table 1: Types of Dhumapana

Sl no	Samhitha	Types	Names of dhumapana	
1	CHARAKA ¹⁰	3	Prayogika, Vairechanika, Snaihika	
2	SUSRUTHA ¹¹	5	Prayogika, Snaihika, Vairechanika, Kasagna, Vamaniya	
3	ASTANGA SANGRAHA ¹²	5	Samana, Bruhmana, Sodhana, Vamana, Vranagna	
4	ASTANGA HRUDAYA ¹³	3	Prayogika(Samana) Snaihika(Brumhana) Vairechani- ka(Shodana)	
5	BHAVAPRAKASHA ¹⁴	6	Samana, Brumhana, Recana, Kasaha, Vaamana, Vrana-dhupana	
6	SHARANGADHARA ¹⁵	6	Samana, Brimhana, Rechana, Kasagna, Vamana, Vrana-dhupana	

Table 2: Length of *Dhumanetra*

Sl.no	Author	Prayogika	Snaihika	Vairechika	Kasagna	Vaamana	Vrana dhuma
1	Charaka ¹⁷	36A	32A	24A	-	-	-
2	Susrutha ¹⁸	48A	32A	24A	16A	16A	8A
3	Astanga Sangraha ¹⁹	40A	32A	24A	10A	10A	8A
4	Astanga Hrudaya ²⁰	40A	32A	24A	8/10A	-	-
5	Sharangdhara ²¹	40A	32A	24A	16A	12A	-
6	Bhavaprakasa ²²	40A	A32	24A	16A	10A	10A

¹ Angula is 1.95 cm approximately ¹⁶.

INDICATION²³

Acharya Charaka had advised Dhumapana in the following condition Shirogaurava (Heaviness in the head), Shirashula (Headache), Pinasa (Rhinitis), Ardhavabhedaka (Migraine), Karnashula (Otalgia), Netrashula (Eye pain), Kasaswasa (Respiratory dis-(Pharyngitis), orders), Galagraha Dantachala (Looseteeth), Nasaroga (Nasal disorders), Putinasa (Atrophic rhinitis), Dantashula (Toothache), Hanugrah (Stiffness of temporomandibular joint), Aruchi (Anorexia), Manyagraha (Stiffness of neck), Galashundi (Uvulitis), Upajihvika (Ranula), Khalitya (Alopecia), Keshapata (Hair fall), Kshavathu (Sneez-Atinidra (Excessive sleep), Swarabheda (Change in voice), Lalasrave (Excessive salivation), Netra roga (Eye disorders) etc.

CONTRAINDICATION

Individuals under the age of 12 years and over 80 years are not supposed to do the *dhumapana*.

One who follows activities like *Prajagara* (Night wakeful state), *Langhana* (Fasting / starvation), one who is in *Snehapana* (undergoing oleation therapy), *Maksikapita* (intake of Honey), *Bhuktvadadhyanna* (consumed Curd), *Ruksha* (Dry food), *Matsya* (Fish), *Yavagupana*. Individuals who have vitiation of *Pitta*, *Garbhini* (pregnancy) *Bala* (Children), *Vriddha* (oldage) in *Alpakapha* (Less *Kapha*), Pittaprakopa kala like *Greeshma*, *Sharat* (summer and autumn). Individuals suffering from diseases like *Daha* (Burning sensation) *Panduroga* (Anaemia), *Talu-shosha* (Dryness of palate), *Chardi* (Vomiting), *Siroabhigata* (Head injury), *Udgara* (Belching), *Timira* (Cataract) *Prameha* (Diabetes), *Udara* and *Unmada*, *Uraksata*

(Injury to chest), *Durbala* (Weakness), *Urdhvava-ta*. ^{24,25}.

Person who has undergone *Shodhanakarma* (Purificatory procedure), *Virikta* (After *virechana* or purgation), *Bastikarma* (After enema), After *raktamokshana* (bloodletting), Individuals having poisonous condition (*Visanartha*), *Shoka* (grief), Srama (Tiredness), Ama(Indigestion), *Murcha*(Unconsious), *Pittaja*(Pitta dominancy), *Bhrama* (Stupor), Trshna (Thirst), Ksheena (Emaciation), *Madhyapeetha*(Alcohol consumption), *Dugdapeetha* (Milk consumption)²⁷.

BENEFITS OF DHUMAPANA VIDHI

Dhumapana relieves Siro-Gaurava (heaviness in the Sirasahsula(headache), Pinasa Ardhävabhedaka (migraine), Karnasula (otolgia), Akşisula (pain in the eyes), Kasa (cough), Hikkā (hiccup), Svasa (dyspnea), Galagraha (compression of the throat), Danta dourbalya (decreased strength in the tooth), Śrotra-Ghrana-Akşi srāva (discharge from ears, nose and eyes), Putighrāna Asyagandha (putrefied smell from the nose and mouth), Dantasüla (toothache), Arocaka(anorexia), Hanugraha (lockjaw), Manyagraha (torticolis), Kandu (itching), Krmi(infective conditions), Mukha-pandută (paleness of face), Ślesma-praseka (discharge of phlegm), Vaisvarya (impaired voice), Galasundi (uvulitis), *Upajihvika*(ranula), Khalitya (baldness), piñjaratva (hair become yellowish red color), Kesapatana (hair fall), Kşavathu (sneezing), Ati-tandra (excessive drowsiness), Buddhi-moha (confusion of mind), Murcha (fainting), Atinidrā (excessive sleep). It is useful for bestowing strength to Siroruha (hair), Kapala (skull bones), Indriya (sense organs) and Svara (voice). The person who is taking *Dhoompana* will not be affected by even the strong diseases of upper clavicular region (Urdhvajatrugata Bhaga) arise due to vitiation of *Vata* and *Kapha*²⁶.

COMPLICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Practicing Dhumapana in unfit conditions causes various complications like, giddiness, fever, headache, difficulty in sensory perception, dryness and ulceration of the palate, feeling as though hot fumes are coming from the throat, vomiting, fainting, bleeding diseases, facial paralysis and even death. The same complications are produced in the individuals who practice dhumapana in excess.²⁸ Atiyoga of Dhumap-Akala Dhumapana ana or causes Badhirya(Deafness), Andhyam(Blindness), Mukatvam(Dumb), Raktapitta(bleeding disorders), Shirobhrama(Giddiness). Such complications arise due to vitiation of vata along with pitta and must be managed by Sarpipāna(ghee intake), Nāvana(errhine therapy), Anjana(collyrium) and Tarpana(satiating therapies for eyes) are advised with unctuous substances²⁹. If complications arise due to association of Pitta with Rakta Ghṛtapāna, Navana, Anjana and Tarpana with cold substances are advised. In case of complications where Kapha is associated with Pitta, one has to follow Ghṛtapāna, Nāvana nasya, Anjana and Tarpana with Rūkṣa dravyas.

Bhavaprakasha mentions that Akala or Atiyoga of Dhumapana results in complications which can be address. If so, taking ghee, Nasya, Anjana, sweet food, nourishing foods, sugarcane juice, grapes, milk, sugar with water or sweet and sour foods are taken and emesis can be induced.³⁰

Sharangadhara Samhita mentioned improper or excessive Dhumapana, person must consume ghrita as Pana, Pratimarsha Nasya, Anjana and Akshi Tarpana. Irritation can be reduced by the intake of ghee, sugarcane juice, Draksha, Ksheera, Sarkarambu, Madhura amla rasas.³¹

Table 3: MEDICINAL HERBS USED IN DHUMAPANA VARTI 32,33,34,35.

Type of Dhumap- A		Author	Drugs
ana			
Prayogika	Dhu-	Sushruta	Ingredients From Eladi Gana Except Kushtha and Tagara.[9]
mapana		Charaka	Harenuka, Priyangu, Prthvika, Kesara, Nakha, Hrivera, Candana, Patra, Twak,
			Ela, Usira, Padmaka, Dhyamaka, Madhuka, Jatamamsi, Guggulu, Aguru, Sarka-

		ra, Nyagrodha Twak, Aswatha, Plaksha, Lodra, Vanya, Sarjarasa, Musta,			
		Saileya, Kamala, Utpala, Srivestaka, Sallaki, Sukabarha			
Shamana	Vagbhatta	Sallaki, Laksha, Pritvika, Kamala, Utpala, Nyagrodha, Udumbara, Aswatha,			
		Plaksha, Lodra, Sita(Jathipuspa), Yastimadhu, Suvarna Twak(Haridra),			
		Padmaka, Raktayastika (Manjista) Except Kusta and Tagara.			
Snaihik Dhumapa-	Susrutha	Snehaphalasara which is the Essence/Oils of Seeds of Fatty Fruits, Madhuch-			
na		chishta, Sarjarasa, Guggulu Etc.			
	Charaka	Jivaka Rsabhaka Etc Drugs with Vasa, Ghrita, Madhuchista			
mrudu	Vagbhatta	Agaru, Guggulu, Musta, Sthauneya, Saileya, Nalada, Usira, Valaka, Varanga,			
		Kaunti, Madhuka, Vilvamajja, Elavaluka, Srivestaka, Sarjarasa, Dhyamaka,			
		Madana, Plava, Sallaki, Kumkuma, Masha, Yava, Kunduruka, Tila, Phala&			
		Saara Sneha, Meda, Majja, Vasa, Ghrita.			
Vairecanika Dhu-	Susrutha	Vidanga, Apamarga, Madhushigru.			
mapana	Charaka	Sveta, Jyothismati, Haritala, Manahsila, Agaru, Patra Etc Drugs Mentioned			
		Agaruvadi Taila Except Kusta and Tagara			
Tikshna dhumapa- Vagbhatta		Jyothismati, Nisa, Dasamula, Manohva, Haratala, Laksha, Sveta, Phalatraya,			
na		Teekshna Murdhavirechana Dravyas			
Kasagna	Susrutha	Bruhati, Kantakari, Trikatu, Kasamarda, Hingu, Ingudi, Tvak, Manashila,			
		Guduchi, Karkatashrungi and Other Kasaghna Drugs			
Svasahara	Bhavamisra	Kantakari, Trikatu			
	Sharagdhara	Maricha And Kshudra Moola			
Vamaniya dhu-	Susrutha	Varti Of Snayu, Charma, Khura, Shrunga, Karkatasthi/Bone of Crab, Dried Fish			
mapana		and Meat, Worms/Insects And Other Vamaka/Emetic Drugs			
	Bhavamisra	Charma, Snayu			
Vrana	Bhavamisra, sha-	Nimba, Vacha			
	rangdhara				

In these haridra is used in both shamana and tikshna dhumapana. Shallaki and yastimadhu common for mrudu and shamana. For samana dhuma paste of eladi gana is used. In brumhana kalka of sarjarasa for recana tikshna dravya can be used. Even swasahara dhumapana told by Bhavamisra by using kantakari and trikatu. For vamana dhuma paste of skins and tendons used and for Vrana Dhupana, Nimba and vacha can be used³⁶.

DHUMAVARTI

A straight stick of *Ishika* of 12 *Angula* in length, is kept in water overnight. All the herbs mentioned in classics for preparation of *Dhumavarti* are made into a paste and applied to the *Ishika* and dried. Apply the paste 5 times. *Varti* must be of 8 *angula* length, and of thumb size thick at the center portion and ends should be tapered like a barley grain. The length of the *varti* 8 *angulas*. it should be dried well in shade. After properly drying the *varti*, remove the *ishika*

stalk to make it hollow. This hollow portion facilitates movement of air inside it. While performing *Dhoomapana, Sneha (ghrita* or *taila)* is applied to *varti*, and tip is ignited. It is placed at the one end of *Dhumanetra*, and smokes are inhaled. ³⁷.

PROCEDURE OF DHUMAPANA

Person should be sitting straight comfortable, cheerful, looking straight and downwards and without idleness³⁸ asked to concentrate on tip of the nose. Attentive with mouth open and inhaling smoke through each nostril, closing one nostril while inhaling through the other. It should be started nasal route first and then by oral route. If the doshas get localized in nose and head, then it can be start from oral first also. The individual should keep their mouth open, close one nostril, and inhale dhuma through the other while doing so. Whether inhaling via the nose or the mouth, Dhuma should only exhale through the mouth. Loss of eyesight results from exhaling *Dhuma* through the nose.

Method of administration – Inhaling and Exhalation 3 times each.

Repetition- around 3 puffs of 3 repetitions gives around total 9 times.

The procedure is repeated alternately by mouth and nose. Inhalation should be done thrice; three such bouts should be done each time³⁹.

Daily indication –maximum of two times for *shamana dhumapana*, once for *Brumhana*, 3 to 4 times for *Shodana Dhumapana* by *Vagbhatta* ⁴⁰.

Snigdha Dhumapana should be done during daytime, once only, Madyama Dhumapana twice and Shodhana Dhumapana three or four times⁴¹.

In *Prayogika* and *Shodana Dhumapana* the inhalation of smoke mostly through the nasal path is told. Contrary to this, the inhalation of smoke only through the mouth is advised in *kasaghna* and *Vamaniya Dhumapana*. But in general, the smoke is inhaled three or four times through each nostril and mouth⁴². *Vairechanika Dhumapana* is continued for a longer duration till the complete elimination of the doshas.

PRECAUTIONS FOR DHUMAPANA

Precautions should be taken because overuse and incorrect timely done *Dhumapana* may lead to impairment in sense organs like deafness, aphasia, loss of sight, epistaxis, giddiness etc.

While inhaling medicated smoke one should avoid panic mind, dust, and anger⁴³. Exhaling of *dhuma* only through mouth not by nasal route⁴⁴.

Along with these untimely smoking causes giddiness, fainting, headache, and severe loss of smell, hearing, sight and taste⁴⁵.

TIME OF ADMINISTRATION OF DHUMAPA-NA

Mrudu dhuma is administered at the end of sneezing, yawning, voiding of urine and faeces, sexual intercourse, surgery, laughing and brushing of teeth. Madhyama dhuma(medium smoke) is administered in all above cases mentioned and after dinner and Nasya. Virecana dhuma is indicated after sleep, Nasya, Anjana, Snana and Vamana.

Table 4: DHUMAPANA KALA ACCORDING TO CLASSICAL TEXTS

Author	Prayogika	Snaihika	Virechanika
Charak ⁴⁶	8	3-4	As strength of doshas
Susruta ⁴⁷	4	5	3
Astanga Sangraha ⁴⁸	8	11	5
Astanga Hridyam	10	8	5

Table 5: DIFFERENT DHUMAPANA KALA

Author	Prayogika(8)	Snaihika(11)	Virechanika(5)	
	1. Night,	1. At the end of sneezing	1. Tikshna nasya	
	2. Elimination of urine,	2. Sexual intercourse	2. Anjana	
Vagbhatta ⁴⁸	3. Feces	3. Laughing	3. Vamana	
ragonana	4. Cleaning of teeth	4. Sitting for long periods	4. Snana	
	5. Sudation therapy	5. Yawning	5. Divaswapna	
	6. Nasal medication	6. Elimination of urine	_	
	7. Taking of food	7. Feces		
	8. Surgical operation	8. Wasing of teeth		
		9. Tarpana		
		10. Putapaka		
		11. Surgical operation		

SAMYAK DHUMAPANA LAKSHANA

The features of Samyak Dhumapana according to Acharya Charaka are Kanta laghutva (feeling of

lightness in the throat), *Shiro laghutva* (feeling of lightness in the head), *Uraha laghutva* (feeling of lightness in the chest), *Kaphascha tanutam praptah* (Liquification of *Kapha*).⁴⁹

In Ashtanga Sangraha, Hruth Shuddhi, Kanta Shuddhi, Indriya Shuddhi and Shiro laghutva are explained as Samyak Dhumapana lakshanas.⁵⁰

Whereas *Acharya Susrutha* explains the *Samyak Dhumapana lakshanas* as *Prasanna Indriya*, *vak* and *manas* (happiness of sense organs, speech and mind), *Druda kesha* (strengthens the hairs), provides *vishada* and *sughandha* (aroma) to the mouth.⁵¹

ASAMYAK DHUMAPANA LAKSHANA

Heena (inadequate) yoga features of Dhumapana according to Ashtanga Sangraha explains that Dosha vriddhi occurs hence Roga vriddhi as heena Dhumapana lakshana⁵². Asamyak Dhumapana lakshanas are according to Acharya Sushrutha are Taalu and gala shosha, Paridaha (dryness and burning sensation in the palate, throat), Pipasa (thirst), Mandakarna and drushti.⁵³ Acharya Charaka says ayoga of Dhumapana Lakshana avishudha svara(slurred speech), Kantascha kapha (feeling of kapha in throat) and Masthaka Sthimitha (numbness in head).

ATIYOGA

Ati yoga lakshanas of Dhumapana are Taalu, shiras and Kanta Shosha (dryness of palate, head and throat), Trushna (thirst), moha(confusion)⁵⁴.

Ati rakta srava (excessive bleeding from the nose), Shiroruja (headache), Ati bhrama (giddiness), Murcha (unconsciousness), Indriyas upatapa (disturbances of the sense organs and becomes hot).

DISCUSSION

Preventive health is a primary objective of *Ayurveda*, and it can be achieved by following the principles of *Ayurveda Dinacharya*, *Ritucharya etc*. The main intention of *Dinacharya* is *Indriyashuddi* (cleansing the sense organs) and mainly focused on preventing the accumulation of *Doshas*.

The majority of Indriyas situated Urdwajathrugata Bhaga (above the clavicular region) which is prone to Kapha dosha imbalances in turn affecting the In-

driyas. Dhumapana procedure helps in removing *Kapha Dosha* from the head and upper clavicular parts⁵⁵ and stands as an effective method for addressing imbalance of *Kapha dosha*.

Dhumapana have the ability to stimulate the respiratory center present in the brain stem. This stimulation can potentially trigger normal physiological functions in the respiratory system, aiding in maintaining respiratory health. It is aimed at preserving the health of the respiratory and olfactory systems. Thus, indirectly Dhumapana contributes to the protection and preservation of the Indriyas, which are crucial for perceiving and processing knowledge.

Shamana or Madhyama Dhumapana, which focus on reducing exacerbated Kapha dosha and assisting in its removal, can be used interchangeably with Prayogika Dhumapana. On the other side, Tikshna or Shodhana Dhumapana, which are synonyms for this technique, is specifically advised for disorders resulting from morbid Kaphadosha. Snaihika Dhumapana, also known as Snigdha or Brimhana, is a form of Dhumapana that is particularly useful for treating Vata dosha-related ailments. Its relevance and adaptability fit in seamlessly with Ayurveda's comprehensive approach to health and longitivity. Even though medicated *Dhoomapana* is explained so detail, it is one among most neglected part in Dinacharya and not commonly practiced today. Individuals who incorporate Dhumapana into their daily Dinacharya experience milder forms of *Urdhavajatrugata roga*, even when exposed to potent causative factors.

CONCLUSION

Dhumapana not only acts as a preventive measure against emotional and seasonal disturbances but also proves beneficial in managing various health conditions. It is specifically designed to nourish and fortify the fundamental elements, sensory centers, mental faculties, physical body, and vital aspects of the human system. Serving as both a curative and preventive measure, it promotes emotional and seasonal balance and is recommended for various health conditions.

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