

## A REVIEW ARTICLE ON *LEPA KALPANA* AND *VISHAGHNA LEPA* IN DIFFERENT BITE CONDITIONS

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### ABSTRACT

*Agad tantra* is branch of *astang ayurveda*. acharya charak has mentioned *chaturvishanti upkarma* and *lepa* is one among them. Local application of medication will remove poison immediately before absorption. There are various types of *lepa* used for treatment of various diseases Ayurveda a science of life divided into eight main branches including *Agadtantra*. There are 24 modalities given by various Acharyas for treating poisonous cases called as *chaturvishanti vish upakrama*. *Lepa* is one of them. There are four main types of action of poison-local, remote, local and remote and general. *Lepa* is used for treating local action of poison. Poison should be removed from the bite site (*dansh sthana*) by applying *lepa* locally at that site if whole poison was not removed then it remains may recur the toxic effects or it will get converted into *dooshivisha*. There are various types of *lepa* used for treating various diseases. *Vishaghna lepa* is used as antipoisonous *lepa* which are described by various *Samhitas*. In *brihatrayi* i.e. *charaksamhita*, *sushrutsamhita* and *ashtangahridayam vishaghna lepa* is dispersed in different *sthana*. It is mostly for treating *sarpdamsha* (snakebite), *vruchikdamsha* (scorpion bite) and *keetvisha* (insect bite) etc. Here the article will collect the all *lepa* described in *brihatrayi* which are mainly used for *sarpdansha*, *vruchikdansha* and *keetdamsha*.

**Keywords:** *Vishaghna Lepa*, *Bruhatraye*, *churvinshti vish upakrama* etc.

### INTRODUCTION

The goal of medicine is to prevent disease, restore health and reduce suffering. Understanding and appropriately treating pain is an important component of this goal. In allopathic science analgesics are given in the form

of topical application is said to provide the therapeutic benefits by reaching the local tissue and with minimal side effects. In Ayurveda, the topical applications are known as *lepas* and this comes under the broad heading of *ba-*

*hiparimarjanachikitsa*<sup>[1]</sup> i.e External or local measures of treatment. Skin is the largest protective barrier in the body which prevents invasion of microorganism foreign substances in the body. The main area of *bahiparimarjanachikitsa* is *twak* (skin) and the treatments used in the skin like *Abhyanga*, *Swedana*, *Pralepa*, *Pparisheka*, *Unmardana* etc.

According to *Sharangdhar Samhita* there are three main types of lepa<sup>[2]</sup>– *doshagha*, *vishaghna* and *varnyalepa*. Among this *vishaghnalepa* is used for treating local action of poison or contagious poison and various bites. At the time of snake bite or scorpion bite firstly affected the skin area, poison enters in the skin by fangs or arches, application of *Vishaghna lepa* is done to affected area poison will be absorbed directly by *lepa*& also it is neutralize the toxic effect of poisonous bite by the lepa. After that the poison doesn't enter in the body. In another way, after treating the poisonous case the local area of bite shows various changes such as inflammation, blisters, vesication etc. this can be treated by *Vishaghnalepa*. *Lepa* will absorb remaining amount of poisoning at the bite site. There are two way treatments by *lepa chikitsa*.

#### Aim and Objectives-

- To present a comprehensive aspect of *Lepa Kalpana*.
- To explain the role of *Lepa* i.e. local medicinal application in various types of poisonous bite condition.
- To present the various anti-poisonous *Lepa* i.e. *VishaghnaLepa* mentioned in three basic text books of Ayurveda i.e. *Bruhatraye*.

#### Materials and Methods-

- References of *VishaghnaLepa* have been collected from *Brihatrayi* i.e *Charaksamhita*, *Sushrutsamhita* and *Ashtanghridayam*.
- All data is compiled, analyzed and discussed through and in depth understanding about *lepa* mentioned in Ayurvedic texts.

#### Concept of *Lepa Kalpana* (local medicinal application)–

##### Definition of *Lepa*<sup>[3]</sup>

Either *ardryadravya* or *shushkadravyas* with water, are ground well and is made into a paste and are used for external application are called *lepas*.

##### Synonyms<sup>[4]</sup>

The synonyms of *lepa* are *lipta*, *lepna*, *aalepa* etc.

##### Types of *lepa*-

- *Sharangdhara Samhita* has mentioned 3 types of *Lepa* based on thickness of layer of *Lepa* should apply.
  1. *Doshagha lepa*- This types of lepa is used to pacify vitiated *Doshas*.
  2. *Vishaghna lepa*- This types of lepa is used to pacify *Visha* (Poison).
  3. *Varnyalepa* -These types of *lepa* is used to enhance one's beauty.
- *SushrutSamhita*<sup>[5]</sup>has mentioned 3 types of *Lepa*–
  - 1) *Pralepa*<sup>[6]</sup>– This type of lepa has properties like *SheethaGuna* (cooling nature, *tanu* (thin), *Vishoshi* (compressing), *Avishoshi* (non-compressing).
  - 2) *Pradeha*<sup>[7]</sup>–This particular *lepa* has actions like *sheeta/Ushna* (either cooling or

heating effect), thick or thin, *Avishoshi* (non-compressive).

3) **Alep**<sup>[8]</sup>—This *lepa* has mixed moderate action of *pradeha* and *pralepa*.

• *Ashtangasangraha* has mentioned 10 different types of *Lepa*<sup>[9]</sup>—

1) **Snaihika**<sup>[10]</sup>— This type of *lepa* contains *sneha* (oily) *dravya* and used on *vatajvikara*.

2) **Nirvapana**<sup>[11]</sup>—This type of *lepa* contains *sheetaldravya* & used in *pittajvikar*, *vishvikar*, *agnidagdha* (burn), *kshardagdha* etc.

3) **Pasadena**<sup>[12]</sup> - This *lepa* is same as *nirvapana* but used in *vadushitraktavikara*.

4) **Sthambhan**<sup>[13]</sup> - called as *sasthmbhan* (anticoagulant) which is used in excess bleeding.

5) **Vilayana**<sup>[14]</sup>— this type of *lepa* used in *apakvashotha* (swelling), *kaphamedavilayana*, *grathitshotha* containing *Ushna*-*Veeryadravya*.

6) **Pachana**<sup>[15]</sup>—this *lepa* contains *Ushna* and *ruksha*-*Veeryadravya* and used in *pachyamanshothajvrana*.

7) **Peedana**<sup>[16]</sup> - this *lepa* contains *ruksh* and *picchildravya* used on small *vrana*.

8) **Shodhana**<sup>[17]</sup>—this *lepa* is used in *shodhana* of *vrana*.

9) **Ropana**<sup>[18]</sup>— this *lepa* is used for *ropana* of *vrana*.

10) **Savarnikarana**<sup>[19]</sup> - this type of *lepa* is used for changing wound colour to skin colour.

**Pramana of lepa**— The thickness of *lepa* should be of *ardramahishcharma* mentioned in *SusrutSamhita* and *SharangdharSamhita*

<sup>[20]</sup>. According to *Acharya Charaka* the thickness should be *tribhagangushtha*<sup>[21]</sup> (one third part of finger).

According to *Sharangdhara*<sup>[22]</sup>

1. *Doshaghna lepa*-1/4 *anguli* thick

2. *Vishaghnalepa*-1/3 *anguli* thick

3. *Varnyalepa* -1/2 *anguli* thick

**SnehaPramana in lepa**<sup>[23]</sup>—

According to *Susrut Samhita*, when *lepa* is used for *doshajvikara* the addition of *sneha* are depends on *dosha*. The *pramana* are of follow—

1. *VatajShotha*-1/4 part of *lepa*.

2. *PittajShotha*-1/6 part of *lepa*.

3. *Kaphaj Shotha*-1/8 part of *lepa*

**Prayojya of lepa**<sup>[24]</sup>—(Benefits of *lepa*)

Just like *agni* getting *shantha* after putting water, *dosha* also get pacified after *lepana*. *Lepa* cures pain and it also useful in *shodhana*, *shophara*, *utsadana* and *ropana* of *vrana*.

**Possible modes of action of lepa**—

In the chapter *Dhamnivyakaranadhyaya*<sup>[25]</sup> *Aacharya Sushruta* explains *dhamanis* (artery) which are *oordhwagata*, *adhogata*, and *tiryakagata*. Here he explains four *tiryakgamisiras* (veins). Out of these four, each divide gradually hundred and thousand times and thus becomes innumerable. By this the body is covered like network bound and pervaded their openings are attached to hair follicle which carry sweat and replenish *rasa* inside and outside. Through them only the *Veerya* of *Abhyanga*, *Snana*, and *Lepa* enter the body after being transformed in skin.

The physicochemical properties of a drug in a topical dosage from affect that drugs transdermal delivery and topical bioavailability. The molecules of the formulation after pe-

netrating through the stratum corneum and hence into viable epidermis and dermis produce its characteristics pharmacological

**Table1:** VishghnaLepa described in Brihatrayi for various bite (Damsha)-

Sr. no.	Type of Damsha (bite)	Charak Samhita	SushrutSamhita	VagbhatSamhita
1	Sarpdamsha	-	-	Karnamaladilepa <sup>[26]</sup> , Chrtinadilepa (Gunjadilepa) <sup>[27]</sup> , Himvan Agada <sup>[28]</sup> , Sarpidhanyadilepa <sup>[29]</sup> , Karviradilepa <sup>[30]</sup>
2	Vruchikdamsha	Kapotvitadiyog <sup>[31]</sup>	Matulungadiyog <sup>[32]</sup>	Matulungadiyog <sup>[33]</sup> Hingvadilepa <sup>[34]</sup> Arjunadilepa <sup>[35]</sup> Pathyadilepa <sup>[36]</sup> Nagradilepa <sup>[37]</sup> Bachnagadilepa <sup>[38]</sup> Nagpurishadilepa <sup>[39]</sup>
3	Lutadamsha	Chandanadilepa <sup>[40]</sup> , Katabhyadilepa <sup>[41]</sup>	Vanshtwagadilepa <sup>[42]</sup> , Arkmuladilepa <sup>[43]</sup>	Madhusaindhvadilepa <sup>[44]</sup> , Bodhishleshmantakadilepa <sup>[45]</sup> , Padmaka Agada <sup>[46]</sup> Hriberadilepa <sup>[47]</sup> , Rodhradilepa <sup>[48]</sup>
4	Mushakadamsha	-	Shirishadilepa <sup>[49]</sup>	Shirishadilepa <sup>[50]</sup> Agardhumadilepa <sup>[51]</sup> , Palindadilepa <sup>[52]</sup> , Ankoladilepa <sup>[53]</sup> , Sinduvaradilepa <sup>[54]</sup> ,
5	Shatapadidamsha	Swarjikyadyayog <sup>[55]</sup>		
6	Gruhagodhadamsha	Kapithadiyog <sup>[56]</sup>		
7	Pipilikadamsha	Krushnvalmikmruttikadiyog <sup>[57]</sup>		
8	Sarvkeetdamsha	Kakandakadiyog <sup>[58]</sup> , Mrutsanjivan Agada <sup>[59]</sup> , Gandhahasti Agada <sup>[60]</sup> , Mahagandhhasti Agada <sup>[61]</sup> , Mansyadyog <sup>[62]</sup> , Kshirivrukshadilepa <sup>[63]</sup> ,Muktalepa <sup>[64]</sup>	Panchshirish Agada <sup>[65]</sup>	Chandrodaya Agada <sup>[66]</sup>
9	Shukvrundamsha		Chakradi Agada <sup>[67]</sup> , Bhrungadi agada <sup>[68]</sup>	
10	Nakhadantavrana			Somvalkadilepa <sup>[69]</sup>

## DISCUSSION

Route of administration are basically classifying according to the target effect of drugs such as effect is local or systemic. In topical route of drug administration drugs are applied to body surface like skin or mucous membrane. Topical application prevents the metabolism of drugs in the liver and increases the bioavailability of the drug and also provides its effects directly on site of action. In Ayurveda topical applications are known as *lepas* and called as *bahiparimarjanchikitsa*. *Aacharya Sharangdhara* entitled the name *Vishaghna* which nullifies the poisonous effect and it is one among *Chaturvinshshati Vish upakrama*<sup>[70]</sup> according to *Charaka*. *Vagbhata* and *susruta* also had given prime importance. Most of *vishghna lepas* are *Tri-doshhara* mainly *pittahara* and *sheetal* (cool) in nature. Mode of administration of *lepa* plays an important role in absorbing a poison. *Charakacharya* explained importance of *Agada (vishagna) lepa* in *kushthchikitsa*, if the spot which is stony hard, rough, benumbed, stable, and old then one can use *Agadlepa's* in form of *lepa, pana, Anjan* and *Nasya*<sup>[71]</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

By observing all indication of *Agadlepa (vishaghna)* mentioned by *Charakacharya*, *lepas* are not only restricted to poisonous bite also used in *twakvikaras* and it supportive to cure diseases involved in most of other diseases. If the bite is unknown one can use *sarv kitharlepa* which acts on all types of *vishadamsha* (poisonous bites). *Vishaghna lepas* are less used and less known, knowledge of different varieties of *lepa* available in dif-

ferent forms may help future research scholars and physician to use it an appropriate way.

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