

# **INTERNATIONAL AYURVEDIC MEDICAL JOURNAL**







**Research Article** ISSN: 2320-5091 **Impact Factor: 6.719** 

# A CLINICAL STUDY TO EVALUATE THE EFFICACY OF GUDUCHYADI TAILA MATRABASTI IN VANDHYATWA W.S.R. TO ENDOMETRIAL RECEPTIVITY

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https://doi.org/10.46607/iamj0909092021

(Published Online: September 2021)

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Article Received: 25/08//2021 - Peer Reviewed: 04/09/2021 - Accepted for Publication: 05/09/2021



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#### **ABSTRACT**

Infertility is a public health issue in India and many other developing countries because of its high prevalence and especially due to its serious social implications. According to the data of WHO, more than 180 million couples in developing countries agonise from primary or secondary infertility. The social stigma of childlessness still leads to isolation and abandonment in many communities. Although there is a lot of advancement in infertility care, the availability, affordability and effectiveness are still very low. Ayurveda described the disease vandhyatwa as equivalent to infertility. In Ayurveda, the management of Vandhyatwa mainly focuses on the correction of garbha sambahava samagris. Kshetra which is one among them is considered as the prime factor for conception. Kshetra can be taken as the female reproductive system, a well-prepared endometrium for implantation. Optimal endometrial receptivity leads to proper implantation of the embryo, which is the foundation of a healthy pregnancy. Implantation failure due to reduced endometrial receptivity is one of the major causes of infertility. In this present study, the endometrial receptivity was assessed with Applebaum's uterine score and Guduchyadi taila matrabasti has been administered to increase the receptivity of the endometrium. After the intervention, the results obtained showed significant improvement in endometrial receptivity.

Keywords: Vandhyatwa, Applebaum's scoring, Matrabasti, Guduchyadi taila

#### INTRODUCTION

Infertility is a disease characterized by the failure to establish a clinical pregnancy after 12 months of regular and unprotected sexual intercourse. It is reported that 1 in 8 couples have difficulty getting pregnant or sustaining pregnancy<sup>1</sup>. This has been accompanied by a major shift in childbearing age, delay in age of marriage, increase usage of contraception etc. The aetiology of female infertility is divided into ovulation disorders, uterine abnormalities, tubal and peritoneal factor<sup>2</sup>. Description of Infertility is available in most of the Ayurvedic classics; however, it is not described as a disease anywhere in Brihatrayees rather vandyatwa is mentioned as a complication of all the yonirogas and arthava dushti. Vandyatwa and its bheda are mentioned in Haritha Samhitha<sup>3</sup>, but further details like aetiology, prognosis and treatment references are not available. Acharya susrutha states, Ritu, Kshetra, Ambu and Beeja are the essential factors for conception<sup>4</sup>. If there is *dushti* in any of these, it will lead to infertility. Kshetra can be considered as the female reproductive system, a well-prepared endometrium for the implantation. Fertility in human beings and other mammalian species is determined by coetaneous events that take place during the development of blastocyst and implantation. Uterine receptivity is defined as a restricted period when the uterus can receive the blastocyst and assist implanation<sup>5</sup>. Infertility due to endometrial factors can be considered as kshetra dushti in Ayurveda. Researchers on this endometrial factor are least explored in infertility assessment. Kshetra dushti can be considered as a vata predominant tridoshaja condition; any abnormalities in tridosha are collectively responsible for the defective endometrial formation. Normalization of vatadosha is the primary management in Vandyatwa. Basti is said to be paramoushadhi for treating vataja roga<sup>6</sup>. Matrabasti is highly beneficial for woman those who are infertile<sup>7</sup>. Guduchyadi taila which is mentioned in Bhavaprakasa vatarakthadhikara says it is streenaam garbada, pumsavana and vatahara<sup>8</sup>. Guduchi is the main ingredient which is having rasayana property and it is proved to be a powerful immunomodulator. Hence this clinical trial

has been taken to understand the efficacy of *Guduchyadi taila* to enhance endometrial receptivity.

#### **AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

To evaluate the efficacy of *guduchyadi taila matra-basti* in *vandhyatwa* w.s.r. to endometrial receptivity.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study was carried out on 20 patients attending OPD of Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Ayurveda Hospital, Udupi.

# Aims and Objectives of the study

To evaluate the efficacy of *Guduchyadi Taila Matra-basti* in *Vandhyatwa* w.s.r to endometrial Receptivity.

#### SOURCE OF THE DATA

A minimum of 20 patients suffering from primary and secondary infertility, thoroughly interrogated and analysed based on the diagnostic criteria were selected for study from OPD and IPD of Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Ayurvedic Hospital Kuthpady, Udupi.

#### STUDY DESIGN

It is a single-blind clinical study with pre-test and post-test design.

#### METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

20 patients suffering from unexplained infertility were administered with *guduchyadi taila matrabasti*. A special case proforma was prepared including case history, physical examination, laboratory investigations, USG and HSG report. Patients were thoroughly evaluated and selected for the study.

## **INCLUSION CRITERIA**

- Females aged between 20-40years
- Patients with unexplained infertility
- Patients with normal ovulation study and HSG
- Patients with the regular menstrual cycle.
- Patients with partners having normal semenogram

#### **EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

- Uterus with congenital anomalies
- Patient with active pelvic infection
- Patient presenting with dysfunctional uterine bleeding
- Patients suffering from genital tuberculosis
- Patients with hydrosalphinx and tubal block

- Patients with a bad obstetric history
- Any other systemic illness
- Patients with partners having a male cause of infertility including coital problems.

**Ethical clearance**: The study was cleared by the institutional Ethical Committee before the initiation of the study and written consent was obtained from the patient.

#### **INVESTIGATIONS**

- Blood routine-HB, TC, DC, ESR, RBS
- Trans vaginal/Abdominal USG
- Ovulation study/ HSG
- Colour Doppler study for Applebaum scoring system.
- Hormonal assay & Urine Routine if necessary

#### INTERVENTION

Guduchyadi taila matrabasthi was administered in the dosage of 60ml for 7 consecutive days from the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the menstrual cycle. This procedure was repeated for 2 consecutive cycles.

Duration of the study

Intervention:2 months

Follow up: 1 month

Total Duration: 3 months

#### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Signs and symptoms will be evaluated based on subjective and objective parameters.

## A. SUBJECTIVE PARAMETERS

Early signs of pregnancy

#### B. OBJECTIVE PARAMETERS

Evidence of endometrial receptivity by Applebaum's scoring (USSR)<sup>9</sup>

Patient conceived as evidenced by UPT and USG

#### **OBSERVATION AND RESULTS**

**Table 1:** Showing Results

Table no.	Criteria	BT -mean	AT – mean	P-value	Inference
1	Quantity of bleeding	1.08	0.41	0.01	Significant
2	colour of menstrual blood	1.23	0.61	0.005	Significant
3	Vaginal discharge	1.17	0.42	0.02	Significant
4	Dysmenorrhea	2.12	1.00	0.009	Significant
5	Endometrial Layering	0.85	0.70	0.18	Non-significant
6	Myometrial echogenicity	1.00	0.13	0.00	Highly Significant
7	Myometrial contractions	0.87	0.25	0.05	Non-Significant
8.	Uterine artery doppler	1.00	1.50	0.16	Non-Significant
9.	Endometrial thickness	7.31	10.58	0.00	Highly Significant
10.	Endometrial blood flow in	1.7	2.20	0.04	Significant
	Zone -3				
11.	Total USSR score	10.40	12.15	.003	Significant

- ➤ The statistical analysis revealed that the mean score of the quantity of bleeding 1.08 (BT) changed to 0.41 (AT) and this was statistically significant with a P-value of 0.014.
- ➤ The statistical analysis revealed the mean score of vaginal discharge BT is 1.17 and AT is 0.42, which is statistically significant with a P-value of 0.02.

➤ The statistical analysis revealed the mean score of dysmenorrhea BT is 2.12 and AT is 0.75, which is statistically significant with a value of 0.09.

#### **Endometrial Parameters**

➤ The statistical analysis revealed while comparing the Endometrial Layering, before treatment (mean 0.85) to after treatment (mean0.70) with Wilcoxon signed-rank test, 4 subjects showed negative

- ranks,1 subject showed positive ranks and 15 subjects showed no change with z value -1.342 and p-value 0.180 which is statistically not significant.
- ➤ The statistical analysis revealed the myometrial contractions, before treatment (mean 0.87) to after treatment (mean 0.25) with Wilcoxon signed-rank test, 6 subjects showed negative ranks,1 subject showed positive ranks and 1 subject showed no change with z value -1.89 and p-value 0.05 which is statistically not significant.
- ➤ The statistical analysis revealed the myometrial echogenicity, before treatment (mean 1.00) to after treatment (mean 0.13) with Wilcoxon signed-rank test, 13 subjects showed negative ranks, 00 subjects showed positive ranks and 2 subjects showed no change with z value -3.60 and p-value 0.00 which is statistically highly significant.
- ➤ The statistical analysis revealed the uterine artery Doppler, before treatment (mean 1.00) to after treatment (mean 1.50) with Wilcoxon signed-rank test, 6 subjects showed negative ranks,11 subjects showed positive ranks and 3 subjects showed no change with z value -1.37 and p-value 0.168 which is statistically not significant.
- ➤ The mean of Endometrial thickness before the treatment was 7.31mm after the treatment was 10.05mm and the mean difference is 3.27mm, which is statistically highly significant with a p-value of 0.000
- ➤ The mean of Endometrial blood flow in zone 3, before treatment, was 1.70 and after the treatment was 2.20 and the mean difference is 0.50, which is statistically significant with a 0.04 p-value.
- ➤ The total score of USSR means before the treatment was 10.40 after the treatment was 12.15 and the mean difference is 2.36, which is statistically significant with a p-value of 0.52

#### DISCUSSION

#### DISCUSSION ON DISEASE CONDITION

The birth of a new human life is one of the most miraculous inventions of nature and marks completeness to a couple's life. Therefore, infertility can cause a lot of psychosocial impairments including stress,

anxiety, depression, diminished self-esteem, declined sexual satisfaction and reduced quality of life. Infertility has been increasing enormously for the last few decades due to unhealthy diet habits, undue stress, bizarre sleep routine, environmental pollutants and late marriages. According to a survey by the Indian Council for medical research, 20 million couples in India are infertile. Despite the advancement in the medical department and has improved outcomes for infertile couples, treatment attempts remain largely unsuccessful. According to Ayurveda, a normal conception takes place when Ritu, kshetra, Ambu and Beeja unite in their normalcy. Hence Ayurveda aims to correct these four factors for infertility management. Vata dosha is one of the prime causes for this abnormality according to different references along with dhathuksaya and Agni mandhya. Guduchyadi taila, mentioned in Bhavaprakasa Madhyama Khanda describes in phalasruthi that it is streenaam garbada and vatahara. Guduchi being the main ingredient having rasayana property and it is already proven as a powerful immunomodulator. This study was taken up to assess the efficacy of Guduchyadi taila matrabasthi in the management of stree vandhytwa after considering all the above aspects and also the prevalent rate of infertility.

In Ayurveda, the formation of the endometrium is not precisely defined, but navina raja sthapana can be considered as the regenerative phase of the endometrium. The endometrium is the innermost lining of the uterus, which plays an indispensable role in the menstrual cycle as well as pregnancy. Infertility due to implantation failure is not directly referred to anywhere in Ayurvedic Samhita. But the diseases in which we could assume that conception doesn't take place due to implantation defects are Rakthaja, Arajaska, and vamini and vandhya yoni vyapads<sup>10,11,12</sup>. Arthava is the upadhathu of rasa and it works as dhathuroopa during fertilization by providing poshana and Dharana to the embryo. Acharya kasyapa and chakrapani considered artava as the eighth dhathu. Vata in its normal state of function sustains all the organs of the body. As explained by Acharya Charaka, paramanu samyoga and vibhaga is a function of Vata dosha. Acharva Susrutha mentions that the development of the fetus occurs by the rasa provided by the mother with the help of Vata. In the umbilical region, garbha lies in the seat of jyothi (agni). Vayu and agni demarcate and dilate the srothas in all directions during the early stages of pregnancy. Apart from the above functions, vata is responsible for sharira dhatu vyuhana karma. Structural abnormalities like sankocha (constriction), soursheerya (pores formation), shosha (atrophy), etc. are seen in vitiation of vata dosha. The primary function of pitta is pachaka karma.ie transformation of one substance into another and is done by paka karma. Also, Pitta exhibits ashraya ashrayi relation with rakta. Thus, the reduction of pitta leads to the reduction of rakta as well. Furthermore, vitiated pitta causes apakthi- indigestion which leads to ama formation and causes srothorodha and it ultimately obstructs Rasavaha srothas and its upadhathu artava. The function of kapha is upachaya which means development. Kapha is predominant of pruthwi and aap mahabhutha. Acharya susrutha mentioned during garbhakala pruthwi and aap does the function of samhanana and Kledana respectively. And the fetus gets nourished by upasneha and upaweda. Hence vitiated kapha can hamper fetal nourishment. The process of cell division and regeneration from the basal layer of endometrium can be understood as samyoga and vibhaga karma of vata. During the early stage of pregnancy, there will be enlargement of uterine glands and blood vessels in the endometrium this can be correlated with the statement of Sushruta that the parivrudhi of garbha takes place by purana of srothas with the help of vata. Pitta is responsible for all paka karmas in the body. Also, with the asraya asrayibhava pitta influences rakta formation. Therefore, we can infer that angiogenesis of the spiral arteries is influenced by the pitta dosha. Kapha is similar in quality to estrogen (which is responsible for priming of the endometrium). Under the influence of estrogen, the stromal and epithelial cells proliferate and increase in vascularity. Similarly, kapha does upachaya function. All these above-said factors validate that the imbalance in these doshas can lead to a defective endometrial formation and functioning during the pregnancy. Moreover, *Acharya* have quoted without *vata*, *yoni* never gets vitiated, and here *yoni* can be taken as the whole reproductive system which includes endometrium. Hence, we can infer that vandyatwa due to reduced endometrial receptivity is understood as a vata predominant tridosha condition, the treatment also should be direct towards *tridosha shamana* having the prime focus on *vata*.

# DISCUSSION ON TREATMENT PROTOCOL<sup>13</sup>

Ayurveda being the ancient system of medicines offers several therapies for the management of vandhytwa. Panchakarma is the main line of treatment of vandyatwa as it removes srothorodha and maintains tridosha Sathmyata. Basthi is one of the systemic unique procedures of Panchakarma with a wide range of therapeutic actions. The advantage of basti is that it can act as shodhana, shamana and sangrahaniya. Vayasthapana, sukra vardhana, sareeropachaya, balakara are the added benefits of basti karma. As Pakvashava is the main location for Vata Dosha, Basti is principally advised in Vata predominant diseases. It is classified as niruha and anuvasana basthi. Anuvasana basthi is highly beneficial for women those who are infertile. The action of basti is predominantly on vatadosha and pakvashaya. Vasthi karma is indicated in alparaja and anarthava conditions. It does the dhathu pushti by eliminating dhushitha apana and thereby achieves avyapanna garbhsambhava samagri. From the pakwashaya basthi dravyas are transmitted all over the body due to their veerya and pacifies the doshas which are aggravated and normalize rasa raktadi dhathu nirmana. Mathra Basti post absorption reaches into the Enteric Nervous System (ENS) and the endogenous opioids in the ENS especially endorphins (β-endorphin) get stimulated, and it helps in the release of GnRH and regularizes HPO axis function.

#### DISCUSSION ON DRUG

The drugs such as *Guduchi, Jeevaniya gana dravyas, Shathavari,* possess *Rasayana* properties, which helps in the proliferation and rejuvenation of endometrium. *Guduchi* being the main ingredient possess *Balya, Rakthashodhaka, Vrsuhya,* and *Sukradourbal-*

yahara properties. By these gunas it revitalizes all the dhathus, including rasa dhathu and its upadhathu artava also enhances follicular growth and blood supply towards the garbhashaya and regularizes bijotsarga by Tridosha shamaka property. It has been identified that failure of implantation is associated with reduced levels of immunomodulatory cytokine expression in the endometrium, because of the presence of phenylpropanoids and sesquiterpenes in Guduchi, it might show immune stimulation action, thereby helped in increasing the cytokine expression level. Besides, the phytoestrogenic content in jeevaniya gana dravyas exerts their effect on selective estrogen receptor modulators. Phytoestrogens can be beneficial in the hypoestrogenic state in the body, and it has a greater affinity towards estrogen receptors. The deepana, Pachana, sangrahi properties of Guduchi, Himsra, Karkata srungi, shathahwa, and Trijatha improve the agni which is vital for dhathu parinama. In that way uttarothara dhathu and upadhathu poshana take place. The jivaniya, Brimhaniya, Balya, Ojovardhaka, Sukrajanaka, Abhishyanda karaka and Vata nashaka guna of Go-khseera enhance the rasa dhathu. And tila taila has the quality of garbhashaya shodhaka, Vrushya and yoni shulahara. Apart from this the presence of Vitamin E in Tila taila might have helped in endometrial growth. Hence, we can conclude that all of these properties collectively act in increasing the receptivity of endometrium thereby resulting in successful implantation.

#### **Discussion on Results**

#### **QUANTITY OF BLEEDING:**

This present study showed a significant effect on regularizing the bleeding. *Apana vata* which is responsible for *artava nishkramana* and *basthi is* said to be highly beneficial for *vatik* disorders. *Basthi chikitsa* acts on the endocrine level and thus corrects the formation of the endometrium during the early proliferative phase.

#### **DYSMENORRHEA**

At the end of the intervention, there was a significant improvement in dysmenorrhea and clinically also the severity of pain has been reduced in all the patients who had dysmenorrhea. According to *Ayurveda*, *vata* aggravation leads to dysmenorrhea and it can be correlated to *udavarthini yonivyapat*. This *vata prakopa* was brought under control by *basti chikitsa*.

#### VAGINAL DISCHARGE

In this study group, there was a statistically and clinically significant result obtained in case of vaginal discharge after the treatment. The outcome can be attributed to the antibacterial and antifungal properties of *guduchyadi taila*.

# ENDOMETRIAL RECEPTIVITY MARKERS ENDOMETRIAL LAYERING

The morphology of the endometrium on ultrasound changes in a cycle-dependent manner. Normal triple line pattern (multi-layered or presence of midline echo) during the window of implantation has a positive predictive value for pregnancy. In this group majority of the subjects showed a hazy triliminar pattern (85%) and 15% showed a distinct triliminar pattern before the intervention. Post-treatment 70% had a hazy triliminar pattern and 30% had a distinct pattern. That is improvement was seen in 4 patients, but it was not statistically significant with a p-value of 0.18. So, this reveals there is not much effect of treatment on endometrial layering.

#### **MYOMETRIAL CONTRACTIONS**

Contractions in the inner myometrial third are important for sperm transportation for implantation. These contractions can be detected throughout the menstrual cycle. Increased myometrial contractions to the fundus in the periovulatory period involved in sperm transport towards the tubes. In this study, 13 patients had normal contractions (> 3 contractions in 2 minutes) and 7 patients had less than 3 contractions in 2 minutes. After the intervention 6 patients showed improvement (>3 contractions in 2 minutes), As the Wilcoxon signed-rank test showed a p-value of 0.05. It can be concluded that there is a statistically insignificant difference in myometrial contractions before and after the intervention. This reveals no effect of treatment in increasing contractions in the myometrium. Myometrial contraction is regulated by both parasympathetic and sympathetic nerves via muscarinic cholinergic receptors. So, we can conclude that the action of the drug at the muscular level is comparatively less.

#### MYOMETRIAL ECHOGENICITY

Myometrial echogenicity value was calculated as the hyperechoic area covering the whole endometrium. The echo pattern depends upon endometrial proliferation and stromal decidualization. The endometrial thickness and echo pattern are the most used parameter for evaluating the receptivity of endometrium in clinical practice. In this study, there was a noticeable improvement in echogenicity before and after the intervention with a p-value of 0.00 which is statistically highly significant. This helps in the homogenous formation of the endometrial bed. Thus, maintains the normal iso echogenic pattern of the endometrium. The drug acted on the endocrine level to increase the myometrial echogenicity. So here we can understand that the mechanism of therapy appears to be more directed towards the endocrine level.

#### **UTERINE ARTERY DOPPLER**

Uterine artery indices have high sensitivity for the diagnosis of uterine blood flow impedance. Increased blood supply to the endometrium is seen during the phase when endometrium changes from mid-luteal to secretary, where uterine artery impedance is decreased resulting in an increased receptivity. In this study, analogizing pulsatility index before and after treatment showed no improvement statistically with a value of 0.168. It can be concluded that statistically insignificant difference between pulsatile index before and after the treatment. This shows there is no effect of treatment in correcting the pulsatility index.

## **ENDOMETRIAL THICKNESS**

The uterine lining is important to conception since the embryo must implant into the endometrial lining to initiate the pregnancy. In this study, there was a remarkable improvement in endometrial thickness before and after the treatment with a p-value of 0.000, which is statistically highly significant. All the phytoestrogens present in the *guduchyadi taila* help in regulating endocrine function thereby forms a healthy endometrial bed. The drugs *jeevaneeya gana dravya*, *Shathavari* etc. have *brimhana* action, which nourishes the uterine lining. Bovine lactoferrin pre-

sent in the cow's milk which is the base of *guduchyadi taila* have the property of increasing mRNA expression of VEGF. So, we can conclude that the *taila* is stimulating angiogenesis activity thereby increased the thickness of the endometrium.

#### TOTAL SCORE OF USSR

Applebaum's scoring is a simple and invasive method for the prediction of pregnancy rates. A perfect score of 20 has been associated with 100% conception. Low USSR demonstrated decreased receptivity of the endometrium. i.e. Endometrial thickness, blood flow towards the endometrium and sub-endometrial areas are useful prognostic factors for a successful pregnancy. In this study, none of the patients had a total perfect score of 20. The total score of the USSR means before the treatment was 10.40 after the treatment was 12.15 and mean is the difference is 2.36, which is statistically significant with a p-value of 0.52. This reveals there is a significant effect of the treatment in increasing the USSR score.

#### CONCLUSION

Endometrial receptivity is an intricate mechanism, and it is very difficult to differentiate in each parameter. While assessing the parameters, Myometrial contractions and Pulsatile index is found to be more related to the neurological function. The formation of Myometrial echogenicity, endometrial thickness and endometrial blood flow is associated with the vascular and estrogen receptor action. By correcting the above three parameters we can understand that the drug is mainly acted on the vascular and endocrine levels. As this formulation is mentioned in Vataraktadhikara, we can assume that the drug combination will also have a role in the correction of Vata and Rakta dushti. Thus, this formulation can be effectively used to increase endometrial receptivity. A satisfactory result was obtained when we analyze the score of the USSR. Post-intervention 3 patients got conceived and an improvement in total score was seen in 13 patients. Thus, the success rate of the study based on conception is 15% and based on improvement in Applebaum's scoring is 65%.

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# Source of Support: Nil Conflict of Interest: None Declared

How to cite this URL: Reemalakshmi. M et al: A Clinical Study To Evaluate The Efficacy Of Guduchyadi Taila Matrabasti In Vandhyatwa W.S.R. To Endometrial Receptivity. International Ayurvedic Medical Journal {online} 2021 {cited September 2021} Available from: http://www.iamj.in/posts/images/upload/1984\_1991.pdf