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# Akshi Tarpana: An Eye Rejuvenation

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Akshi is the most important Gyan Indriya. It is the site of Alochaka Pitta. Sushruta The Father of Surgery has recommended "Kriyakalpa" for the management of Akshi Roga. The term Kriyakalpa refers to the treatment, which can be applied for almost all types of Akshi Roga. Kriyakalpa comprises of Tarpana, Putpaka, Seka, Aschyotana and Anjana. Akshi Tarpana is a procedure to ensure that the healthy status of the eye is maintained in a normal condition as well as diseased states. In this procedure medicated oil or ghee is retained in the eyes for fixed time in a specific formed frame. According to modern pharmacology, drug penetration depends upon permeability of layers. The epithelium & endothelium of cornea is highly permeable for lipid content, while stroma is permeable to only water content. Thus, fat soluble and water-soluble drugs readily penetrate these layers. In this article there is a review on Akshi Tarpana Karma, their indications, contraindications and possible mode of action is discussed.

Keywords: Akshi, Kriyakalpa, Akshi Tarpana, Drushtigata Roga, Alochaka Pitta

## INTRODUCTION

Eye is one of the important sense organs situated in the head and it can coordinate with rest of the sense organ as well as mind. It is a sense organ with which we primarily interact with the outer world. Each branch of *Ayurveda* having *Vishishta Chikitsa*, apart from the *samanya chikitsa*. For example, *Basti Chikitsa* is considered as *Ardha Chikitsa* in *Kayachikitsa*. Similarly, In *Shalakya Tantra*, *Kriyakalpa* is considered as *Vishisht Chikitsa* for *Netra Roga*.

Kriyakalpa comprises of Tarpana, Putpaka, Seka, Aschyotana and Anjana.<sup>3</sup> Akshi Tarpana is a procedure to ensure that the healthy status of the eye is maintained in a normal condition as well as diseased states. It cools, lubricates and rejuvenates the eyes. It helps in the clarity of

the eyes as it expelled out the impurities. This procedure strengthens eye sight and increases the blood circulation.<sup>4</sup> According to modern pharmacology, drug penetration depends upon permeability of layers. The epithelium & endothelium of cornea is highly permeable for lipid content, while stroma is permeable to only water content. Thus, fat soluble and water-soluble drugs readily penetrate these layers.<sup>5</sup> The medicines having the quality to get into minute channels of the body, when applied to the eyes enters deeper into the layers of dhatus.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

References regarding Akshi Tarpana were collected from Bruhitrayi, Lagutrayi. Ayurveda published works,



published research papers from Pub Med, Google Scholar and previous work done regarding *Akshi Tarpana*. In this article there is a review on *Akshi Tarpana Karma*, their indications, contraindications and possible mode of action is discussed.

Indications for *Tarpana Karma*: According to *Brihuttrayi* and *Lagutrayi*, *Tarpana is indicated as follows*<sup>6,7,8,9</sup> **Table:** 1 Indications of *Tarpana Karma* 

## Contraindications for Tarpana Karma:

According to *Brihuttrayi* and *Lagutrayi*, *Tarpana* is contraindicated in following conditions. <sup>10,11,12,13</sup> **Table: 2** 

# Contraindications for Tarpana Karma

## Tarpana Vidhi

This procedure is divided into three parts (Fig.1)<sup>14</sup>

#### a) Purvakarma

- 1. Before *Tarpana*, *samyaka kayik* and *shira shodhan* to be done.
- 2. Netra swedana to be done with luke warm water.

## b) Pradhanakarma

- 1. The patient is made to lie in the room which is *Vata-Aatapa rahit*.
- 2. A dough using gram four is made which is to be placed around the both eyes upto a height of two *angula*. Precaution to be taken so that the medicine should not spill from the dough.
- 3. The patient is asked to close the eyes and over the closed eyes, *Ghrita* processed with appropriate drugs and liquefied in lukewarm water should be poured to the orbit, till the level of tip of eyelashes. Patient is asked to open & close the eye intermittently & steadily.
- 4. This procedure is to be performed for 20-25 minutes (Approximately).

## c) Paschatkarma

- 1. *Sneha dravya* is removed along with the dough, should be washed with *ushnodaka* and *pottali swedana* is done.
- 2. After that *kaphaghna shiro virechana* or *Dhoompana* is done for *Kapha shodhana*.

## Tarpana Avadhi

- Sushruta without clarifying the condition of the eyes simply asks to perform the procedure for one day, three days, or five days or till the samyaka tarpita lakshanas are seen.<sup>15</sup>
- According to Vagbhatta Tarpana should be done daily in vitiation of vata, on alternate days in pitta, with an interval of two days in kapha and in swastha (healthy person) or till the eyes become fully satiated<sup>16</sup>

*Sneha dharan kala: Snehadharanakala* is implemented considering Severity of *Dosha Prakopa* and *Adhishtana* of diseases. <sup>17,18,19,20</sup>

Snehadharanakala According to Dosha Prakopa: Table:3

Snehadharanakala According to Adhishtana of the Disease: Table: 4

*Samyaka Tarpita Lakshana* According to *Brihuttrayi* and *Lagutrayi*, *Samyaka Tarpita Lakshana are*:<sup>21,22,23,24</sup> Table:

Atti-Tarpita Lakshanas: According to Brihuttrayi and Lagutrayi, Atti Tarpita Lakshana are: <sup>25,26,27,28</sup> Table: 6 Heena Tarpita Lakshanas: According to Brihuttrayi and Lagutrayi: <sup>29,30,31,32</sup> Table: 7

## Treatment of Heena And Ati Tarpana:33

Dhoompana, Nasya, Anjana, Seka either ruksha or snighdha are to be done for treating both heena and ati tarpana conditions according to predominance of dosha. Snighdha seka in disease of vata predominance, ruksha in kapha and sheeta seka in pitta predominance dosha.

## **DISCUSSION**

## Probable mode of action of Akshi Tarpana<sup>34</sup>

Akshi Tarpana is a local therapeutic procedure. In this, Drug absorb through various layers of the eye and drugs spread in to the deeper tissues through Rupavaha Siras. Sneha absorbed by eyes & perform the Action. Sneha reach all Saptadhatu in uttrottarmanner. Absorption is very high as drugs are lipid soluble; penetration of fat soluble substances is high regardless of molecular size. Highest and significant therapeutic deliberations are achieved. Ghrita is extreme in JangamaSneha and is Balavardhaka, Ojovardhaka, Vayasthapana, Agni deepana Dhatuposhaka. Ghrita is having Rasayana, Balya & Chakshushya properties. Charaka in Sutrasthana Snehadhyayadescribedthat," SNEHOANILAM HANTI"35 which means that Snehana is the superlative treatment for VataDosha. According to Charaka, Ghrita is operative in subsiding Pittaja and Vataja disorders, and is overall booster for improving Ojas. By the Activation of Alochaka Pitta. Alochaka pitta is of two types Chakshu Vaisheshika & Buddhi Vaisheshika Alochaka Pitta. Chakshuvaisheshika Alochaka Pitta Increased power of Drishti Nadi and Buddhi-Vaisheshika Alochaka Pitta Activate Visual centre in Brain (Optic nerve). So *Tarpana* improve overall Visual status. (Flow Chart: 1)

## **CONCLUSION**

Ayurveda, the ancient system of medicine gives valuable guide lines not only in treatment aspects but also in preventive line. Akshi Tarpana is one of the Kriyakalpa which act both as preventive as well as curative measure. It has been used from the ancient times in Ayurveda for improving the eyesight and is highly beneficial in maintaining normal healthy condition of eyes, it is the treasure of Ayurveda for Netraroga. It is a relaxing eye treatment to rejuvenate eyes and surrounding tissues. Tarpana act over accommodation capacity of eye by providing nutrition not only to the cornea but also to the sphincter muscles and nerves innervating it. Akshi Tarpana karma is one of the local therapeutic procedure which if promptly used shows objective evidences of excellent responses.

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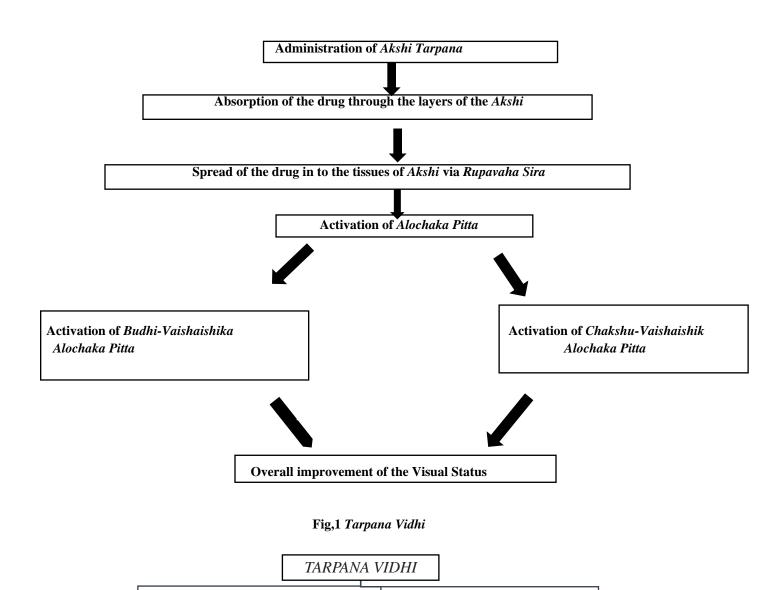
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Flow chart 1: Probable Mode of action Akshi Tarpana



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PARADHANA KARMA

PASCHAT KARMA

PURVA KARMA

**Table: 1 Indications of** *Tarpana Karma* 

Sushruta Samhita <sup>6</sup>	Ashtang Hridya <sup>7</sup>	Sharangdhara <sup>8</sup>	Bhavparkash <sup>9</sup>
Tamyta	Kricchronmilana	Netra Rukshta	Netra Rukshta
Ativishushka	Siraharsha	Parishushkta	Parishushkta
Atidarun	Sirotpata	Kutil Neta	Kutil Neta
Shirnpaksham	Тата	Avilta	Avilta
Avila Netra	Arjuna	Sheern Paksham	Sheern Paksham
Rogaklishta Netra	Syanda	Shiro Utpaat	Shiro Utpaat
	Adhimantha	Krichha Unmilan	Krichha Unmilan
	Anayatovata	Timira	Timira
	Vata Viparyaya,	Arjuna	Arjuna
	Avrana shukra	Abhishyanda	Abhishyanda
		Adhimantha	Adhimantha
		Shushka Akshi Paka	Shushka Akshi Paka
		Akshi Shotha	Akshi Shotha
		Vaata Viparyaya	Pawan Viparyaya

**Table: 2 Contraindications for** *Tarpana Karma* 

Sushruta Samhita <sup>10</sup>	Ashtang Hridya 11	Sharangdhara <sup>12</sup>	Bhavparkash <sup>13</sup>
Durdina		Durdina	Durdina
Atyaushana	]	Atyaushana	Atyaushana
Atyashitta	- Tarpana should not be administered to those	Atyashitta	Atyashitta
Chinta	who are unfit for Nasya.	Chinta	Chinta
Ayaas		Ayaas	Ayaas
Bharam		Bharam	Bharam
Ashant Updravya		Ashant Updravya	Ashant Updravya

Table: 3 Snehadharanakala According to Dosha Prakopa

Dosha Bhedha	Sushrut Samhita	Asthang Hridya	Sharangadhara Samhita	Bhav Prakash
Swastha	500	500	500	500
Kapha-	600	500	500	500
Predominance				
Pitta-	800	600	-	600
Predomnance				
Vatta-	1000	1000	1000	1000
Predominance				

Table: 4 Snehadharanakala According to Adhishtana of the Disease

Roga Adhishtana	Sushruta Samhita	Asthang Hridya	Sharangadhara Samhita	Bhav Prakash
Sandhigata	300	300	500	500
Vartamgata	100	100	100	100
Shuklagata	500	500	600	-
Krishnagata	700	700	700	700
Drushtigata	800	800	800	800
Sarvagata	1000	1000	1000	1000

Table: 5 Samyaka Tarpita Lakshana

Sushruta Samhita <sup>21</sup>	Asthang Hridya <sup>22</sup>	Sharangdhara Samhita <sup>23</sup>	Bhavprakash <sup>24</sup>
Sukhaswapana	Prakasha Kshamata	Sukh Swapana	Sukh Supta
Avbodhatva	Vaishadhya	Sukh Avbhodhatva	Sukh Avbhodhatva
Vaishadhya	Laghu lochana	Vaishadhya	Vaishadhya
Varnapatava		Drushti Patava	Drushti Patava
Nivriti		Vayadhi Shanti	Vayadhi Shanti
Vyadhividhvansa		Kriya Laghavta	Kriya Laghavta
Kriya laghvama	1		

Table: 6 Atti-Tarpita Lakshana

Sushruta Samhita <sup>25</sup>	Ashtang Hridya <sup>26</sup>	Sharangdhara Samhita <sup>27</sup>	Bhavparkash <sup>28</sup>
Netraguruta		Netra Satrava	Netraguruta
Avilta	Appearance of	Netra Guruta	Avilta
Atisnigdhata	disorders of Kapha	Atisnigdhata	Atisnigdhata
Ashru srava	imbalance is the		Ashru srava
Kandu	symptom of <i>Ati-</i> <i>Tarpana</i> .		Kandu
Upadeha			Upadeha
Dosha-Samutklishta			

# Table: 7 Heena Tarpita Lakshana

Sushruta Samhita <sup>29</sup>	Ashtang Hridya <sup>30</sup>	Sharangdhara Samhita <sup>31</sup>	Bhavparkash <sup>32</sup>
Netrarukshata		Netrarukshata	Netrarukshata
Avilta	Opposite of Samayak	Netra strava	Netra strava
Ashrusrava	Trapana are the	Avilta	Avilta
Asahyam roopdarshan	symptoms of <i>Heena Tarpana</i> .	Vyadhivridhi	Vyadhivridhi
Vyadhivridhi			