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ISSN: 2581-785X; <https://irjay.com/>DOI: [10.47223/IRJAY.2022.5615](https://doi.org/10.47223/IRJAY.2022.5615)Classification of *Kushtha* According to Acharyas: A ReviewShakuntala Nagar¹ , Niranjana Gautam²

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ABSTRACT:

Ayurveda is one of the most ancient systems of life, health and cure. Its antiquity goes back to the *Vedas*. The skin is the body's biggest and most protective organ. A healthy skin is a reflection of good health though skin illnesses affect the body, they also cause psychological problems and can harm the affected person in a variety of ways, including discomfort, disfigurement, handicap, and death. *Ayurveda* has discussed all skin disease under the umbrella of *Kushtha*, in other word it can be listed as all *Ayurvedic* dermatology manifestations under 18 sub types of *Kushtha*. *Sushruta* has termed it as '*Tvagamaya*' & it is chronic in nature.

Keywords - *Kushtha*, *Vicharchika*(Eczema), *Doshas*, *Dushyas*, *Kshudra Kushtha*

INTRODUCTION

Kushtha is always *Tridoshaj* in origin and a dominance of a particular *Dosha* leads to a specific symptom complex. It is produced invariably by the vitiation of the seven factors viz. three *Dosha* and four *Dushya*. But different types of pain, colours etc. are found in *Kushtha* because of *Anshanshakalpana* of the *Dosha* and *sankhyavikalpa*.

Chakrapani mentioned that in *Kshudra Kushtha*, the symptoms of *Maha-Kushtha* are manifested in milder form¹

Dalhana and *Gayadas* both have given some general criteria for *Maha Kushtha* and *Kshudra Kushtha*. According to them when there is extensive spreading to all over the body, gradual involvement of deeper *Dhatu*, involvement of *Dosha* and *Dushya* to a greater extent from the initial stage and bad prognosis, it should be regarded as *Maha Kushtha*. But *Kshudra Kushtha* are opposite to them².

Etymology:

Etymology is science, which deals with the meaning of the word. So, it is utmost importance to know the etymological background of the word *Kushtha*.

The word *Kushtha* is derived from *Kush* + *Niskarsne* by adding *Kthan* suffix. It means to destroy, to scrap out or to deform and by adding *Kthan* suffix, which stands for firmness or certainty. Thus the word *Kushtha* means that which destroy with certainty³.

1. According to *Shabda Kalpa Druma* Vitiated *Rakta*(blood) leads to the destruction of body. So it is called as *Kushtha*⁴.
2. According to *Acharya Vagbhatta*, *Kushtha* is defined as that which causes disfigurement to the body. During the lapse of time, it makes the entire body look ugly.⁵
3. According to *Acharya Charaka* and *Acharya Sushruta*, *Kushtha* may be defined as a group of skin diseases occur due to vitiation of *Doshas* (*Vata*, *Pitta* and *Kapha*) and



Dushyas (*Twak, Rakta, Mamsa, and Ambu*) and are manifested on skin.

4. It means the *Dosha* or disease which spreads in the skin and destroys different body organs, *Dhatu* and *Upadhatu* under the influence of vitiated *Rakta* and leads to discoloration of skin is known as *Kushtha*⁶

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Classification Of *Kushtha*:

In *Ayurvedic* classics, classification of *Kushtha* has been carried out with different views. Broadly *Kushtha* has been divided into two groups: *Maha Kushtha* and *Kshudra Kushtha*. *Chakrapani* in his commentary on *Charaka Ni. 5:4*, indicates that in the *Kshudra Kushtha*, the signs and symptoms of *Maha Kushtha* are manifested in less intensity.

Charaka clarifies that due to various forms of *dosha-dushya sammurchana* of *Tridosha Kushtha* can be classified into seven types, eighteen types and in fact of innumerable types.

Any single *Dosha* is not the cause of *Kushtha*. All three *doshas* is necessary to produce the *kushtha*. Though the provocative morbid *doshas* are the same in all the varieties yet they are differentiated by the different dose of morbidity, sequel and location which produce the difference in their characteristic pain, colour, seat, effect, name and treatment.

The difference between *Mahakushtha* and *Kshudrakushtha*: table 1 Classification of *MahaKushtha* Table 2 Classification of *Kshudra Kushtha* Table 3

A. Classification of *Kushtha* (*Kashyapa Samhita*)¹³:

***Sadhya Kushtha*:** *Sidhma, Vicharchika, Pama, Dadru, Kitibha, Kapala, Sthularushka, Mandala, Vishaja.*

***Asadhya Kushtha*:** *Paundarika, Shvitra, Rishyajihva, Shataru, Udumbara, Kankana, Charmadala, EkaKushtha, Vipadika.*

B. Classifications of *Kushtha* according to *Dosha* involve: *Acharya Charaka*¹⁴, *Vagbhata*¹⁵ & *Acharya Sushruta*¹⁶ Table 4

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION:

Kushtha is usually *Tridoshaj* in origin, and the dominance of one *Dosha* causes a distinct symptom complex. The vitiation of the seven elements, namely three *Dosha* and four *Dushya*, produces it inevitably. It is not a vis-a-vis correlation but one can cover up all dermatological

manifestations under 18 sub types of *Kushtha*. *Sushruta* has termed it as ‘*Tvagmaya*’ & it is chronic in nature. *Vicharchika* is one of the *Khudra Kushtha*.

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Table 1 shows The difference between *Mahakushtha* and *Kshudrakushtha*:

<i>MahaKushtha</i>	<i>Kshudra Kushtha</i>
<i>Bahu Dosha Arambhata</i>	<i>Alpa Dosha Arambhata</i>
<i>Bahu Lakshana</i>	<i>Alpa Lakshana</i>
Excessive discomfort	Less discomfort
Penetrates into deeper <i>Dhatu</i>	Less tendency to penetrate
<i>Mahat Chikitsa</i>	<i>Alpa Chikitsa</i>
Chronic	Less Chronic
Loss of functions of skin like Supti	Less functional deformities of (anesthesia) Skin

Table 1 Classification of *MahaKushtha*

Sr. No	<i>MahaKushtha</i>	<i>Ch.</i> ⁷	<i>Su.</i> ⁸	<i>A.H.</i> ⁹	<i>Ka</i> ¹⁰	<i>M.N.</i> ¹¹	<i>B.P.</i> ¹²
1.	<i>Kapala</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.	<i>Audumbara</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
3.	<i>Mandala</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+
4.	<i>Rushyajihva</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
5.	<i>Pundarika</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
6.	<i>Sidhma</i>	+	-	-	+	+	+
7.	<i>Kakanaka</i>	+	+	+	-	+	+
8.	<i>Dadru</i>	-	+	+	-	-	-
9.	<i>Aruna</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-

Table 3 Classification of *Kshudra Kushtha*

Sr. No	<i>KshudraKushtha</i>	<i>Ch.</i>	<i>Su.</i>	<i>A.H.</i>	<i>Ka.</i>	<i>M.N.</i>	<i>B.P.</i>
1.	<i>EkaKushtha</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.	<i>Kitibha</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
3.	<i>Charmadala</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
4.	<i>Pama</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
5.	<i>Vicharchika</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
6.	<i>Charmakhya</i>	+	-	+	-	+	+
7.	<i>Vipadika</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+
8.	<i>Alasaka</i>	+	-	+	-	+	+
9.	<i>Dadru</i>	+	-	-	+	+	+
10.	<i>Visphotaka</i>	+	-	+	-	+	+
11.	<i>Shataru</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+
12.	<i>Sidhma</i>	-	+	+	-	-	-
13.	<i>Sthularushka</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-
14.	<i>MahaKushtha</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-
15.	<i>Visarpa</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-
16.	<i>Parisarpa</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-
17.	<i>Raksha</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-
18.	<i>Vishaja</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-

Table 4. Classifications of *Kushtha* according to *Dosha* involve: Acharya Charaka¹⁴, Vagbhata¹⁵ & Acharya Sushruta¹⁶

<i>Doshik</i> Predominance	Name of <i>Kushtha</i> (<i>Ch.</i> , <i>Vagbhata</i>)	Name of <i>Kushtha</i> (<i>Su.</i>)
<i>Vata</i>	<i>Kapala</i>	<i>Kapala, Parisarpa</i>
<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Audumbara</i>	<i>Audumbara, Rushyajihva, Charmadala, Visarpa, Vicharchika, Kitibha, Kakanaka, Kapala, Pama.</i>
<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Mandala, Vicharchika</i>	<i>Pundarika, Dadru, Sthularushka, MahaKushtha, EkaKushtha, Sidhma, Raksha.</i>
<i>Vata-Kapha</i>	<i>Sidhma, EkaKushtha, Alasaka, Charmakhya, Kitibha, Vipadika</i>	
<i>Vata-Pitta</i>	<i>Rushyajihva</i>	
<i>Kapha-Pitta</i>	<i>Pundarika, Dadru, Charmadala, Pama, Visphotaka, Shataru</i>	
<i>Tridosha</i>	<i>Kakanaka</i>	