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Clinical Application of Pariksa: An Ayurvedic Perspective of Examination

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ABSTRACT:

An attempt has been made to explain the clinical significance of $Par\bar{\imath}k\bar{\imath}a$ for fulfillment of the aim of Ayurveda, both in prevention and cure as well as in field of research. Various Ayurvedic classics and research article related to $Par\bar{\imath}k\bar{\imath}a$ were collected and analyzed. Contemporary and recent research article regarding clinical examination were searched online from google scholar, PubMed, Medline Plus etc. Ayurvedic classics were searched for better understanding of concept. Examination of patient and disease is very important in clinical practice, as it forms basis for treatment. Concept of Pashavidha pareeksha described in Ayurveda is very much scientific in terms of understanding the span of life and strength of person with probable cause and strength of the disease.

Key words: Parīkṣā, Roga and RogiBala, Darśana, Sparśan, Pramāṇa, Sādhyāsādhyatā.

INTRODUCTION

From ancient period to till today $Parīkṣ\bar{a}$ is an important scientific clinical tool to assess Roga and Rogibala. Importance of $Parīkṣ\bar{a}$ can be understood by statement of Acharya that clinician who carelessly examine patient is known as Yama. Also In modern medical science, there is a certain protocol to be followed to examine the patient before giving any treatment i.e. inspection, auscultation, percussion, palpation. Before administration of any therapy, $Parīkṣ\bar{a}$ provides actual picture of constitute of individual which is primary necessity for $bheṣaja kalpan\bar{a}$. "Yogmansatu yo vidyadeshkaloppaditam purusham purusham vikshya sag yeo bhishugatam (Ch.Su 1/123)" As Acharya Charak has mentioned that administration of

treatment or drug (with high potential and dose) can be fatal without proper examination of patient's strength. It provides facts about $\bar{a}yupram\bar{a}na$, $Dosha~Balapram\bar{a}na$, drug dose according Roga~and~Rogibala, $S\bar{a}dhy\bar{a}s\bar{a}dhyat\bar{a}$ and $Rogavini\acute{s}caya$. $Par\bar{i}k\bar{s}\bar{a}$ can be employed to $a~Svastha~puru\bar{s}a$ to assess the risk factors and make necessary changes in the $\bar{a}h\bar{a}r~and~vih\bar{a}ra$ to prevent the impending disease. In ayurvedic classical text our Acharya has mentioned importance of $Par\bar{i}k\bar{s}\bar{a}$ in various ways and places. E.g. four fold method to investigate transparency of universe. Term pramaana is used in spite of $Par\bar{i}k\bar{s}\bar{a}$.

Dividham khalu sarvamsachasach tasya chaturvidha pareekisha – aptopdesh pratakshaym anumanam yuktishcheti (Ch.Su 11/17)

Acharya gangaadhara commented that Parīkṣā, pramaana,



uplabdhi, saadhana, gyaana all are synonyms.

Pramanerthavaranam pariksha (Vatasyan)
Derivation and Definition-

Derivation-

- "Pari" upsarg purvaka "iksh samdarshney" dhatu (Shabd kalpduram 3/3/102) '
- **Definition -** Paritaah ikshyteanaya iti pariksha
- ➤ Which means A keen inspection with all aspects
- As Acharya chakrapāṇī commented the due process of examination by which the exact nature of an object is determined¹.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Different *Ayurvedic* classical books were referred to fulfil this part. It comprises subsections having literary part of various *pareeksha* described in classical texts mainly *Dashwidhapareeksha* and its components and importance of *Dashwidha pareeksha* in diagnosis.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

In the classical texts of *Ayurveda*, different methods of examinations are described. Viz:

- 1. Dwividha Parīkṣā: Pratyaksha and Anumana².
- 2. Trividha Parīksā: Darshana, Sparshanaand Prashna³.
- 3. Chathurvidha Parīkṣā: Pratyaksha, Anumana, Aptopadesha and Yukti⁴.
- 4. Panchvidha Parīkṣā: nidan, purva-rupa, rupa, upashayaand samprapti⁵.
- 5. Shadvidha Parīkṣā: by Pancha indriya+ Prashna⁶.
- 6. Ashtasthana Parīkṣā: nadi, mutra, mala, jiwha, shabda, sparsha, drik and aakriti⁷.
- 7. Dashavidha Parīkṣā: Prakriti, Vikriti, Sara, Sahnana, Pramana, Satmya, Satva, Aahara Shakti, Vyayama Shakti And Vaya⁸.
- 8. Dwadashvidha Parīkṣā: ayu, vyaadhi, ritu, agni, vaya,deha, bala, satva, satmya, prakriti, bheshaja⁹.
- In *Dashavidha* Parīkṣā except the *Vikriti pareeksha*, the other nine points are applicable to both '*Swastha*' and '*Aatura*', while *vikritipareeksha*is done solely in a patient/disease.

All these concepts are equal and somehow mutually support each other. Like viz-

Darśana, sparśan and suśrutoktapancendriyajanyajñāna are pratyakṣa type of parīkṣā. Clinical examination methods of modern science, are also pratyakṣaparīkṣā.

- ➤ Through *Darśanaparīkṣā* clinician can assess- *Mala*, *Mūtra*, *Jihvā*, *Dṛka*, *Ākṛti*, *Sāra*, *Saṁhanana*, *Pramāṇa*, *Varṇa*, *Chāyā*, *Prabhā*, *Deha*. E.g.
- ➤ **Pāṇḍu** whitish appearance of skin, stool, urine and oedema on cheeks, eye orbit, umbilicus and hypochondriac region and feet.
- ➤ *Kāmalā* yellow and greenish appearance of face, eye, skin and dizziness.
- ➤ Kumbhakāmalā Blackish yellow stool and urine with severe oedema.
- ➤ **Sākhāśrita kāmalā** whitish stool.
- ➤ **Jalodar** Swelling in the abdomen, sense of fullness, bloating,
- Plihodar discoloration of abdomen with blue green linings over it.
- ➤ **Baddhgudodar** Cow tail like appearance on the abdomen over the umbilicus region.
- ➤ Udumbar Kushtha Red and black discoloration
- > Sandraprasadmeha Turbid appearance of urine at the bottom of pot.
- Through Sparśanparīkṣā Nāṛī, Koṣṭhādi, Tvak, Samtāpa. And also, palpation
- Ghrāṇaparīkṣā— weather patient's body smells (sweat, urine, stool, sputum, bacal cavity- also by praśna) are normal or abnormal.
- Through Śrotendriya Hṛddhvani, Āmtrakūjana, Sandhi-Sphuṭana, Svaravaikṛti. According to modern percussion and auscultation.
- Through rasendriya its acquisition with perception is not feasible so it should be performed with praśna and anumānaparīkṣā e.g. whether taste of patient's mouth is bitter or sweet; abnormal taste of body by retreating of lice; sweetness of body by approaching of flies; in case of doubt about internal hemorrhage as to whether it is pure blood or pitta duṣṭa is removed by feeding the sample mix food to dog or crow. If they eat it, it is pure otherwise pitta duṣṭa.
- Through Praśnaparīkṣā —Prakṛti, Vikṛti, Sātmya, Satva, Āhāraśakti, Vyāyāmaśakti, Vaya.
- Information obtained through *Praśnaparīkṣā* may be a source for *Anumānaparīkṣā* or may be *rūpa* and *pūrvarūpa* described by aptopadeśa.
- Aptopadeśa provides facts and brief knowledge about disease such as aggravating factors, pathogenic materials etiology, specific feature, location, chief complaints, symptoms, complications, aggravation, stasis and diminution, consequences, name and associations, procedure for counteraction or otherwise.

Clinical application of $par\bar{t}k\bar{s}\bar{a}$ —Although significance of $par\bar{t}k\bar{s}\bar{a}$ well-accredited from ancient period to till today while considering present necessities it can be studied in three classes i.e.

- 1) For Prevention
- 2) For Cure
- 3) For research
- For Prevention maintenance of equilibrium state in healthy individual, is priority of Ayurveda. *nidānaparivarjana* is first line of treatment, mentioned āyurvedika classics.
- For Cure After onset of disease, Before starting any treatment or therapy, clinician must know about *Roga-Rogī-Doṣabala*, *Roga-Prakṛti*, *Rogī-Prakṛti*, *Amśāmśadosakalpanā* etc.
- For research research is a way to develop analytical and critical thinking skills for better understand disease and interpret scientific literature to keep up to date with latest advances in the field. It allows us to develop the tools and techniques that help our patients and establishes the guidelines that direct physician decision making.

Daśavidha parīkṣā -

Examination of patient is conducted for the knowledge of lifespan or for evaluation of strength. Weak patients are not able to bear intensely potent drugs. On the other hand, the drug having low potency applied to strong patients having severe disorders becomes ineffective. So, there is need to access the status of patient and the disease to plan the relevant treatment. *Dashavidha pareeksha* helps in accessing the patient in all aspects.

Prakriti-

Prakriti is the swabhavaor nature of an individual and it is an inherent characteristic. Foetus is dependent on many factors such as prakriti of shukra(sperm), shonit(ovum), kala (time of conception) garbhashaya(uterus). Prakriti is also affected by the food habits and life style followed by the mother at the time of conception and during the entire gestational period. These factors are in turn completely dependent on the dosha. Thus, foetus is dependent on the dosha and its prakriti is decided by the predominant dosha/doshas at the time of conception¹⁰. In Ayurveda classical text, Kapha dominant prakriti individuals are said to be blessed with excellence of vigour, prosperity, knowledge, zest, tranquility and perpetuity while moderate value of all these qualities is mentioned in Pittaja dominant prakriti individuals and vataja prakriti individuals are mentioned with lower value of all these qualities comparably. The person who has constitute with combination of any two of three Dosha are supposed to show mix characteristic of the respective Dosha. Sama prakriti (equilibrium of all the three dosha) is considered the best. The prakriti of a person indicates physical, physiological, psychological and immunological strengths and weaknesses of that individual. It also suggests susceptibility of that individual to various diseases.

Studies reveal evidences of significant correlation between genetics and *prakṛti*. Some examples are –

1)finding of correlation between CYP2C19 genotype and *prakṛti* indicating that *kapha and pitta prakṛti* being low and fast metabolizer group are likely to require low and high doses of CYP2C19 substrates¹¹.

2)Finding of higher levels of marker of metabolic syndrome and chronic inflammation (TG, total cholesterol, LDL, VLDL, low HDL, uric acid, SGPT) in *kaphaja* male compared to *vaataja* and this was also consistent with over – expression of genes involved in inflammatory response.

- For prevention Knowledge of prakriti has prime importance in both healthy and diseased persons. Prakriti is important for prescribing dietary regimen and life style management in healthy individuals prakritulya āhāravihāra can disturb the equilibrium state of tridoṣa and lead to nānātmajavikāra e.g. vātajaprakṛtipuruṣa is more prone to vātavyādhi because of indulging in vātaprakopakaāhāra-vihāra by assessing prakṛti, preventive measures can be taken also during rtukṛtadoṣaprakopa. Like various diseases, the manifestation of which is predominant by the person according to his Prakriti according to the season, age or diet, it can also be prevented or postponed by using herbs, diet and yoga and asanas.
- 🕨 For cure -As our Achārya has mentioned for auṣadhayukti "पुरुषंपुरुषंचीक्ष्य" there must be different mode of treatment for different type of prakṛti while doṣaduṣṭi is same. Like viz. line of treatment for Kaphaprakopa In Vaaja, Pittaja, Kaphajaprakṛti will be different. Kaphaprakopa in kaphajaprakṛti needs tīkṣṇaauṣadha while in pitta prakṛti it will aggravate pitta so mṛduauṣadha must administrate. E.g. in kaphapradhānasannipātatribhuvan akirti rasa is indicated but in pitta pradhāna prakṛti it can't be used without pravālapiṣṭi. It helps to know the limitation of treatment in case of kulajaroga.

- ➤ For research 1)single validated and generalize format with consideration of both śārīrika and mānasa Prakṛti is need of hour.
- To establish the fundament, objective approach is necessary.
- 3) Dhatu sthiti, agni sthiti w.s.r. to Prakṛti.
- 4) in *dvandajaprakṛti* occurrence or recurrence *rogaviśeṣa* according to *doṣaprādhānyatā*.
- 5) Comparative physiological studies of dvandajaprakṛti / sāra / sātmya / satva / ojas / vyādhikṣamatva w.s.r. to नचसर्वाणिशरीराणिव्याधिक्षमत्वेसमर्थानिभवन्ति (च.स् .२८/६)

Vikrti -

Vikṛti is disturbance of equilibrium of tridoṣa than vitiation of dhātu causes occurrence of disease. vikṛtiparīkṣā is done to determine vyādhibala by assessing intensity of causative factors. Before breakdown pathogenesis this is necessary to know about its intensity, whether it is sādhya or asādhya. If the involved doshas, dhatu, prakriti, desha, kala, balaof the disease are of same strength and the causative factors and symptoms are too strong and numerous, then the manifested disease will be acute and severe¹².

- For prevention through vikṛti parīkṣā clinician come to know about nidāna so its become easy to advise which type of nidānaparivarjana, and doṣaviparyayaāhāra-vihāra patient has to follow.
- For cure first clinician should know about sādhyāsādhyatā of vyādhi. Clinician can assess śeṣaāyu of patient by svaravarṇādivikṛti. After assessing doṣa involvement doṣapratyānīkacikitsā can be administrated.
- For research Nahi sarvvikaraanam naamtoasti dhruva sthithi sa eva kupito dosha samuthanvisheshta sthannaantragatchev janyattyaamyaan bahun tasmatvikarprakritidhisdtaninantrani ch samuthanvisheshach ch budhwa karma samachreta (Ch. Su 18/44-46

Sāra -

Sara is examined to know the balaof patient¹³. The physical and psychological characteristic of different Sara described in the text are the reflection of status of respective dhatu in terms of structure and functions. According to Ayurveda, there are 7 dhatus in our body (rasa, rakta, mamsa, meda, asthi, majjaand shukra). Sara pareekshais about knowing quality of each dhatu. Acharya charakahas described 8 types of Sara. Features of different types of sara are (Table 1)¹⁴:

Sāra indicates not only physical strength but also *bala* assessed by vyādhikṣamatva to resist disease as ācārya has mentioned ārogyādilakṣaṇa in sāra description. Hence pravarasārapuruṣa or uttarottarasārapradhānapuruṣa posses good immunity as compared to madhyama / avara / pūrvapūrva (rasāt - śukraparyanta).

Samhanana -

Patient should be examined with reference to compactness of the body¹⁵. *Samhanana*, *samhati*and *samyojana*are its synonyms in *Ayurveda*. A person having compact body reflects the quality of overall body built. Clinically patient may be assessed for *pravara*, *madhyam*and *avarasamhanana*depending on the compactness of body.

- **a.** *Pravara samhanana*—Person with symmetrical and well demarcated bones, well-formed joints, good muscles tone and proper blood circulation is considered as pravarasamhanana (strong built). They possess excellent strength.
- **b.** *Madhyama samhanana* Person with moderately symmetrical and demarcated bones, moderately formed joints, moderate muscles tone and moderate blood circulation are known as *madhyamsamhanana*(moderately built). They have moderate strength.
- **c.** *Avara samhanana* person with asymmetrical bones and joints, weak muscle tone, poor blood circulation are known as *avarasamhanana*(weak built). They are weak.

Pramāṇa-

Acharya *charaka*has mentioned angulipramanafor measuring the height, length and breadth of the body parts¹⁶. The total height of any individual is 84 angula. Here angulais finger's breadth of an individual. A body having normal measurement is endowed with longevity, strength, ojus, happiness, power, wealth and virtues. If the measurement is either on the high or low side, the individual possesses qualities contrary to what are mentioned for normal measurement in the texts. Acharva *charaka*has also mentioned Anjali shareerasthanachapter 7. There he has mentioned of Anjali pramanaof jala, purisha, kapha, pitta, mutra, vasa, mashtishka, ojaand all dhatu except mamsaand asthi.

Sāra, Samhanana, Pramāṇa-

For prevention – Although sāra has not concern with body frame like *samhanana and pramāṇa* yet all these three are indicator of bala, if someone is *avara in sāra*, *samhananaand pramāṇa* that means he is hīna in bala with lower immunity power. To boost his immunity and

- strength, *balyaāhāra auṣadha and rasāyana* should be introduced to prevent frequent occurrence of disease.
- For cure auşadhamātrā, auşadhaprakṛti, auşadhakāla and anupāna should be decided according rogībala.
- ➤ **For research** 1) Need to explore bio markers of various sāra to fulfill requirement of objective parameters.
 - 2) Relation and causality between sāra and immunity also particular sāra which is affecting disease resistant mostly than others.
 - 3) $medh\bar{a}$ in $tvakas\bar{a}ra$ whether academic performances found significant in $raktas\bar{a}ra$ even than $shukras\bar{a}ra$.
 - 4) Saubhagyaadilaxana mentioned in various sāra, in which these are pradhaana.
 - 5) *samhanana and pramāṇa* depends on *Prakṛti* than why it is described as next diagnostic parameter.
 - 6) Assessment criteria to justify terms samasuvibhaktāsthi, subaddhasandhisuniviṣṭamāmsaśoṇitam etc.

Sātmya -

Everything that is favorable to the body and mind after metabolism and does not cause ill effects is said to be $Satmya^{17}$. Stuff that used continuously also become suitable for body, these are also known as Satmya. Continuous use of ghee, milk, oil and meat soup as well as the herbs and diets having all six rasa, develops great strength and individual who use these continuously live a long healthy life. While who uses unctuous Stuffs, drugs and single Rasa and only one particular type of property containing diet, have less strength and smaller life span. The one who uses combination two or more rasa, possesses moderate strength.

For prevention& cure- One must try to incorporate healthy foods in his daily life i.e. which possess opposite properties relatively with desha and vyaadhi, This leads the way to a healthy life. Though the unhealthy diet does not harm immediately, but it counts for increase proneness to diseases.

For research - samsarvrasam satmyaam samdhatu prashsayte

Satva -

The word *satva* is used for mental strenth. It is supposed to regulate the body in association with soul¹⁸. Depending upon *satva*, there are three types of individuals, viz. *pravara*, *madhyam*and *avarasatva*. Individuals having *pravarasatva* in fact *satva sara purush*. They seem to be stable even in severe affliction either innate or exogenous because of dominance of *satvalakshana*. Co- operative in medication / treatment procedures. They possess great

mental strength and do not panic in difficult situations i.e. guruvyadhita. while the one having *madhyamsatva*have moderate mental strength and bears anything moderately in association with others. Individuals with *avarasatva*are weak mentally and panic in every situation, looks afraid and crying loudly even the disease or injury is not so serious i.e. *laghuvyadhita*.

- ➤ For prevention During observation patient can mislead the clinician in administration of proper drug and its dose, but if he is diagnosing patient properly through satva he never can be mis leaded and set aside ayoga or atiyoga of auṣadha.
- For cure –if it required, pravarasatvapuruşa can be administrate tīkṣṇaśodhanaauṣadhaśastrakarma etc. but for avarasatva clinician has to use mṛduauṣadhamṛdulaṃghana and he will be unable to śastrādikarma
- For research –to explore correlation of satva with mānasika / śārīrikaprakṛti.

Comparison of *satva* with *sātmya / samhanana / pramāṇa / sāra*.

Ahāraśakti -

Digestive capacity of an individual can be examined by two ways that is *abhyavaharana shakti* (the power of ingestion) and *jarana shakti* (power of digestion)¹⁹. Strength and life span of the individual depend on diet. It all depends on the status of the *Agni* residing in the body.

- For prevention— Shantiagnirmiryati yuktechiram jivtyanamaya rogi syadvikrite mulam agni tasmanniruchyte) Ch.Ch 15/5
- For cure As āchārya has mentioned *mandāgnina* as root cause of all disease so after occurrence of disease, *agnidīpanacikitsā* is first necessary before administration of any therapy or treatment. if patient is taking his normal diet and digesting it with in time than *roga* is *sukhasādhya*.

Vyāyāmaśakti-

Vyayama shakti is an important component of dashavidhapareeksha. The vyayama shakti (power of exercise) is examined by the working capacity. It is also a criteria for assessing bala²⁰. Individuals may be categorized into pravara, madhyamand avarabaladepending on the working capacity. The one having high working capacity is supposed to possess great strength while the one with low working capacity is supposed to be weak and the individuals with intermediate working capacity usually have intermediate strength.

Vaya -Vaya is defined as the state of the body in respect of time. Age is broadly divided into three stages – *bala*(childhood), *madhya*(middle age), *jeerna*(old age)²¹. *Bala*: This stage is the first stage of life. This is divided into two parts; one is upto 16 years, when dhatus are immature, sexual characters are not manifested; the body is delicate and unstable with incomplete strength. *Kapha dosha* is predominant during this phase. The next phase is 16-30 years. During this phase, dhatus are maturing to perform their respective functions and mind remains unstable.

Madhya: In middle age all the *dhatus* reach in their best quality in reference to their functions and strength. Individual in this stage possesses the power of strength, energy, sexual power, acquisition, retention, recollection, speech and understanding with proper physical and mental strength. There is predominance of *pitta dhatu* in this stage and it lasts up to 60 years.

Jeerna: This stage lasts up to one hundred years. Degeneration of dhatus starts. Their functions also begin to hamper. The strength of sense organs starts to diminish with decrease in sexual desire, power of understanding, retention, memory and speech. There is dominance of vata dosha. There are persons with variable life span (longer or shorter). In such cases, one should examine the age with the help of other factors of dashavidhapareeksha except vikriti and with the features of age as described.

Vayānusāraksaya (Table 2)²²-

CONCLUSION

Examination of patient and disease is very important in clinical practice, as it forms basis for treatment. It is very essential that before planning any treatment one should have complete knowledge of rogaand rogibala. Patient should be categorised according to their bala into pravara, madhyaand avara. Vikriti should be used to divide disease into 3 categories; avara(mild), madhya(moderate) and pravara(severe/acute). After deciding the bala of patients and disease, the drugs should be categorised into Mridu (mild), madhya(moderate) and tikshan(potent). Concept of dashavidhapareekshadescribed in Ayurveda is very much scientific in terms of understanding the span of life and strength of person with probable cause and strength of the disease. So, dashavidhapariksha should be used as a vital diagnostic Ayurvedic tool for assessing the present health of a patient and to know the prognosis of diseases as well.

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Table 1 Features of different types of sara are 14:

Sr.no.	Sara	Lakshana		
1.	Tvaka (rasa)	Snigdha, Slakshana, Mridu, Prasan, Sukshma, Alpa, Gambhir Sukumaraloma and parabha-yuktatvacha		
2.	Rakta	Snigdha, Rakta- varna and Bhrajishnu Karna, akshi, mukha, jiwha, nasa, osth, Pani-pad tal, nakh, lalat, mehan.		
3.	Mansa	Sthira, Guru and Mansa upachita- shankha, lalata, akshi, hanu, griva, skandh, udar, kaksha, vaksh, pani-pad sandhi		
4.	Meda	Snigdha – varna, swara, netra, kasha, loma, nakh, dant, ostha, mutra, purish		
5.	Asthi	Sthoola- parshani, gulfa, janu, aratni, jatru, sira, parva, asthi, nakha, dant		
6.	Majja	Mridu-anga, balwana, Snigdha-varna and svara, sthoola-dhirga-vrita sandhi		
7.	Shukra	Saumya, Ksheerpurna-lochan, snigdha-sam-samhatdant, Prasann, snigdha –varna, swara, Bhrajishnu, maha-sphik		
8.	Satva	Smriti, Bhakti, suchi, maha-utsaha, daksha, gambhir-budhi-chesta, gyana-yukta.		

Table 2 Vayānusārakṣaya²²-

Decades	Year	Vagbhata	Sharangadhara
First	1-10	Balya	Balya
Second	11-20	Vruddhi	Vruddhi
Third	21-30	Prabha	Chavi
Fourth	31-40	Medha	Medha
Fifth	41-50	Twak	Twak
Sixth	51-60	Shukra	Drusti
Seventh	61-70	Drusti	Shukra
Eight	71-80	Srotendriya	vikram
Ninth	81-90	Mana	Buddhi
Tenth	91-100	Sparsendriya	Karmendriya