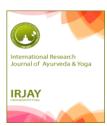
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# An Analytical Study Of Annarasa To Maintain Sharira Dhatu by Agni

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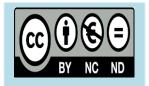
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#### **ABSTRACT: -**

According to *Ayurveda* "*Sarvamdravyam Panchabhautikam*" i.e all creation arises out of five great elements known as *Mahabhutas*. As per *Ayurvedic* theory, like all the universal matter our body is also formed by the *Pancha Mahabhutas*. In this *Panchabautika Sharira Various Paka* (metabolic transformations) are going on continuously. [1]

Agni is the invariable agent in the process of Paka (digestion, transformation). Ingested food is to be digested, absorbed and assimilated, which is unavoidable for the maintenance of life, and is performed by the Agni. Different examples are available in our classics to indicate that Pitta is the same as Agni, but some doubt arises behind this concept, that Pitta is Agni. Agni is innumerable because of its presence in each and every Paramanu of the body. But, the enumeration of the number of Agni varies in various classical Ayurvedic texts. According to the functions and site of action, Agni has been divided into 13 types, i.e.one Jatharagni, five Bhutagni and seven Dhatvagni. Jatharagni is the most important one, which digests four types of food and transforms it into Rasa and Mala. [2] In these sequences, the term Agni comprehends various factors which participates and regulate the course of digestion and metabolism. The paper tries to validate this theory scientifically.

**Keywords:** Ayurveda, Agni, Aahar-pachan, Annarasa, Dhatu-poshan.



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#### INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda has described an important factor of digestion and metabolism in our body as Agni. Ingested food is to be digested, absorbed and assimilated, which is unavoidable for the maintenance of life, and is performed by Agni. In Ayurveda, the term "Agni" is used in the sense of digestion of food and metabolic products. Agni converts food in the form of energy, which is responsible for all the vital functions of our body. Therefore, Ayurveda considers that Dehagni is the cause of life, complexion, strength, health, nourishment, lustre, Oja, Teja (energy) and Prana (life energy).<sup>[1]</sup>

About the importance of *Agni*, *Acharya Charak* has mentioned that after stoppage of the function of *Agni*, the individual dies, and when the *Agni* of an individual is *Sama*, then that person would be absolutely healthy and would lead a long, happy, healthy life. But, if the *Agni* of a person is vitiated, the whole metabolism in his body would be disturbed, resulting in ill health and disease. Hence, *Agni* is said to be the base (*Mool*) of life. [3]

In Sushruta, we can see how the "Avayavaas" are formed from "various dhatus" Thus, based on Charaka and Sushruta, the above cells can be considered as "Dhatu-Paramanus." For these constant processes in all cells, a biological energy is constantly essential, without which the survival of our body will be quite impossible. The Doshas and Dhatus, etc., get nourished by Prasada part (nutrients). Kitta part (metabolic waste) is to be excreted from the body in different forms. In Ayurveda the concept of Agni And Aharapaka (Metabolic

transformation) provides an extensive field of research in the present day. [9]

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1. To emphasize and discuss the Concept of *Agni* and their types in *Ayurvedic* classical literature and modern review.
- 2. Review of Analysis of Annarasa to maintain Sharira Dhatu in in Ayurvedic classical literature and modern review.

#### AGNI REVIEW

definitions from Vachaspatyam, Sabdakalpadruma, Unadikosha, Agni has been described as the one who carries everything, moves everywhere, which can meta morphoses substances, which can bring transformation in substances, assimilates, which gives and takes, which has the capacity to enter into minute channels, which burns, which glows etc. [13] All these definitions of Agni clearly states that Agni is the important key factor for transformation. Agni is key factor in transformation of consumed Ahara Viharadi Dravyas Of Vijatiya origin to Sajatiya nature. Agni is derivative of Tejas (fire) Mahabhuta, it carries metabolic transformations in which the inherent feature is change. Agni is having 13 categories. Jatharagni (1type) looks after the functions of food digestion and absorption. Bhutagni (5types) turns all the Vijatiya Panchabhautika Dravyas consumed to Sajatiya Panchabhautika Dravyas, i.e., conversion of heterogonous to homogenous. Dhatvagni (7 types) performs Synthesis and breakdown of tissues. [10]

### Jatharagni Paka:

Jatharagni Paka (Gastro intestinal digestion) is described as Avasthapaka in Ayurveda. Avasthapaka is the change in the state of food substance in the Amashaya (stomach) and Pakwasaya (large intestine) in the course of digestive process. In Avastha Paka there are two phases called Prapaka And Vipaka. Prapaka phase contains three phases, Madhura Bhava, Amla Bhava and Katu Bhava. [3]

#### Vipaka:

Post-Digestive Effect The ultimate change in the Ahara Rasa (digestive food) that occurs at the end of digestion of Jatharagni paka is called as Vipaka(Post-Digestive Effect). According to Acharya Charaka, the six rasas yield three kinds of Vipaka. Madhura and Lavana rasa yield Madhura vipaka (sweet). Amla Rasa to Amla Vipaka (sour). Katu, Tikta, Kasaya Rasa to Katu Vipaka (acrid, pungent).

#### Secondary Digestion – Metabolism:

The *Bhutagnipaka* and *Dhatvagnipaka* comes under Secondary Digestion and Metabolism.

#### Bhutagni Paka:

Bhutagni is the one that is present in a basic element (Bhutas). There are five Agnis in each of the five basic elements, namely, Parthiva (earth), Apya (water), Tejas (Agni), Vayavya (vayu) and Nabhasa (Akash). Each and every cell in our body is composed of the five Mahabhutas (Panchabhoutika). Each cell (Dhatu Paramanu) consists of these five Bhutagni also. All the nutrients in this world that we eat also consist of the same five basic elements with their respective Agni. Thus, they are completely similar with respect to the five basic elements with their Bhutagni in our body cells as well in the entire outside nutrient that we ingest for the nutrition of our body. [2]

Panchabhoutika Sharira is maintained and nourished with the Bahya Panchaboutika Amshas. To convert such alien Amshas (part) to part of the body there exists a process of *Paka* (Metabolic transformation), which is attributed to Bhutagni. The five Bhutagnis digest their own part of the element present in the food materials. After the digestion of food by the Bhutagni, digested materials containing the elements and qualities similar to each Bhutas nourish their own specific *Bhoutika* elements of the body. So, all the exogenous substances must be subjected to Bhutagnipaka to become endogenous. Thus, cause appropriate nourishment of tissues. [10] In the modern physiological perspective, the action of the *Bhutagni paka* can be equated with the conversion of digested materials in the liver. The Vitamins, Essential amino acids, Essential fatty acids are to be supplemented essentially through the food for the conversion of concerned molecules in to the body tissues on to yield energy. Thus, the essential factors supplemented through food for the synthesis of this *Panchabhoutika Sharira* can be considered as *Bhutagni amshaas*, i.e. Vitamins, Essential amino acids, Essential fatty acids.

The process of *Bhutagni paka* should start immediately after digestive process in GIT. According to the physiology of *Ayurveda*, *Bhutagni paka* follows *Jatharagni Paka* and it completes the process of intestinal digestion. After completion *of Bhutagni paka* only, the formation of *Ahararasa* (digestive food) is completed and *Rasa* absorption is possible. [13]

#### Dhatvagni Paka – Tissue metabolism:

That which promotes the growth of *sharira* (body) is *dhatu*. *Dhatus* are seven in number, *Rasa*, *Rakta*, *Mamsa*, *Meda*, *Asthi*, *Majja*and *Shukra*. *Sapta dhatus* get nourishment from *ahara rasa* or the chyle. chyle is the end product of digestion. Each *dhatu* is of two kinds, *Asthayi* (mobile or nonstatic) or *poshaka* 

(meant to nourish) and Sthayi (fixed, sthira, static, already formed and existing) or poshya. Srotamsi do not transport Sthayi stabledhatus. Dhatus are formed (poshya) consecutively, one after another, from the Poshaka or asthayi dhatus. Dhatvagnis are (Rasagni, seven Raktagni, Mamsagni, Medogni, Asthyagni, Majjagni, Shukragni), located in its own dhatus (tissues). After Jatharagni paka and Bhutagni paka adyaahara rasa (chyle) circulates in the body to reach all tissues. [9]

The circulating constituents of ahararasa were selected by *dhatu* (tissue) through *khale kapotha nyaya* (law of selectivity - analogy of the pigeons carrying grains from a thrashing field and flying out in different directions). Hence if *Dhatvagni* gets more *vruddhi*, tissue delivers more action and there by more catabolic activity (*Dhatu kshaya*). If *Dhatvagni* is of low profile only tissue synthesis takes place resulting in *dhatuvruddhi*. [4]

Functions of *Dhatvagnis* are mainly two - One is synthesis of new tissue. Second is to yield energy for the function of tissue. If *Dhatvagni* is impaired both of these will impair. Seven categories of agnis, &dhatus undergo metabolic transformation in two different ways for the sustainers of the body. One is Prasadapaka and another is kittapaka. The *Prasadapaka* is stated to yield the seven kinds of poshaka or Asthayi dhatus. Kittapaka is the waste products. The nutrient fraction of rasa (plasma) provides nourishment to rakta (blood), that of rakta (blood) to mamsa (muscle tissue), that of mamsa to medas (fat), that of medas to asthi (bone), that of asthi to majja (bone marrow), and the nutrient fraction of majja provides nourishment to shukra. The foetus (garbha) is the product of nutrient fraction of Shukra. [2]

Each one of the seven kinds of *poshaka* or *Asthayi dhatus* is stated to be transported, as it is formed, to the respective *poshya (sthayi)* 

*dhatus*, through *srotas* (channels), specific to each such *sthayi dhatu* for being built up as part of the latter. [2]

These *Srotas* (channels) are known Dhatuvaha Srotamsi. These Srotas are seven (Rasavaha Srotas, Raktavaha Srotas, Mamsavaha Srotas. Medovaha Srotas. Asthivaha Srotas, Majjavaha Srotas, Shukravaha Srotas) in number. The nutrient fraction of Rasa, Rakta, Mamsa, Medo dhatus helps in formation of *Upadhatus* (subsidiary tissue).

#### Agni and Pitta:

*Pitta* is the factor, which regulates all the thermo dynamics, Chemo dynamic activities in the body, in which function of *Agni*(digestive fire) are a part. *Agni* within the body represented by heat of the *pitta*. [10]

In normal state it brings proper digestion, Vision, joy, happiness, maintains normal bodily heat and normal complexion. In abnormal state it brings indigestion, loss of vision, fear, anger, bewilderment, abnormal bodily heat and abnormal complexion.

Agni and pitta both have few similarities and dissimilarities. The similarities of Agni (digestive fire) and Pitta are Dahana (burning sensation), Pachana Karmas(digestion) and similar response to Sheetala (cold), Ushna (hot). Both are possessing moieties of Agni Mahabhoota. The Dissimilarities are, Agni is Sushka (dry) and Ruksha (rough) in nature, Pitta is drava (liquid) and snigda (unctuousness). Agni maintains Pakadi Karmas but pitta maintains Dhi (retention power), Buddhi (intellect), body maintenance in addition to *Pakadi Karmas*. Ghrita (ghee) causes Agni Vruddhi and Pitta Shamana. Pitta has got wider aspect of functions apart from Agni functions. Agni has got similar function to that of pitta in aspects of digestion and metabolism. [9]

## Dhatu Poshana Nyaya's

## 1) Kshira Dadhi Nyaya:

Also known as the Law of Transformation, or the Sarvatmana Parinama Paksha, the Ksheera dadhi Nyaya has been the first of the theories placed forward towards the understanding of the Dhatu Poshana (nourishment of tissues). According to this Nyaya, the one Dhatu transforms into the other successive *Dhatu* just as the milk transforms into the curd so is the term "Ksheera Dadhi Nyaya." As per this Nyaya, and maintaining them. The term *Dhatu* pertain to nutrients also in transit and not only to tissue that already exist such as bones, muscles, blood etc. [7] The implications of this theory have been sought to be explained in terms of three different hypotheses. These theories regarding the nourishment of the Dhatus are termed as "Dhatu Poshana Nyaya." One *Dhatu* becomes the nutrient for the other. This implies the transformation of the *Rasa* into Rakta, Rakta into Mamsa, and Mamsa into Meda and so on. Thus, the previous Dhatu acts as a substratum for the successive one. The time taken for transformation of Rasa into the Shukra as per this Nyaya is explained in various ways by the seers of yore. As per the strength of the *Dhatavagni* and the *Bhootagni*, the *Rasa* Dhatu undergoes transformation into the successive Dhatus. [8]

#### 2) Kedari Kulya Nyaya:

According to this theory, the process of nourishment of tissues can be compared to the irrigation of different fields by water from a canal. Crops in a field get irrigated by creating *Kuliya* (drains) and *Kedar* (small pieces of land). The *Kedar* (small pieces of land) get irrigated one by one through *Kuliya* (drains) in sequence. In the same way, different *Dhatus* of the body get nutrition one by one in sequence through *Srotasa* (vessels). The 1<sub>st</sub> *dhatu*; *Rasa* 

Dhatu, gets nutrition from Ahar Rasa (digested food), Then Rakta Dhatu(blood) gets nutrition from the rest of Ahar Rasa and likewise up to Shukra Dhatu(semen). Kedari Kulya Nyaya or microcirculation and tissue perfusion. This nyaya states that the living body is provided with innumerable micro vascular channels (srotas) which carry nourishment to the respective sites in Dhatus (tissues). The cells and tissues are literally perfused with nutrient plasma but mere tissue perfusion is not enough to complete the process of nourishment. This needs the complementary play of the subsequent two nyayas. [8]

## 3) Ek Kala <mark>Dhatu P</mark>oshan Nyaya :

Rasa (including rakta) is always, everywhere, continuously and simultaneously thrown (into circulation) in the body by the Vyana Vata performing the function. Rasa (plasma) while in circulation if sticks somewhere due to morbidity in channel, it causes disorder there like cloud in the sky causing rain. Dohsa also get aggravated in localized parts in the same way. The site of Rasa Dhatu(plasma) Hridaya (heart), but it circulates throughout the body. Even though separate sites have been stated for the seven dhatus, they are present throughout the body. Therefore the Ahara Rasa, which circulates quickly in the body is stated to nourish all *dhatus* at the same time. This method of utilisation of the nutrients derived from the food indicates nourishment of Sthayi Dhatus. According to Acharya Charaka, the nutrient homology of *Dhatus* is circulating in the body continuously like a rotating wheel. In the event of the strength of the Agni is good, the Dhatu poshana is conducted faster, if they are in decreased state, the *Dhatu poshana* is slow. According to Acharya Sushruta, rasa develops from the diet in one day. The circulating fluid i.e. the rasa Dhatu transporting the nutrients stays in each one of the remaining six dhatus for a period of 3015 *kalas*. Therefore, it takes for the rasa one month to be formed into *Shukra* (semen)in the case of men and *Artava* (menstrual blood) in women. The total time taken for the conversion of rasa into the *seven Dhatus* is 18090 *kalas*. According to above rasa says in each *Dhatu* for 5 days and *Dhatu poshana* completes in a month that is till the *Shukra* (semen) is nourished. [4]

### 4) Khale Kapot Nyaya:

Khale Kapot Nyaya refers to the selective uptake of nutrients by respective cells and tissues in the same way as the birds of different species pickup selective grains and cereals from common harvesting ground because the Kedari Kulya Nyaya provides a total pool of nutrients at the site of all tissues but the different tissues require different specific nutrients and hence there is a need of active selective uptake. As an example the bone tissue will only take the amino acids and minerals like Calcium Phosphorus, while the blood tissue will uptake specifically the nutrients like Iron etc. which is necessary for formation of blood.

### **DISSCUSSION**

- Agni is the invariable agent in the process of Aharapaka (metabolic transformations).
- Ingested food is to be digested, absorbed and assimilated, which is unavoidable for the maintenance of life, and is performed by the *Agni*. *Agni* means it is a substance responsible for digestion and metabolism. <sup>[13]</sup>
- In the first stage of digestion *Madhura Bhava* (sweet essence) is manifested by the action of salivary amylase on starch, digestion of carbohydrates occurs into simpler forms (glucose) rendering it fit for absorption. In the second stage of digestion *amla bhava* is manifested by release of *Accha pitta* (bile/pancreatic secretions) resulting into

- acidified chyme formation in *Urdhva* amashaya (fundus of stomach) and pylorus of stomach. In the third stage of digestion the absorption of nutrients occurs in the large intestine and formation of feces with production of pungent *Vayu* (*Katu bhava*) occur.
- The Ahara Rasa (digestive juice) which is having Madhura and Lavana rasa gets Madhura vipaka, amla rasa gets Amla Vipaka, Katu, Tikta, Kasaya rasa gets Katu Vipaka. Bhutagni, ignited by Jatharagni transforms the Vijatiya Annarasa into Sajatiya Poshaka dhatus (organism specific). After Jatharagni paka and Bhutagni paka adyaahara rasa (chyle) circulates in the body to reach all tissues. Dhatus that are formed consecutively, one after another, from the Prasadabhaga as Poshaka or asthayi dhatus. Kittabhaga is eliminated out as metabolic waste product.
- Each *Dhatvagni* or the bioenergy present in each *Dhatu* synthesizes and transforms the essential *Rasa Dhatu* required for that particular *Dhatu* or cell from the basic nutrients present in the *Anna Rasa* or essence of the diet that we consume. Each *Dhatvagni* has got a speciality to synthesize and transform the constituents suitable to its particular *Dhatu*. This action is a sort of selective action. [1]
- According to physiology *Acharya Charaka* states about tissue nutrition in a series of verse in *Grahani Chikitsa* which is elaborated by Principles of *Nyayas*. It can be understand and co-relate nearly with digestion, Absorption, metabolism and energy transformation.
- Very first Principle *Ksheer Dadhi Nyaya* is first stage of digestion in which if you want the final product of *Ksheer (Ghrita)*, it should convert first in *Dadhi* (Digestion process product). *Charaka* clearly states that food nourishes *dhatus*, ojas, strength, complexion etc. depends on *Agni* because *rasa* can't be produced by undigested food. <sup>[2]</sup>

- The second principle of tissue nutrition *Kedari Kulya Nyaya* is directly related to the absorption process of digestion which is mostly occur through the intestinal wall and into the general circulation.
- The third principle in this way is *Khale kapota* nyaya which resembles with different tissues require different specific nutrients for *Dhatu Poshana* (nourishment)like *Mamsa dhatu* (muscle Tissue) need protein, bones need Calcium supplements and other micronutrients.
- Fourth and last *Nayaya* is *Ek Kala Poshana* means "at a time *Rasa* nourish all the relative *dhatus*." This is a continuous process of ATP synthesis in a pathway, runs in different types of tissue to nourish the organ cells. Even a man does not eat the energy stored by liver and transformation the energy when body needs it. [4]

### **CONCLUSION**

- After a detailed discussion on *Pitta* and *Agni*, it is concluded that all theories in their regard have their own importance, and it is very difficult to conclude which theory is more appropriate. But, one conclusion that can be drawn after going through the details is that in regard of treatment, *Pitta* and *Agni* are the same, whereas in accordance to their, build they differ from each other. [9]
- In Ayurveda, Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita known about the role of diet in lifespan. Both of them explained about the importance of healthy Rasa Dhatu (Plasma) formation. They explained about the proper physiology of metabolism and tissue Nutrition in a series of verses.
- Agni converts food in the form of energy, which
  is responsible for all the vital functions of our
  body.
- The *Ahara rasa* (digestive juice) which is having *Madhura* and *Lavana rasa* (sweet and salty) gets *Madhura vipaka*, *amla rasa* gets

- Amla Vipaka (post digestive effect), Katu(bitter), Tikta(pungent), Kasaya rasa (astringent)gets Katu Vipaka. [13]
- *Dhatus* that are formed consecutively, one after another, from the *Prasadabhaga* as *Poshaka* or *Asthayi dhatus*. *Kitta bhaga* is eliminated out as metabolic waste product.
- According to physiology *Acharya Charaka* states about tissue nutrition in a series of verse in *Grahani Chikitsa* which is elaborated by Principles of *Nyayas*. It can be understanding and co-relate nearly with digestion, Absorption, metabolism and energy transformation. [10]

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