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# An Insight into the Samprapti of Apasmara w.r.t. Shatkriyakala

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### ABSTRACT

Apasmara is a disease entity described in all classics of Ayurveda with significant importance and it has been described among the Maharoga. Apasmara has striking similarities with epilepsy and has an incidence of 5-10 per every 1000 persons. It has the dubious distinction of affecting all the walks of life of an individual suffering from the disease. It is one of the disease which affects both Shareera and Manas. Both Shareerika Doshas i.e., Vata, Pitta and Kapha as well as Manasika Doshas i.e., Rajas and Tamas plays equal role in the manifestation of disease Apasmara. The factors responsible for the susceptibility to the disease have been emphasised giving them prime importance. The mutual dependence and involvement of Shareerika and Manasika Doshas are highlighted revealing the intricate nature of the Samprapti. Shatkriyakala is the process of understanding the pathogenesis of disease in consecutive stages. So here an attempt has been made to understand and highlight the Samprapti of Apasmara based on the stages of Shatkriyakala.

Key words: Apasmara, Maharoga, Samprapti, Shatkriyakala.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Apasmara is a disease entity described in all classics of Ayurveda with significant importance and it has been described among the *Maharoga*. Apasmara has striking similarities with epilepsy and has an incidence of 5-10 per every 1000 persons. It has the dubious distinction of affecting all the walks of life of an individual suffering from the disease. It is one of the disease which affects both *Shareera* and *Manas*. Both *Shareerika Doshas* i.e., *Vata, Pitta* and *Kapha* as well as *Manasika Doshas* i.e., *Rajas* and *Tamas* plays equal

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role in the manifestation of disease Apasmara.

Samprapti is the process of evolution of the disease, which gives an exact idea as how the aetiological factors give rise to Dushti of Doshas, how Doshas travel at different sites setting in the disease process. It gives the insight into the development of the disease. For Aturavikara Prashamana, the knowledge about disease origin and its progress is very important. This knowledge regarding manifestation is nicely explained under the heading of Kriyakala by Acharya Sushruta. The series of Vikrtakriya (abnormal activities) developing in different periods of Kala (time) is known as Kriyakala i.e., periods/stages of evolution of disease. It is the narration in sequential order of the abnormal changes taking place in the Dosha, Dushya, Agni, Srotas, etc. this knowledge is very helpful for both the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

#### Vyutpatti and Nirukthi

The word 'Apasmara' consists of 'Apa' Upasarga and 'Smr' Dhatu by applying 'Nich' Pratyaya, which means loss of memory (during attack).

The term *Apasmara*, which indicates the main clinical features of the *Vyadhi*, is a combination of two words i.e, *Apa* and *Smara*.

#### Apa

Parivarjana i.e. loss.[1]

Gamana i.e. to go down.[2]

#### Smara

The term 'Smara' indicates 'Smrti' which has been attributed many meanings in the literature. But, its meaning in the context of Apasmara is as follows:

- Bhutartha Vijnana i.e., knowledge of past experience.
- Smarah Smaranam i.e. ability to remember, recollect.

According to *Vachaspatyam* word *Apasmara* is derived from *Apa Upasarga, Smr Dhatu, Nich Pratyayam* with *Kartari Ach Dhatu* which means, loss of memory (transient loss only during the attack).

According to Shabdha Kalpa Dhruma, word Apasmara is derived from Apa Upasarga Smri Kartari Dhatu with Ghan Pratyaya, Apasmaryate Poorvavrittam Vismryathe Anenaha indicating loss of memory of past experience during the attack, i.e., loss of memory of events that took place during the attack.

#### Paribhasha

#### According to Acharya Charaka<sup>[3]</sup>

Apasmara is defined as the transient appearance of consciousness with loath some expression due to derangement of Smruti (memory), Buddhi (intelligence) and Satva (mind)

Apasmara is defined as the disease characterized by Apagama of Smriti (Smritinasha) associated with Tamapravesha (Jnana Abhava) and Bhibhatsa Cesta due to derangement (Samplava) of Dhi and Satva. [4]

Tamah Pravesha is equivalent to Jnana Abhava i.e, absence of consciousness; Bibhatsa Chesta includes all loath some expressions and Samplava indicates Vibhrama or perversion.

#### According to Acharya Sushruta<sup>[5]</sup>

Acharya Sushruta defines 'Smrti' as Bhutartha Vignana i.e., faculty of recollecting the past thing and

the disease characterized with loss of transient memory during the time of *Apasmara Vega* and hence patient will be unable to recollect the events during the attack.

#### According to Acharya Vaghbhata<sup>[6]</sup>

Apasmara is Apaya of Smrti due to Samplava of Dhi and Sattva.

It is clarified by *Indu* that *Smrityapaya* is *'Smrti Apagama'* i.e, loss of *Smrti; Dhi* is *Buddhi* and *Sattva* is *Dhairya*.

The meaning of *Apaya* is commented as *Vinasa* by *Arunadatta*.<sup>[7]</sup>

#### Nidana

Nidana plays an vital role in manifestation of any disease by initiating the disease process. Any Nidana Sevana leads to Vatadi Dosha Prakopa initiating the disease, ultimately produces the disease. In Ayurveda, Nidana have been given utmost importance because in both Samprapti and Chikitsa, Nidana takes the prime importance.

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SN	Nidana	c.s.	S.S.	A.S.	A.H.		
1	Malina Ahara	+	+	+	+		
2	Asuchi Ahara	+	+	+	+		
3	Upahita Ahara	+	+	+	+		
4	Viruddha Ahara	+	+	+	+		
5	Madya Sevana	+	-	-	-		
6	Vishama Bhojana Prayoga	+	-	-	-		
7	Vishama Sharira Chesta	+	+	+	+		
8	Upakshaya	+	-	-	-		
9	Vega Nigraha	-	+	-	-		
10	Asatmendriyartha Samyoga	-	+	-	-		
11	Udbhranta Dosha	+	-	-	-		

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12	Bahu Dosha	+	-	-	-
13	Vishama Dosha	+	-	-	-
14	Rajasvala Gamana	-	+	-	-
15	Deva Dvija Guru Apamana	-	-	+	+
16	Rajas Vikruthi	+	+	+	+
17	TamasVikruthi	+	+	+	+
18	AlpaSatva	-	-	+	+
19	Kama	+	+	-	-
20	Krodha	+	+	-	-
21	Bhaya, Shoka	+	+	-	-
22	Lobha	+	-	-	-
23	Moha	+	-	-	-
24	Harsha	+	-	-	-
25	Chinta	+	-	-	-
26	Udvega	+	+	-	-
27	Marmabhighata	+	-	-	-
28	Visha Upavisha	-	-	+	+
29	Abhighata (Fall)	-	-	-	-
30	Upahata Chetas	+	-	-	-

#### Samprapti

#### According to Acharya Charaka<sup>[8]</sup>

Due to the *Nidana Sevana*, the *Dosas* located in the *Dhamani* (vessels/artery) afflict the *Hrudaya* and cause disturbances in its functions. The person, thus affected, is afflicted with stupor and malfunctioning of the mental activities.

#### According to Acharya Sushruta<sup>[9]</sup>

When the channels carrying sensation get dominated by somatic and psychic *Dosas*, *Rajas* and *Tamas*, the person, due to mental disturbance, gets bewildered, throws his hands and feet at random with crooked brows and abnormal gaze, bites teeth, emits froth and falls down on ground with protruded eyes; after a short period regaining consciousness-this is the feature of epilepsy.

#### According to Acharya Vaghbhata[10]

Apasmara is Apaya (going away, loss, destruction) of Smrti (memory, knowledge of the surroundings, of past events) and results from loss of Dhi (understanding, wisdom) and Satva (consciousness, mind) when the Chitta (mind, thinking) gets deranged by (the effect of) Chintha (worry), Shoka (grief), Bhaya (fear) etc., by the Dosas getting increased in the same way as in Unmada (insanity) localised in the Hrudaya (mind) and Deha (body); when the mind gets deranged by the obstructions of the Sanjnavaha channels (pathways of consciousness) the person enters into *Tama* i.e., darkness (loss of consciousness) with his mind becoming inactive, Ati Bhibhatsa Kriya (performs terryfying actions) such as Dantan Khadan (grinding the teeth), Phenam Vamana (emitting froth from the mouth), Hasta Pada Vikshipan (shaking the hands and feet voilently) i.e., convulsions, Pashyan Asanti Rupani (seeing non-existing things), Praskhalan Patati Kshitou (loses balance and falls on the ground), with irregular eyes (movements) and eyebrows, get up regaining conscious after the expiry of Dosha Vega (bouts of the Dosas). After sometime (days or months) he acts similarly, performing such abnormal activities.

## Explanation of *Samprapti* based on the stages of *Kriyakala*

Utpadaka Hetus → Chaya - Vitiation of Vatapradana Tridoshas → Prakopa of Vatadi Tridoshas, Rajas and Tamas → Prasara Vatadi Doshas through Rasayanis Rajas and Tamas in Manovaha Srotas → Sthana Samshraya settles in Hrudaya and Indriya Ayatanas - Siras → Because of Vatadi Dosha + Rajas + Tamas → Satva Guna Kshaya producing Upahata Chetas (This Prakupita Sharirika, Manasika Doshas and Upahata Cetasavasta continued to present through out the life of the patient till he is Apasmara Rogi and when

patient consumes *Vyanjaka Hetus*, it produces *Apasmara Vega*)  $\rightarrow$  *Vyanjaka Hetus*  $\rightarrow$  *Prakopa Prasara Prakopa* and *Prasara* of *Linavastha Doshas*  $\rightarrow$  *Sthanasmashraya Sanjnavaha Srotas*  $\rightarrow$  *Avarodha* to *Sanjnavaha Srotas* by *Rajas* and *Tamas*  $\rightarrow$  *Dhi, Satva Samplava*  $\rightarrow$  *Smriti Nasha* + *Bhibhatsa Chesta*  $\rightarrow$  *Vyaktavasta Apasmara Vega.* 

#### Samprapti Ghataka of Apasmara

- Dosha: Both Shareerika and Manasika (Raja and Tamas)
- Vata Vyana, Prana, Udana
- Pitta Sadhaka, Alochaka
- Kapha Tarpaka
- Dushya : Dhatu Majja
- Upadhatu Dhamani
- Dhatu Mala Sveda, Kapha
- Agni : Jatharagni, Dhatvagni
- Agnidushti : Mandata
- Ama : Agnijanya
- Srotas : Sanjnavaha Srotas, Rasavaha Srotas
- Srotodusti : Sanga
- Udbhavasthana : Shirohrdaya
- Adhisthana: Manas, Shiras
- Vyaktasthana : Mana and Sarvasharira
- Sancharasthana : Rasayanis
- Svabhava : Asukari, Cirakari
- Prabhava : Ekadoshaja Sadhya, Tridoshaja Asadhya
- Rogabheda: 4 types
- Rogamarga : Madhyama

#### Sadhya - Asadhyata

Vataja, Pittaja and Kaphaja types of Apasmara are considered to be Sadhya, if they are of acute origin. Where as the fourth type i.e. Sannipataja Apasmara is considered to be Asadhya.

If the patient is emaciated and the disease is chronic, then even the *Eka Doshaja Apasmara* are considered as *Asadhya* to treat. *Apasmara* is stated to be *Asadhya* if the patient gets repeated attacks (convulsions), if he is emaciated and suffers from fierce movement of eyebrows.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Discussion on how *Nidana* is responsible for *Samprapti* (etiopathogenesis) i.e., causation of the disease *Apasmara* 

Based on the nature of the disease and according to the duration, from time of consumption of *Nidana* to occurrence of *Apasmara Vega*, the *Nidanas* of *Apasmara* can be classified into two groups i.e. *Utpadaka Nidanas* and *Vyanjaka Nidanas*.

#### Utpadaka Nidana

These are the *Nidanas* which vitiates the *Doshas*, *Cetas* and *Indriyas*, but are not capable of inducing an *Apasmara Vegas* because the *Doshas* which are vitiated are subtle in nature and these *Nidanas* needs *Vyanjaka* (precipitating), *Nidanas* for the causation of an *Apasmara Vega*. Further these *Utpadaka Nidanas* can be classified into *Aharaja Nidanas* and *Viharaja Nidanas*.

#### 1. Aharaja Nidana

#### a) Samala, Malina

The food that becomes contaminated during the process of cooking or after it.

#### b) Asuchini, Asuchibhojana

The food which is prepared of unclean raw materials or stored in contaminated utensils.

#### c) Upahitani

The food that is mixed along with contaminated food articles.

These foods either individually or in combination are responsible for the vitiation of *Sharirika* and *Manasika Doshas*. The *Aharas* contaminated with *Mala* may not do the *Poshana Karma*. The *Mala* present may act as *Gara Visha* depending on its contents. It can also

vitiate *Rajas* or *Tamas Doshas* according to its nature. *Asuchi* and *Upahita* also have the same action on *Agni* and *Doshas* and *Malina Ahara* leads to *Tridosha Prakopa* along with the exacerabation of *Rajas* and *Tamas*.

#### d) Vikruta Viruddha

Charaka has explained a specific type of Samskara Viruddha Ahara, which results in Apasmara. One must not eat Pauskara, Rohinika or Kapota fried in Sarsapa Taila. These should not be eaten along with honey & milk. If done so, one would suffer from Shonitabhisyanda, Dhamani Pratichaya, Apasmara, Shankaka, Galaganda, Rohini and may ultimately lead to death.

The Samskara Viruddha Ahara acts as Visha.

#### e) Ahita Bhojana

The Ahita Ahara doesn't result in Dosa Prakopa at once, but in constant Nidana Sevana in a long run provides a fertile ground for the causation of Vyadhis.

#### f) Ahara Vidhi

If one does not follow the proper Asta Vidha AharaVidhi Vishesha Ayatanas which alters the process of pachanakarma producing ama dosha it will in turn result in the vitiation of Doshas of both Sharira and Manas.

#### 2. Viharaja Nidana

#### a) Vishamaachara and Sharira Chesta

Vishama Achara - not following the Sadvrittas (dialy regimens and good conducts) may lead to both physical amd mental stress causing Manasika and Sharirika Dosha Vikruthi or any change in the lifestyle of the patient will act as a precipitating factor in epilelpsy.

Vishama Chesta may be Abhighata, Ratrijagarana or Ativyayama. This leads to Vata Prakopa, later vitiation of other Doshas. Vishama Chesta might also indicate trauma indirectly.

#### b) Malina Vihara

Vishama Vihara also includes Vega Nigraha. This would also lead to Vata Prakopa. Vega Nigraha has

been mentioned specifically by *Susruta* as one of the cause. Among the various *Vega*, *Trishnanigraha* results in condition similar to *Apasmara*.

#### c) Rajasvalabhigamana

It is considered as one of the *Nidana* of *Upadamsha*, causing *Shukra Dushti* resulting in *Pratiloma Dustis* or *Kshaya* of *Dhatus* leading to *Dhatu Kshaya* causing *Vata Prakopa* along with *Manasika Dosa Dusti* causing *Apasmara*.

#### d) Madya

Apasmara is one of the Vyadhis that results due to intake of excess of Madya along with Moha, Bhaya, Shoka, Krodha, Murcha, Unmada, Apatantaka and even death.

Madya acts on Sanjnavaha Srotas and causes Smrti Vibhramsa. It also turns an individual into Avara Satva by decreasing Satva Guna and increasing Rajas and Tamo Guna. Thus Madya acts as both Utpadaka Nidana as well as Vyanjaka Hetu.

#### Vyanjaka Nidana

When the vitiated *Doshas* and *Manas* (*Rajas/Tamas*) are in *Lingavastha* and are incapable of producing an attack, needs further vitiation of *Doshas*. These *Vyanjaka Nidanas* are capable of further vitiating the *Doshas, Hridaya* and *Indriyas* producing *Upahata Cetas* and immediately initiates an attack.

#### a) Manasika Karanas

Kama, Krodha, Bhaya, Lobha, Moha, Harsha, Shoka, Chinta and Udvega may act as precipitating factors of Apasmara Vega. The vitiated Doshas are present in Hridaya and Indriya Ayatana in Linavastha. The above mentioned Kamadi etc. occludes the Indriya Ayatana and Sanjnavaha Srotas causing Apasmara Vega. They also aggravate the Doshas, which are already Udbranta and Bahu in nature. Kama, Shoka and Bhaya vitiate Vata while Krodha aggravates Pitta.

#### b) Marmaghata

Apasmara has been enumerated as one of the Vyadhis from Hridaya Marmabhigata. They may act as Sannikrista Karana for Apasmara.

#### c) Asatmyendriyartha Samyoga

Excessive or faulty indulgence in objects of sensory perceptions has been included as one of the *Nidanas* of *Apasmara*. It is explained by *Dalhana* that *Indriyartha* refer *Shabdadi PancaJnanendriya* and *Karmanam* refers to *Karmas* of *Kaya*, *Vak* and *Manas*. It may act as *Utpadaka Hetu* in the long run, but can act as *Vyanjaka Hetu* in a person with *Upahata Chetas*.

### Discussion of Samprapti based on the stages of Kriyakala

The peculiar nature of *Apasmara* requires a fresh approach to be adopted while dealing with its *Samprapti*. Since an individual afflicted with this disease is apparently normal in between the *Vegas*, there might be different processes, which finally culminate in *Apasmara Roga* and *Apasmara Vega*.

Thus, the *Samprapti* can be classified into two phrases;

- **1.** *Sthayi (Utpadaka) Samprapti:* That which persists throughout the course of the disease.
- Vega Kalina (Vyanjaka) Samprapti: This is the transient process that takes place during the Vega Kala.

#### Sthayi (Utpadaka) Samprapti

- a) Sancaya The Rajas and Tamas act on the Manas resulting in 'Upahata Chetas'. Here, Rajas and Tamas gain dominance either through the inherent nature or Prakruti of the individual or by dint of Ahara, Vihara that aggravate them.
- b) Prakopa The factors of Prakopa vary according to different Nidanas. They may act individually or in combination. Nidana Sevana vitiates the related Dosha.
- c) Prasara Persistence in Nidana Sevana, lack of any Dosha Pratyanika Chikitsa or the factor like Kala, Ritu aid the further aggravation of the already vitiated Doshas leading to their Prasara Avastha.

- d) Sthana Samsraya The Prakupita Doshas spread through the Rasavaha Srotas and when they reach Hridaya and Indriya Ayatana i.e. Shiras, they settle down making them their abode. They remain in Linavastha until the Vyanjaka Nidana acts on them.
- e) Vyakti This results in Apasmara Roga. This Samprapti will be present without any manifestation.

This Samprapti is of high significance since Avasthika or Vegakalina Samprapti in itself is not capable of causing Apasmara Roga. This statement is further fortified by the observation made by Gangadhara. Apasmara cannot afflict an individual who acquires 'Upahata Satva' by the action of Rajas and Tamas due to that cause alone. He acquires Apasmara by the later vitiation of Vatadi Doshas thus requiring Manasa and Sharirika Doshas for the causation of disease.

The term 'Vyakti' in the context of this Samprapti refers to the stage, when the Vyadhi manifests itself but is not evident in between Vegas. This in turn plays as a fertile ground for the precipitating factors to act upon the already established Dusti.

#### Avasthika (Vegakalina) Samprapti

- a) Chaya, Prokopa and Prasara The Vyanjaka Nidanas i.e. Kama, Krodha etc. exacerbate the already vitiated Doshas and agitate them. At this juncture, the Caya, Prakopa and Prasara phases occur spontaneously.
- b) Sthana Samsraya Among the vitiated and agitated Doshas, Rajas and Tamas by the int of the subtleness occlude the Sanjnavaha Srotas. This results in Dhi and Satva Samplava. Here, the term 'Samplava' stands for derangement paving way to Apagama of Smrti.
- c) *Vyakti* This is the stage of manifestation of *Apasmara Vega* bringing about a chain of events, which repeats themselves during each *Vega*.

The Avasthika Samprapti repeats itself during each Vega. But the Sthana Samsraya at the level of Sanjnavaha Srotas is transient. Thus, there are no

signs of *Sanjnavaha Sroto Dusti* in between the *Vegas*. This *Avasthika Samprapti* may act as *Nidana* for the successive *Vegas*.

- d) Bheda It stands for the specific classifications of the 4 types of Doshic Apasmara. They are as follows:
- 1. Vataja Apasmara
- 2. Pittaja Apasmara
- 3. Kaphaja Apasmara
- 4. Sannipataja Apasmara

#### **CONCLUSION**

Smriti Nasha, Tama Pravesha and Bhibhatsa Chesta are the cardinal features of disease Apasmara. Apasmara is one of the disease which affects both Shareera and Manas. All the 3 Acharyas of Brihatrayis laid down equivocal opinion regarding Samprapti of Apasmara. Both Shareerika Doshas and Manasika Doshas plays equal role in the manifestation of disease Apasmara.

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