

ISSN 2456-3110 Vol 5 · Issue 3 May-June 2020

# Journal of Ayurveda and Integrated Medical Sciences

www.jaims.in



An International Journal for Researches in Ayurveda and Allied Sciences



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## Journal of

### Ayurveda and Integrated Medical Sciences

REVIEW ARTICLE

May-June 2020

# Efficacy of Ayurvedic medications over contemporary management in Dengue

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#### ABSTRACT

Dengue is a fast emerging pandemic prone viral disease in many parts of the world. This mosquito borne viral infection, having a prevalence up to 50-100 milion annually among 100 endemic countries, putting almost half of the world's population. The typical features of this fever includes sudden onset of fever, frontal headache, retro orbital pain, back pain, myalgia and transient macular rashes in first day. In a small number of cases, the disease develops into the life threatening dengue hemorrhagic fever, resulting in bleeding, low levels of blood platelets and plasma leakage or into dengue shock syndrome, where dangerously low blood pressure occurs. In Ayurvedic perspective, Acharya Caraka has explained *Abhishangaja Jwara*, one among the *Agantuja Jwara*, in which *Bhutas* are told to be one of the cause. Acharya Madhavakara has mentioned *Vishama Jwara* is having *Bhuthanubandha*. *Agantuja Jwara* is mostly *Dhatu Ashraya*. Hence *Koshtasrita Dosha Chikitsa* alone cannot give success. In the case of dengue, *Rasa* and *Rakta Dhatu* are mainly affected. Also the signs and symptoms are more or less similar to these *Dhatu Vikara*. Hence the aim of the treatment is to restore the *Prakrita Karma* of these *Dhatu*.

Key words: Dengue, Agantuja Jwara, Abhishangaja Jwara.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection. The virus responsible for causing dengue is called dengue virus (DENV). There are four types of DENV serotypes (DENV1, DENV2, DENV3 and DENV4). Dengue virus is transmitted by female mosquitoes mainly of the species Aedes aegypti and to a lesser extent, Ae. albopictus. These mosquitoes are also the vectors of *Chikungunya*, yellow fever and Zika viruses. Dengue is

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Submission Date: 28/05/2020 Accepted Date: 25/06/2020

# Access this article online Quick Response Code Website: www.jaims.in Published by Maharshi Charaka Ayurveda Organization, Vijayapur, Karnataka (Regd) under the license CCby-NC-SA

common in tropical and sub-tropical climates worldwide, mostly in urban and semi-urban areas. The global incidence of dengue has grown dramatically in recent decades. About half of the world's population is now at risk with an estimation of 390 million infections each year. In India from 2017-2018, there has been a decline in dengue cases and deaths from 188401 to 89974 and 325 to 144 respectively. There is no specific treatment for dengue/severe dengue. Early detection of disease progression associated with severe dengue, and access to proper medical care lowers fatality rates of severe dengue to below 1%. In complicated conditions there may be chance of occurrence of Dengue hemmorrhagic fever and Dengue shock syndrome.

Acharya Charaka introduces *Jwara* as a disease entity causing *Dehe Indriya Mana Santapa* and as *Sarvaroga Agraja*. In Ayurvedic perspectives, Dengue comes under the category of *Abhishangaja Jvara*, predominantly *Pittaja* in pathological ground. The complications represent *Raktaja* and *Sannipataja Jvara*.

According to Ayurveda, due to the Nidana Sevana, Dosha get vitiated. These Dosha after reaching Amashaya combines with Ama and causes obstruction to nearby Srotas (Rasavaha Srotas). As a result of this obstruction, Shotha is manifested in Antharika Amashaya Kalas. While the disease progress, the Pitta will cause Paka to this Shotha. Hence the basic treatments should be both Shophahara (Prathisara Chikitsa) and Pitta Shamana (Nirvapana Chikitsa). While coming to dengue fever it can be considered as Agantuja Abhishangaja Jwara, where the Roga Bija is from outside. Here along with the basic line of treatment, the physician should need to employ other symptomatic remedies (antipyretic, rehydration, hemostasis etc.) also according to the condition of the patient.

#### Pathogenesis<sup>[1]</sup>

Dengue may be caused by any of the dengue viral serotypes. Generally, infection with one serotype confers future protective immunity against that particular serotype but not against other serotypes. Furthermore, when infected for a second time with a different serotype, a more severe infection may occur. This is due to a phenomenon referred to as antibody dependent enhancement, where antibodies against the first serotype enhance infection with the second serotype. However, as only 2%-4% of individuals with a secondary dengue infection develop severe disease, antibody dependent enhancement alone cannot wholly explain this process. At present, reasons as to why only some individuals develop symptomatic infection are not known, but active research is being pursued by several groups to clarify such mechanisms.

After the bite of an infected mosquito, the dengue virus enters the body and replicates within cells of the mono-nuclear phagocyte lineage (macrophages, monocytes, and Bcells). Additionally, infection of mast cells, dendritic cells, and endothelial cells are known to occur. The incubation period of dengue infections is 7-10 days. A viraemic phase follows where the patient becomes febrile and infective. Thereafter, the patient may either recover or progress to the leakage phase, leading to DHF and/or dengue shock syndrome. Peak

plasma viraemia correlates with the severity of dengue infections. Differences in antibody, cytokine, and T-cell responses are seen among patients with uncomplicated dengue fever or DHF/dengue shock syndrome.

#### **Clinical Features**

#### **Dengue fever**

Dengue fever may occur either during primary or secondary infections. The onset is sudden with high fever, severe headache (especially in the retro-orbital area), arthralgia, myalgia, anorexia, abdominal discomfort and sometimes a macular papular rash. The fever may be biphasic and tends to last for 2-7 days. [2] Flushing, a characteristic feature is commonly observed on the face, neck, and chest. Coryza may also be a prominent symptom especially in infants.[3] Younger children tend to present with coryza, diarrhoea, rash and seizure and less commonly with vomiting, headache and abdominal pain. [4] Although, haemorrhagic manifestations are uncommon in dengue fever, petechiae/pupura, gastrointestinal bleeding, epistaxis, and gingival bleeding have been observed in some individuals.<sup>[2]</sup> A positive tourniquet test has been reported in many individuals with dengue fever possibly due to reduced capillary fragility.[5] Recovery from dengue fever is usually uneventful, but may be prolonged especially in adults.[6]

#### Dengue haemorrhagic fever

DHF usually follows secondary dengue infections, but may sometimes follow primary infections, especially in infants. In such infants, maternally acquired dengue antibodies are presumed to enhance primary infections.<sup>[7]</sup> Such a phenomenon has not been described in human infections other than dengue.

DHF is characterised by[8]

#### General

- High fever, intermittent.
- Severe headache (especially retro-orbital).
- Flushing.

ISSN: 2456-3110

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- Myalgia and arthralgia.
- Vomiting.
- Anorexia.
- Acute abdominal pain.

#### **Bleeding manifestations**

- Epistaxis.
- Bleeding from gums.
- Petechiae and eccymoses.
- Haematemesis and melena.
- Spotting or menorrhagia in females.

#### Features of plasma leakage

- Circulatory disturbances (low blood pressure, tachycardia, narrow pulse pressure, and poor capillary refill time).
- Periserositis (pleural effusions, ascites sometimes pericarditis).

#### **Complications**

- Encephalopathy and encephalitis.
- Liver failure.
- Mvocarditis.
- Disseminated intravascular coagulation leading to a massive bleeding.

#### The WHO case definition of DHF

A patient with the following four criteria:

- 1. Acute sudden onset of high fever for 2-7 days.
- 2. Haemorrhagic manifestations with at least a positive tourniquet test.
- 3. Platelet count <100 \*109/L
- Haemoconcentration (rising packed cell volume. 20%) or other evidence of plasma leakage for example, ascites, pleural effusions, low level of serum protein/albumin.

For purposes of description DHF is divided into three phases - namely: febrile, leakage and convalescent phases. Furthermore, according to severity DHF is divided into four grades.

**Grade I**: No shock; only positive tourniquet test.

**Grade II**: No shock; has spontaneous bleeding other than a positive tourniquet test.

Grade III: Shock.

**Grade IV**: Profound shock with unmeasurable blood pressure or/and pulse.

#### Management

Management of dengue infections is mainly symptomatic, as there are no specific drugs effective against the dengue virus. Proper maintenance of fluid balance is a cornerstone in management (table 1). Early identification of the leakage phase with prompt resuscitation helps to reduce complications and improve outcome. Mortality rates have been low in patients admitted early to hospital before the onset of shock.<sup>[9]</sup>

#### **Dengue fever**

- Temperature control: Paracetamol (60 mg/kg/day), tepid sponging
- Light diet
- Monitor for progression to DHF by monitoring platelet count and packed cell volume

#### **Grade I and II DHF**

- Intravenous fluids: Hartmann's solution, 5% dextrose in normal saline.
- Electrolytes: Monitor electrolytes in those with altered level of consciousness.
- Temperature control: Paracetamol (60 mg/kg/day), tepid sponging.
- Monitor: Vital signs, urine output, and level of consciousness, packed cell volume, and platelet counts, liver enzymes.
- Observe: Haemorrhagic manifestations (petechiae signs of gastrointestinal tract bleeding).
- Stop fluids: When patient recovers from the leakage phase.

#### Grade III and IV DHF and dengue shock syndrome

- Intravenous fluids: Crystalloids (Hartmann's solution, 5% dextrose in normal saline) and colloids. (dextran 40, fresh frozen plasma, or gelafundin) several intravenous boluses may be needed.
- Monitor: Vital signs, urine output, level of consciousness, packed cell volume, and platelet counts every 10–15 minutes.
- Give oxygen
- If significant bleeding occurs give platelet. (depends on the amount of bleeding)
- Correct electrolyte and metabolic abnormalities

## According to Ayurveda Dengue can be understood at the levels

According to Susrutha Samhita, Agantuka Karana or Parahetu leads to Vishama Jwara. Dalhana explained Parahetu as Bhutabhishanga. Bhuta stands for "Antargate Shareere Upadrava Kaarino Janthu Vishesha". Vyadhikshamatva plays a major role here. Individuals who are exposing to this pathogen may not get disease if his/her immunity is at good.

The concept of epidemics is very well defined and established in Ayurveda. *Charaka Samhita* had mentioned epidemic conditions under the heading of 'Janapadodwamsa". Numerous methods of prevention and controls of epidemics, measures for environmental sanitation finds an important place in Ayurveda. It has also been mentioned that the natural course of disease and its treatment may vary according to the period, geographical extent, ecoclimatic conditions, psychosomatic constitution of an individual and so on.

#### Dandaka Jwara

Description of dengue as *Dandaka Jwara* is found in the *Parishishta* chapter of Madhava Nidana. It has been described that a particular species of mosquito is the basic cause of spread of fever called *Dandaka Jvara*. This fever mostly subsides within a week;

however, it is more dangerous for the children and old people.<sup>[10]</sup>

#### Nidana

Main cause of *Dandak Jwara* is toga virus which spread in body through Aedes Aegypti mosquito.

#### Premonitory symptoms (*Purvarupa*)

Angmarda (bodyache), Klama (tiredness without exertion), Aruchi (anorexia), Avsaada (depression).

#### **Symptoms**

Severe breaking pain in bone and joints. High temperature of 103° to 105° F. may occur which gets subside and may relapse again within three to four days (Saddle back fever). On 8<sup>th</sup> day, it subsides on its own. Severe pains in bones, difficulty in walking, slow pulse, excessive weakness, loss of appetite are common symptoms. During fever, pulse is not proportionately as fast as it should be with fever. Symptoms of common cold (*Pratishyaya*) cough and throat pain are also common symptoms of *Dandaka Jwara* which becomes endemic due to virulence of *Kapha* and *Vata Dosha*.<sup>[11]</sup>

#### Management according to Ayurveda

According to Ayurveda, Samprapti Vighatana is considered as Chikitsa. Hence Ama Pachana (removes the Shopha occurred due to Ama at Srotomukha) and Pitta Shamana Chikitsa are considered as the basic treatment in Nija Jwara. While coming to dengue fever, it can be considered as Agantuja Abhishangaja Jwara, where the Roga Bija is from outside. Agantuja Jwaras are Dhatu Ashraya. Here along with the basic line of treatment, the physician should need to employ other symptomatic remedies (antipyretic, rehydration, hemostasis etc.) also according to the condition of the patient. Drugs which improve the Quality of Life (QOL) and vector control measures are also beneficial in the management of Dengue. [12]

A) Symptoms modifier - The agents that alleviate symptoms are categorized under symptom modifier. Some of the oftenly used medicines for *Parsvasula*, *Jwara*, *Sandhi Vedana* and *Jirna Jwara* are *Dashamula* 

Kwatha,<sup>[13]</sup> Patoladi Kwatha,<sup>[14]</sup> Maharasnadi Kwatha<sup>[15]</sup> and Aroaya Vardini Gutika<sup>[16]</sup> respectively.

- **B)** General health promoting agents The agents that improve Quality of Life (QOL), provides strength or resistance against the disease and facilitate early recovery are classified under General Health Promoters. Aswagandha, Amalaki, Guduchi, Yastimadhu.
- 1. Balya (Tonic)
- 2. Rasayana (Immunomodulator)

Madhava Nidana (Madhukosha commentary) has explained about Satata Jwara where Doshas get Ashraya in Rakta predominantly. The Kashaya<sup>[17]</sup> prepared out of Patola, Sariva, Musta, Patha and Katukarohini is specifically told for this condition.

SN	Dravya	Guna	
1.	Patola	Shoolagni and Jwara Nashini (Sho.Ni).	
		Tridosha Jwara, Dipana Pachana and Krimigna (Kai.Ni).	
		Raktapithahara (Ra.Ni).	
2.	Sariva	Vishama Jwara Nashini, Shiro Arthigni (Sho.Ni).	
		Rakthapithahara and Jwarahara (Dha.Ni).	
3.	Mustha	Agroushadi for Jwara (Ash.Hri Su).	
		Pithajwaragna, Athisaragna and	
		Krimivinashini (Dha.Ni).	
		Aruchinashana (Kai.Ni).	
4.	Patha	Vishagni,Chardhinuth,Tridoshajith,	
		Athisara Shoolagni (Dha.Ni).	
5.	Katukarohini	Vishamajwara Nashini (Dha.Ni).	
		Asradoshajith (Ra.ni).	

Fumigation done with Aparajitha Dhupana<sup>[18]</sup> Dravyas can be adopted as a prophylactic measure. The drugs include Pura, Sarja, Agaru, Devdaru, Nimba, Arka, Vacha and Dhyama. A study conducted in this Yoga revealed its anti microbial property.

Drakshadi Phanta<sup>[19]</sup> explained in Ashtanga Hridaya Jwara Chikitsaadhyaya contains ingredients Draksha, Madhooka, Madhuka, Lodhra, Kashmarya, Sarivaa, Musta, Amalaka, Hribera, Padmakesara, Padma, Mrinala, Chandana, Ushira, Nilotpala, Parushaka, Jati Kusuma, Madhu, Sita and Laja.

It is indicated in *Jwara*, *Madatyata*, *Chardi*, Murcha, Daha, *Shrama*, *Bhrama*, *Urdwga Rakta Pitta*, *Pipasa* and *Kamala*.

Drugs *Madhuka*, *Madhu* and *Laja* are told under *Shonithasthapana Dashemaniya*.

Sariva, Draksha, Parushaka and Amalaka - Jwarahara Dashemaniya.

#### Ashtaguna Manda<sup>[20]</sup>

#### **Ingredients**

SN	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Quantity (In ratio)
1.	Dhanyaka	Coriandrm sativum	1
2.	Nagara	Zingiber officinalis	1
3.	Maricha	Piper nigrum	1
4.	Pippali	Piper longum	1
5.	Mudga	Phaseolus aureus	1
6.	Tandula	Oryza sativum	1
7.	Taila bhrshta Hingu	Ferula northax	1
8.	Saindhava	Rock salt	1
9.	Water	-	14

#### **Ingredients and Quantity**

All the ingredients except *Tandula* and *Mudga* are dried and powdered and kept aside. Then properly cleaned *Tandula* and *Mudga* are taken together and add 14 times of water and heat. Heating is continued till the contents are properly cooked. Then the entire content is decanted to obtain the liquid portion known as the *Manda* which is added with the

remaining powdered ingredients and is served. *Siddhi Lakshna* is the completely cooked rice and *Mudga*.

Dosage: 25-50ml

**Shelf life:** Sadhyasevana. Best to be used freshly prepared

#### **Pharmacological Action**

- Deepana: Improves digestion, can be given in Ama condition and also can prevent the formation of Ama.
- Pranada: Improves strength by normalising the electrolyte imbalance produced after the Panchakarma therapy, through Samsarjana Karma.
- 3. *Basti shodana*: Cleanses and detoxifies kidney and bladder.
- 4. Raktavardhana: Dhatu Parinama happens by the Jataragni Deepana.
- 5. Sarvadoshagna: Balances all the three Dosas.
- 6. Jwarahara

#### Shadanga Paneeya [21]

#### **Ingredients**

SN	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Quantity
1.	Ghana(Musta)	Cyperus rotundus	1
2.	Rakta Chandana	Santalum album	1
3.	Shunti	Zingiber offcianlis	1
4.	Ambu(hrivera)	Coleus forscolin	1
5.	Parpata	Fumaria indica	1
6.	Ushira	Vetiveria zizanioides	1

#### Method of preparation

One *Karsha* (12gms) of these drugs boiled with one *Prastha* (768ml) of water and reduced to half and can be used or drinking.

**Indications:** *Pachana* (digestive), *Trit Jwarapaham* (cures thirst and fever).

#### **CONCLUSION**

Understanding of dengue fever through Ayurveda due to Agantu Karana (virus infestation) and irregular nature of fever it can be co-related with Agantuja Vishama Jwara described in Ayurvedic classics. Sannipathaja Jwara Lakshanas are very much similar to DHF symptoms such as Hemoptysis, burning sensation, vomiting, giddiness, delirium, boils, thirst etc. Agantuja Jwara is Dhatu Ashraya. Hence Brimhana Chikitsa (Dhatu Poshana) is to be employed when Koshta is in Nirama Avastha also symptomatic managements are advised if necessary. In DHF we have to adopt Raktapithahara Chikitsa. Role of immunity is very much important in this condition as the Ojo Guna is opposite to Visha Guna. If a person is having good immunity, there will be less chance of severity.

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**How to cite this article:** Dr. Ranesh AK, Dr. Manjunath Adiga. Efficacy of Ayurvedic medications over contemporary management in Dengue. J Ayurveda Integr Med Sci 2020;3:132-138.

**Source of Support:** Nil, **Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

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