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## Applied aspect of Ashtasthana Pariksha w.s.r. to tools used in current era

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## ABSTRACT

Health is a state of equilibrium of the Dosha, Dhatu and Mala along with proper functioning of Indriya, Manas and Atma. To treat the disease, it is necessary to keep balance between Doshas and to bring back them into their normal condition. Ayurveda had described various tools to diagnose various diseases and one of them is Rog and Rogi Pariksha. For Rogi Pariksha, various Parikshas have been described like Dwividha Pariksha, Trividha Pariksha, Chaturvidha Pariksha, Panchvidha Pariksha, Ashtavidha Pariksha and Dashvidha Pariksha. Yogratnakara provides a clear picture of scenery of illness and healthy condition through Ashtavidha Pariksha. In current era, various diagnostic tools like urine examination, stool examination, tongue examination, auscultation, percussion, eye examination and gait examination are also very helpful in the prognosis of many common diseases. In current paper, attempts were made to study the relation of Ashtasthana Pariksha with special emphasis on tools used in modern era.

Key words: Ashtasthana Pariksha, Ayurveda, Examination, Prognosis, Diagnosis, Yogratnakara.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The fundamental principle of Ayurveda is to maintain health of a healthy person and to diminish the disease of patient. Yogratnakara stresses on the importance of "Vyadhi Vinishchaya" (Diagnosis of ailment). It is essential that physician should examine the disease thoroughly and arrive at a proper diagnosis (Vyadhi Nirnaya). Afterwards i.e., knowing fully about the nature etc. of diseases he should commence the Chikitsa (treatment) by administering suitable "Aushadha" or by employing a procedure e.g. Snehana,

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Lepa etc.<sup>[1]</sup> Different methods of examination have been explained in classics of Ayurveda, which will be helpful in diagnosis of a disease, estimating the status of Rogibala and Rogabala etc. Following table provides a glimpse on this:

| Methods of<br>Examination              | Methods  |
|--|--|
| Dwividha Pariksha <sup>[2]</sup>       | Pratyaksha & Anumana   |
| Trividha Pariksha <sup>[3]</sup>       | Aptopadesha, Pratyaksha & Anumana,<br>Darshan, Sparshan & Prashna                                  |
| Chaturvidha<br>Pariksha <sup>[4]</sup> | Aptopadesha, Pratyaksha, Anumana &<br>Yukti  |
| Shadvidha<br>Pariksha <sup>[5]</sup>   | Panchendriya Pariksha & Prashna<br>Pariksha  |
| Ashtavidha<br>Pariksha <sup>[6]</sup>  | Nadi, Mutra, Mala, Jihwa, Shabda,<br>Sparsha, Drika, Akriti  |
| Dashvidha<br>Pariksha <sup>[7]</sup>   | Prakriti, Vikriti, Sara, Samhnana,<br>Pramana, Satmya, Satva, Aharshakti,<br>Vyayama Shakti & Vaya |

Among all these methods of examination, *Ashtasthana Pariksha* is one of the best and the most significant method of clinical assessment. It is a complete clinical examination of a patient which has very close resemblance with general physical examination of the patient as described in Modern Medicine. It is indeed the examination of eight aspects of a person to determine their health status.

#### **AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To assess the diagnostic and prognostic aspect of disease with the help of *Ashtavidha Pariksha*.
- 2. To make the prognosis of diseases with the help of tools used in current era.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

References of *Ashtavidha Pariksha* and different types of *Pariksha* have been collected from the available literature of Ayurveda.

#### Ashtasthana Rogi Pariksha (Eight fold Examination)

- (1) Nadi Pariksha (Pulse Study)
- (2) Mutra Pariksha (Examination of Urine)
- (3) Mala Pariksha (Stool Examination)
- (4) Jihwa Pariksha (Tongue Examination)
- (5) Shabda Pariksha (Voice Examination)
- (6) Sparsha Pariksha (Skin Examination)
- (7) Drik Pariksha (Eye Examination)
- (8) Akriti Pariksha (General appearance Examination)
- 1. Nadi Pariksha (Pulse Examination)

नाड़ीमअंगुष्ठमूलाधः स्पर्शेदक्षिणगे करे | ज्ञानार्थ रोगिणो वैद्यो निजदक्षिणपाणिना || (यो.र.१/४३)

The status of *Doshas* in diseased as well as in healthy individual can be assessed by *Nadi Pariksha*. Like *Prakriti, Nadi* also varies in person depending on health and diseased person.<sup>[8]</sup>

*Paryayas* of *Nadi: Snayu, Nadi, Hansi, Dhamani, Dharani, Dhara, Tantuki* and *Jeevan Gyan*.<sup>[9]</sup>

*Nadi* Location: *Vata, Pitta* and *Kapha Nadi* lies respectively under *Tarjini* (index), *Madhyama* (middle) and *Anamika* (ring) fingers of examining physician.<sup>[10]</sup>

#### Tridosha Examination

Three fingers placed in position over *Nadi* indicate the condition of the *Tridosha* and their *Gati* (i.e. *Manda, Madhyama and Tikshna*). The index finger denotes *Vata*, the middle finger *Pitta* and the ring finger *Kapha*. *Nadi Pariksha* offers knowledge about involvement of Dosha - Vata, Pitta and *Kapha, Dwandaja, Tridoshaja* and *Sadhya Asadhyata*.<sup>[11]</sup>

#### Jiva Sakshini

Anatomical position of the Jiva Sakshini Nadi is at Angushtha Moola.<sup>[12]</sup> The pulsation in the Dhamani (artery) reflects the evidence of life and the learned physician through Sparshana Pariksha is able to come to assessment of the person concerned, whether the person is ill or well. In female, left hand Nadi should be palpated and vice- versa.

#### How to examine

*Nadi* should be examined in mental stability and peace of mind with his hand pulse (beat) below the right thumb. The elbow (*Kurpara*) of the patient should be lightly flexed to the left and the wrist slightly bent to the left with the fingers distended and dispersed. *Nadi* should be examined repeatedly for three times by applying and releasing pressure alternatively over *Nadi* to assess the condition of *Doshas* rightly.<sup>[13]</sup>

#### **Method for Arterial Pulse Examination**

An ideal time for pulse examination is early morning with empty stomach. But in case of emergency, it can be examined at any time of the day or night. It is essential as a routine to feel not only the radial pulse but also the other peripheral pulses. The pulse is usually felt at the wrist and over the radial artery, because of its superficial position and ease of palpability. The radial artery is situated slightly medial to the styloid process of the radius, on the anterior aspect of the wrist.<sup>[14]</sup>

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#### Nadi Gati<sup>[15]</sup>

- Vataja Nadi: Sarpa and Jalauka
- Pittaja Nadi: Kaak, Lavaka and Manduka
- Kaphaja Nadi: Raj hansa, Mayura, Paravata, Kapota and Kukkuta
- Vata- Pittaja Nadi: Sarpa and Bheka (mandooka)
- Pitta- Kaphaja Nadi: Hari (Vaanar) and Hansa
- Vata- Kaphaja Nadi: Sarpa and Hansa
- Sannipataja Nadi: Kashthakutta

#### Nadi Gati in different Pathological Conditions<sup>[16]</sup>

| Pathological Conditions | Nadi Gati (Pulse movements)   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jwara                   | Gambheera, Ushna and Vegavati |
| Kama, Krodha            | Vegavati (Rapid)              |
| Chinta & Bhaya          | Kshina (Weak)                 |
| Mandagni                | Manda (Slow)                  |
| Rakta Dosha             | Ushna, Gurvi and Sama         |
| Ama                     | Gambheera                     |
| Deeptagni               | Laghu and Vegavana            |

#### Tools used for Nadi Pariksha

Pulse oximetry is a non invasive test that measures the oxygen saturation level of the blood. It can rapidly detect even small changes in oxygen levels. These levels show how efficiently blood is carrying oxygen to the extremities furthest from our heart, including our arms and legs. The pulse oximeter is a small, chip – like device. It attaches to a body part, most commonly to a finger. The purpose of pulse oximetry is to see if the blood is well oxygenated. Medical professionals may use pulse oximeters to monitor the health of people with conditions that affect blood oxygen levels, specially while they're in the hospital. The diseases like COPD, asthma, pneumonia, lung cancer, anemia, heart attack or heart failure and congenital heart diseases can be included.<sup>[17]</sup>

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#### 2. Mutra Pariksha (Urine Examination)

अथातः संप्रवक्ष्यामि च मूत्रस्य परीक्षणम | येन विज्ञातमात्रेण रोगचिन्हं प्रकाश्यते | (यो.र. १/८६)

By *Mutra Pariksha* (urine examination) one can assess any running pathology inside the body. Urine is the end product of metabolism by billions of human cells and the body chemistry, blood pressure, fluid balance, nutrient intake, and the state of health are key elements in establishing the characteristic of urine.

#### Urine appearance involving Doshas<sup>[18]</sup>

| Dosha       | Urine colour/ Appearance        |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Vata        | Pandu                           |
| Pitta       | Rakta                           |
| Kapha       | Phenayukta                      |
| Dwandaja    | Mixed/ as per predominant Dosha |
| Sannipataja | Krishna                         |

#### Taila Bindu Pariksha

Urine collected in a round low bottom vessel and a drop of oil is dropped in the collected urine very lightly with the help of grass (*Truna*). As oil is lighter than urine, oil spreads over the urine. Observations and conclusions are made on the basis of direction, shape and speed of spreading of oil drop. The *Taila Bindu* Appearance in *Vata, Pitta* and *Kapha Dosha Vikaras* are of snake, umbrella and pearl shaped respectively.<sup>[19]</sup>

#### Oil Position in different diseased condition<sup>[20]</sup>

| Urine  | Diseased Condition                           |
|--|--|
| If instilled oil spreads quickly over the surface of urine | <i>Sadhya</i> (Curable)                      |
| If the oil does not spread                                 | <i>Kashta Sadhya</i> (difficult<br>to treat) |
| If oil sinks and touches the bottom of vessel              | Asadhya (Incurable)                          |

#### Taila Bindu Inference<sup>[21]</sup>

| Direction   | Curableness                           |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| East        | Shighramsukhi (Early Curable)         |
| South       | Kramen Sadhyam (Curable step by step) |
| North       | Curable (Arogita Samprajayate)        |
| West        | Sukha Arogya (Health and Pleasure)    |
| North-East  | Masen Nashyati (Must die in 1 month)  |
| South-East  | Maranam (Must die)                    |
| South- West | Maranam (Must die)                    |

#### Method

The wise physician should wake up the patient early in the morning around 4 o'clock, avoid the first stream of early morning urine, then collect the urine of subsequent flows in a clean glass vessel and examine thoroughly to assess the disease process and treat the patient accordingly. For routine urine examination, midstream sample of urine which is the first morning sample, collected in a clean container is preferred since it gives a more constant result.

#### **Urine Examination**

- Physical Examination: The parameters to be examined on physical examination of urine are volume, color, appearance, odor and specific gravity.<sup>[22]</sup>
- Chemical Examination: The chemical examination is carried out for parameters like pH, proteins, glucose, ketones, bilirubin, bile salts, urobilinogen, blood, haemoglobin, myoglobin and nitrite.<sup>[23]</sup>

#### 3. Mala Pariksha (Stool Examination)

Direct examination of the faecal matter by the naked eye can tell a lot about the digestive state of the body. The colour, consistency, floating nature, smell, presence of blood or mucus in stool gives a lot of information about various *Dosha* imbalances or diseases. *Sama-Nirama* condition of the faeces is noted specifically in Ayurveda.

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#### Jala Nimajjana Purisha Pariksha

A specialised technique of stool examination is conducted to detect the presence of *Ama* thereby inferring the status of *Agni*. If stool sinks in water, it has *Ama Dosha* and if not then it is normal.<sup>[24]</sup>

#### Mala Swarupa in different diseases<sup>[25]</sup>

| Mala Swarupa  | Diseases           |
|---|--------------------|
| Whitish, bulky with foul smell  | Jalodara           |
| Shyama  | Kshaya             |
| Yellowish associated with pain in the <i>Kati</i>   | Amayukta disorders |
| Jatharagni passes Pandu and<br>dry mala while in Mandagni<br>state passes Drava and<br>Durgandhita Mala | Asadhya Vyadhi     |

#### **Stool Examination**

Examination of feces is helpful in the investigation of disease of gastrointestinal like detection of parasites. Other examinations involved are bacteriologic examination, chemical examination and microscopic examination.<sup>[26]</sup>

Colour/ Appearance of Fecal Specimens are black if there is bleeding in upper GIT, red if bleeding in large intestine and watery in certain strains of E. coli.<sup>[27]</sup>

#### 4. Jihwa Pariksha

The colour, shape, coating of a tongue can be indicative of many digestive abnormalities. Detection of the type of disease condition can be made by *Jihwa Pariksha*. Commonly we observe only *Sama-Nirama* condition. Different areas of the tongue correspond to different organs of the body. Hence by correlating the location of the blemishes on the tongue, the Ayurvedic practitioner can determine which organs of the body are out of balance. The colour, size, shape, coating, anomalies, surface, mobility and local lesion are all noted.

#### Characteristics of tongue in different *Doshik* Condition<sup>[28]</sup>

| Diseases    | Tongue                      |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Vataja      | Khara Sparsh, Sphutita      |
| Pittaja     | Rakta, Shyama Varna         |
| Kaphaja     | Shweta, Pichhila            |
| Sannipataja | Krishna, Sakantaka, Shushka |
| Dwandaja    | Mishrit Lakshana            |

#### Tongue features in different diseased conditions<sup>[29]</sup>

| Tongue Features   | Diseased Condition                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Pale coloured   | Anaemic                               |
| Yellow coloured   | Jaundice, possible liver<br>disorders |
| Blue coloured   | Heart diseases                        |
| Smooth, often sore tongue<br>without papillae                               | Atrophic Glossitis                    |
| Softening of the skin at the<br>angles of the mouth followed<br>by cracking | Angular stomatitis                    |

#### 5. Shabda Pariksha (Voice Examination)

Healthy and natural when the *Doshas* are in balance, the voice will become heavy when aggravated by *Kapha*, cracked under *Pitta* effect and hoarse & rough when afflicted by *Vata*.<sup>[37]</sup> These are the sounds which we have to feel from the patient like Intestinal gargling, Heart sounds, Pleural rub, Crepitus etc.

#### Auscultation

Auscultation can be compared with the *Shabda Pariksha* of *Ayurveda*. Four auscultatory areas of the heart facilitate clinical diagnosis. Triangle of auscultation involves lateral border of trapezius muscle, medial border of scapula and upper border of lattisimus dorsi muscle. In Respiratory examination, inspiratory and expiratory sounds with or without an intermediate pause or interval is observed as normal condition. Abnormal breath sounds are heard if they are abnormally generated and if they are abnormally conducted. Auscultation is also an important part of abdominal examination for detecting bowel sounds and vascular bruits.<sup>[30]</sup>

#### 6. Sparsha Pariksha (Skin Examination)

The tactile perception or touch reveals many aspects. Cold, hot, smooth, rough, soft, hard perceptions, fever, oedema etc. should be examined through tactile perception. Skin is Moist or wet in *Kaphaja* diseases, hot in *Pittaja* and rough and cold in *Vataja* disorders.<sup>[31]</sup> *Sparsha Pariksha* can be compared with palpation and percussion.

#### **Palpation**

Palpation is the examination method that relies on the sense of touch. The method of palpation is applied depending upon the area to be examined. It involves palpating individual structures on the surface and within the body cavities, particularly the abdomen. It elicits important information regarding the position, size, shape, consistency and mobility of the normal anatomic components. It uncovers crucial clues to the presence of abnormalities such as enlarged organs and palpable masses. It may be effective in assessing fluid within a space.

#### Percussion

Percussion is a method of tapping on a surface to determine the underlying structures, and is used in clinical examinations to assess the condition of the thorax or abdomen. It is done with the middle finger of one hand tapping on the middle finger of the other hand using a wrist action. The non striking finger is placed firmly on the body over tissue. Effective percussion is a knack that requires consistent practice; we can do so upon ourselves or on willing colleagues, as percussion can be uncomfortable for patients if performed repeatedly and inexpertly.<sup>[32]</sup>

#### 7. Drika Pariksha (Eye Examination)

Different types of eye features may reflect the personality of a person as well as the state of his health. The colour of the sclera, conjunctiva, size of

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eyeball, shape, and the area around the eyes give insight into various serious metabolic diseases.

#### Drika Pariksha<sup>[33]</sup>

| Doshaja Prakriti | Drika  |
|------------------|--|
| Vata             | Dhumra, Aruna, Nila, Ruksha, Chanchala,<br>Antrapravista, Roudra, Antarjwala |
| Pitta            | Aruna, Haridra, Rakta, Malina, Tikshna,<br>Dipa Dwesha, Dahayukta            |
| Kapha            | Shweta, Dhavala,Pluta, Snigdha, Sthira,<br>Shanta, Jyotish, Kanduyukta       |
| Dwandaja         | Mixed Lakshana of involved Doshas  |
| Sannipataja      | Rakta and Roudra   |

#### Eye features in different diseased condition<sup>[34]</sup>

| Eye Features                | Diseased Condition                      |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Congenital small discs      | Optic disc swelling                     |
| Hard exudates in retina     | Microaneurysms in diabetes              |
| Blot haemorrhages in retina | Hypertension and retinal vein occlusion |

#### 7. Akriti Pariksha (General Appearance of the body)

Examination of *Akriti* include Diagnosis of hair, nails and other body organs can reveal many signs which point towards different diseases. *Kaphaja* personalities have oily skin, well built body and joints, tolerance to hunger, thirst, hardship, hot sun. *Pittaja* personalities have strong appetite and thirst, fair complexion; they are brave, bold, egoistic and less hair. *Vataja* personalities are prone to many diseases and have split hairs and dry skin with *Dhusara Varna* and they dislike cold things and atmosphere.<sup>[35]</sup>

#### **Gait Examination**

The gait will play a big role in *Akriti* examination. The gait may be defined as the forward propulsion of body by the lower limbs in a systematic, coordinated, semi-rotator movements of the trunk, arm and head. A normal gait must be rhythmic and soundless, having

springiness in the feet which work alternatively in a definite cyclic order.

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#### Gait Abnormalities<sup>[36]</sup>

- 1. Antalgic Gait: Pain related to arthritis or tendonitis
- 2. Spatic Gait: Hemiplegia related to CVA
- 3. Shuffling Gait: Parkinson's disease
- 4. Ataxic Gait: Cerebellar disease
- 5. Waddling Gait (Trendelenburg): Bilateral gluteus medius tendinopathy
- High stepping (Foot drop): Peroneal neuropathy (multiple causes)

#### DISCUSSION

Ashtavidha Pariksha in Ayurveda is one of the important examinations to find different causing factors of diseases. These eight factors are mentioned in Ashtavidha Pariksha - Nadi Pariksha (Pulse Study), Mutra Pariksha (Urine Examination), Mala Pariksha Examination), Jihwa Pariksha (Tongue (Stool Examination), Shabda Pariksha (Voice Examination), Sparsha Pariksha (Skin Examination), Drika Pariksha (Eve Examination), Akriti Pariksha (General appearance Examination). Each one of them plays very important role in diagnosis of the disease. By Ashtavidha Pariksha characters of various Doshas can be evaluated either they are in balanced form or unbalanced. Ashtavidha Pariksha was mentioned in detail by Acharya Yogratnakar. The modern tools have also been described to make the prognosis easy going. Urine examination is used to detect and manage a wide range of disorders such as UTI, kidney disease and diabetes. Stool examination is used to detect colour, consistency and to classify type of faeces (diagnostic triad for IBS). Tongue examination can reflect a number of underlying diagnosis such as infections, nutritional deficiencies, malignancy and even neurological dysfunction. Auscultation, palpation, percussion are the methods of clinical examination for disease of different systems. Gait analysis is a way to assess the dynamic posture and coordination during movement.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Before starting the treatment of any disease, diagnosis is the first and most important step. To diagnose various diseases, *Ashtavidha Pariksha* is mentioned as a necessary tool in our different *Ayurvedic* texts. On the basis of eight factors mentioned in *Ashtavidha Pariksha*, diagnosis can be conclude to a particular disease and then treatment can be done. These got modified with the advent of time and the additions of things were done according to requirements.

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