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Therapeutic Effect of *Visha-Upvisha* and its Formulation to Cure the *Khalitya*

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ABSTRACT

In modern era early hair fall has been caused because of various factors like busy schedule (improper Dinacharya and Ritucharya), pollution, unhealthy diet, hormonal imbalance, stress, faulty hair care, infectious diseases, nervous disorders, toxic substances, injury, and severe radiation. Avurveda Science has also mentioned the hair loss under the heading of Khalitya. According to Ayurveda texts, all the Ahar and Vihar (diet and lifestyle) which is going to aggravate the Vata and Pitta (primary) becomes the nidan of Khalitya. Acharya Charaka mentioned that Tejas by involving Vatadi Dosha when scorches up the scalp, it results in Khalitya. According to Chakrapani word Tejas here denotes Dehoshma as well as *Pitta Dosha*¹. As per other Ayurveda texts, the basic principles of pathogenesis of *Khalitya* include *dushti* of elevated *pitta* along *vata dosha* and *rakta kapha dushti*. The medical term for baldness is alopecia; any type of hair fall is called alopecia. The main victims who are facing the *Khalitya* (hair-fall) are youngsters. As per quotation in *Charak Samhita*, the poison which by nature is destructive of life, if taken in the proper manner, acts as an elixir². So the aim of this study is to elaborate & explore the effect of some Visha and Upvisha dravya like Vatsnabh, Langli, Gunja, Snuhi, Arka, Dhatura and Chitrak etc in the treatment of Khalitya. These drugs and its formulation are indicated in *Khalitya* as local application on scalp. These contents have Laghu, Rukhsha, Tiksna, Katu, Ushna, Kushthaghna and Krimighana properties can help the breakdown of the pathogenesis of Khalitya. Several types of oils and Lepa of vish and upvisha for Abhyang (Massage) greatly improve the blood circulation, thus increasing the nutrition of the hair roots & scalp. Thus the Vish or Upvisha or its formulation is one of the best choices in Ayurveda to prevent and cure Khalitya.

KEYWORDS

Khalitya, Visha-Upvisha and its formulations etc



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INTRODUCTION

Hair-fall is a universal problem, having affected both sexes of all races. Hair plays important role in making body an externally beautiful. Healthy and good looking long hair makes a person mentally enthusiastic and healthy. The estimated of prevalence alopecia areata is approximately 1 in 1000 people, with a lifetime risk of approximately 2%. For most patients the onset is before the age of 30; however, the disorder may occur at any age. Men and women are equally affected³. The magnification of industrialization and urbanization has posed the greater danger due to pollution, contamination of water, air and due to other intrinsic factors. These along with indiscriminate dietary habits like excessive intake of salts, sweets, alkalis, starchy, fried foods, spicy irritant foods such as chilly, mustard, garlic etc. along with alcoholic drinks leads to hair fall. In Ayurvedic medical science, gradual falling of hair is termed as Khalitya. Multifarious types of oils (chemical oils), shampoos, soaps and pharmaceutical propaganda for promoting hair growth actually make the condition worse. In the present era, there is a no satisfactory answer to this problem. The main aim of this article is to explore the clinical efficacy of various Visha- Upvisha and its

formulations describe in Ayurveda text to cure the *Khalitya*. As the drug is mentioned in *Visha-Upavisha Varga* and has toxic a profile, so Maharishis have advocated *Sodhansanskara* (purification) before its therapeutic application which reduces the toxicity of these plants and also enhance the potency and efficacy of the drugs, so that it can be used safely.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To re-evaluate the *Khalitya* in various classical *Ayurvedic* literature.

2. To elaborate and discuss the role of *Visha- Upvisha* and its formulations in *Khalitya*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This article is based on a review of *Ayurvedic* texts and research papers. Materials related to *Khalitya* have been collected. *Ayurvedic* texts mainly used in this study are *Brihatriyi*, *Laghutriyi* and other *Ayurvedic* books. We have also referred journals and search various websites to collect information on the relevant topics.

CONCEPTUAL STUDY DEFINITION

In *Charak Samhita*, the disease *Khalitya* also has been included in *Urdhvajatrugat* $Roga^4$. Acharya Vagbhata has also

described *Khalitya* in *Shirogata rogas* under the caption of *Urdhavajatrugata* $Rogas^5$. In *Sushruta Samhita*, *Acharya Sushruta* elucidates *Khalitya* as a synonym of *Indralupta* and has described it under *Kshudra Roga* along with its pathogenesis in the *Nidanasthana*⁶.

Acharya Charaka mentions that Tejas by involving Vatadi Dosha when scorches up the scalp, results in Khalitya. According to Chakrapani word Tejas here denotes Deha Ushma as well as Pitta Dosha⁷.

In *Sushruta Samhita*, this disease is described as *"Khalitya"* or *"Indralupta"* or *"Rujya"*. According to *Acharya Sushruta*, *Pitta* along with *Vata* by involving the roots of hair (*rom-koopa*) causes fall of hairs and thereafter *Shleshma* along with *Rakta* obstructs the channel of the *rom-koopa* leading to the stoppage of regeneration of the hair⁸.

Acharya Vagbhatta differentiated *Indralupta* and *Khalitya* by saying that in *Khalitya*, loss of hair occurs gradually that in *Indralupta*, pathology is common in both⁹.

NIDANA (Causative Factors)

The first and foremost line of treatment in almost all diseases is *Nidana Parivarjana*. Hence, *Nidana* plays a role of utmost importance in the perspective of the treatment. Each and every disease is having its own *nidana*. Etiology of *Khalitya* is mentioned in different diseases and an indirect way at various places. The specific etiological factors mentioned in various places by *Acharyas* is described are as follows in table 1.

 Table 1
 The specific etiological factors of *Khalitya*:

The specific etiological factors of khalitya mentioned in Ayurveda			
	Lavanrasaatisevan ^{10,11}	4.	Ushar Bhoomi ¹²
2.	Ksharaatisevan ¹³	5.	Dusta- Pratisyaya (Pernicious Rhinitis) ¹⁴
3.	<i>Pitta dosha</i> dominance ¹⁵	6.	Taking of excess <i>Lavan</i> during pregnancy ¹⁶

1. LAVANRASA ATISEVAN:

Too much use of *Lavan Rasa* results *in Kaphavriddhi*. It leads to *Agnimandya* and obstruction of *Srotas*. This in turn leads to *Pittavriddhi*. Thus due to *Kaphapitta vriddhi*, there is obstruction of *Romakupas* due to which proper *Keshotpatti* does not take place and due to obstruction of *Srotasa*, these are malnutrition of *Kesh*, resulting in *Khalitya*.

2. KSHARA SEVAN:

Excessive use of *Kshara* leads to *Pitta* prakopa due to its Usna and Tikshna Guna. The Sthansamshraya of this Pitta takes place in the scalp i.e. Shirogata Keshabhoomi. This leads to obstruction of Srotasa thus resulting in Prakopa of Vata, Pitta and Kapha resulting in Khalitya.

3. PITTA DOSHA DOMINANCE:

As per Acharyas Charaka and Acharya Sushruta, Pitta dosha is responsible for Khalitya. Acharyas have described common and specific etiological factors for Khalitya. A comparative study of these factors reveals that importance is given to Acharanas and psychological factors along with the Ahara and Viharaja nidana.

4. USHAR BHOOMI:

Food and water found in this type of soil contain large amounts of *Lavana* and *Kshara*. Hence, people staying in this region are more prone to *Khalitya*.

5. *DUSTA-PRATISYAYA* (PERNICIOUS RHINITIS):

If all *Pratisyaya* get excessively aggravated due to the negligence of appropriate treatment or due to the intake of unwholesome food, then this leads to *Dusta-Pratisyaya*. As a result of this, the disease of the head like *Khalitya* is caused.

6. Taking of excess *Lavan* during pregnancy¹⁷

As per Acharya Vagbhatta, taking of excess Lavan rasa during pregnancy would be result in congenital hair loss (Khalitya).

PURVARUPA

Clinically, this is important for early diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. No specific *Purvarupa* has been mentioned for *Khalitya* in the classical texts, but we can interpret the *Purva Rupa* of *Khalitya* the

initial occurrence of hair fall where the hair fall just started and the number of hair fall is moderate.

RUPA

The features / *Rupa* will indicate the manifestation of the disease. These are the signs and symptoms of the disease. *Rupa* (sign & symptoms) of *Khalitya* is concerned very little explanation is found in *Ayurveda* classics. Thus the cardinal symptom of *Khalitya* is a gradual loss of hair. *Ashtang Samgrahakara* has classified *Khalitya* in four types & its symptoms which are as follow in table 2:

Table 2 Type	s of	Khalitya	as	per	Acharya
Vagbhatt ¹⁸				-	

Types of KhalityaRupa (sign & symptoms)		
1. Vataja Khalitya Keshbhoomi seems as		
Agnidagdha.		
2. Pittaja Khalitya The scalp seems as		
surrounded by the Siras (veins). Sweat may		
be found all over the scalp.		
3.Kaphaja Khalitya The color of the scalp is		
more or less same as the color of skin but here it		
appears as Ghana and Snigdha.		
4.Tridoshaja Khalitya Features of all the three		
Doshas are observed. The scalp appears as burnt		
and it seems nail like appearance.		
Acharya Harita has mentioned this disease		
by the name of Keshaghna and denoted		
one additional type of Khalitya that is		
Raktaj Khalitya. According to Acharya		
Harita the signs and symptoms of Khalitya		
described as follows in table 3		

Table 3 Types of Khalitya as per Acharya Harita ¹⁹		
Rupa (sign & symptoms)		
Ruksha and Pandura		
Red and burnt scalp		
Snigdha scalp		
Sapaka (Pus)		
tya All characters of 3 dosha		

SAMPRAPTI

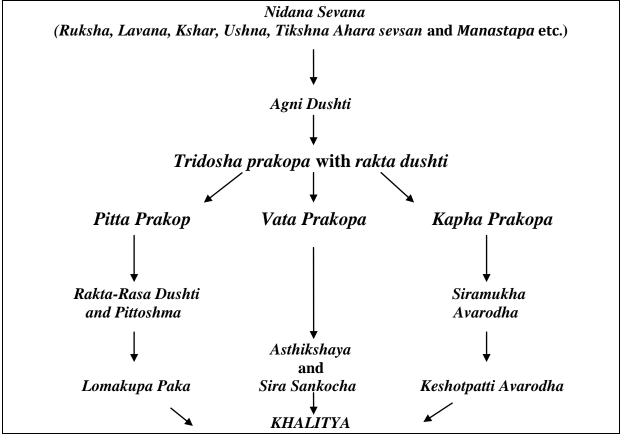
The whole process initiating from intake of Nidana to the complete manifestation of the disease is known as Samprapti. Samprapti can be defined as. the continuous changes accompanying a disease process in the body from dosha dushti till the manifestation of lakshanas. The description of Samprapti of Khalitya according to the various texts of Ayurveda may be summarized as under:

Acharya Charaka stated that *Tejas* combining with *Vatadi doshas* reaches the *Shira Kapala* and burns out the hair follicle and produces *Khalitya* in a person²⁰. Thus, *Acharya Charaka* has

evolved the involvement of all the two Doshas viz. Vata, Pitta in the occurrence of Khalitya. Kapha Dosha is not considered in this Samprapti.

Acharya Sushruta says that "The Pitta, vitiated by its own factors penetrates into the Romakoopa and there it unites with the Vata to shatter the hair". Then the Shleshma along with the Shonita obstructs the Romakoopa which leads to the stoppage of regeneration of hair²¹. Thus, Acharya Sushruta has considered the involvement of all the three Doshas viz. Vata, Pitta and Kapha along with Shonita in the occurrence of Khalitya.

FLOW CHART OF SAMPRAPTI OF KHALITYA:



SAMPRAPTI GHATAKA :	5. Agni: Jatharagni, Rasagni	
1. Dosha :	6. Rogamarga: Bahya	
Pitta - Pachaka, Bhrajaka	7 Adhisthana:Keshabhoomi	
Vata - Saman, Vyan		
Kapha - Tarpaka	MANAGEMENT	
2. Dushya: Dhatu - Asthi, Rasa, Rakta	There are many Visha-Upvisha dravya and	
Mala - Sweda, Kesh	its formulations to treat Khalitya describes	
3. Srotasa: Asthivaha, Rasavaha,	in Ayurveda texts which are as follow in	
Raktavaha, Swedavaha, Manovaha.	table 4 and 5:	
1 Srotodusti. Sanga		

4. Srotodusti: Sanga

Table 4 Classical oil formulations of Visha-Upvish for external application in Khalitya:

Sr. no.	Name of Visha &Upvisha	Type of poisons	Classical oil formulations for external application
<i>1</i> .	Vatsnabh	Visha	Snuhayadi Tailam ²² ,
2.	Langli	Upvisha	Snuhayadi Tailam,
3.	Gunja	Upvisha	Gunjadi Tailam ²³ , Snuhayadi Tailam, Bhringraj Tailam ²⁴
	~		
<i>4</i> .	Snuhi	Upvisha	Snuhayadi Tailam
5.	Arka	Upvisha	Snuhayadi Tailam
6.	Karveer	Upvisha	Karanjadi Taila ²⁵ , Maltyadi Tailam ²⁶ ,
			Kutannatadi Tailam ²⁷ , Jatyadi Tailam ²⁸
7.	Bhallataka	Upvisha	Bhallatakadi Tailam ²⁹ ,
8.	Chitraka	Sthavar Visha	
			Jatyadi Tailam, Chitrakadhya Tailam ³⁰ ,
			Karanjadi Tailam

Table 5 Classical Lepa formulations of Visha-Upvish for external application in Khalitya:

Sr. no.	Name of Visha	Types of	Classical Lepa formulations for external
	& Upvisha	Poisons	application
1.	Vatsnabh	Visha	Gunjadi Lepa ³¹ ,
2.	Langli	Upvisha	Langali mula Lepa ³²
3.	Gunja	Upvisha	Gunjadi Lepa, Gunjamool Lepa ³³ ,
			Gunjaphal Lepa ³⁴ , Gunjamoolphal Lepa ³⁵
4.	Dhatura	Upvisha	Dhaturadi Lepa ³⁶ , Dhaturapatra
			Rasa Lepa ³⁷
5.	Bhallataka	Upvisha	Bhallatakadi Lepa ³⁸ , Tiladi Lepa ³⁹ ,
6.	Arka	Upvisha	Tiladi Lepa
7.	Arsenic	Sthavar	Marichyadi Lepa ⁴⁰ , Kasisadi Lepa ⁴¹
		Dhatu Visha	_
8.	Snake Poison	Jangam	Sarpa Kshara Lepa ⁴²
		Visha	

DISCUSSION

There are so many other factors Matra, Bhumi, Kala, Kriya, Deha, Dosha, Gunantra which can modify the effect of poison. But doses, combination and Yuktiyuktatva are key factors which may modify the effect of *Visha* equal to *Amrita* and the effect of *Bhesaj* may term equal to *Teekshna Visha*, therefore the combination of various *Dravya* and *Yukti* becomes most important as stated by *Agnivesh*⁴³. So, poisonous drugs prove more efficacious than normal prescription drugs due to their inherent properties.

Khalitya is a disease of Pitta dosha involving with Vata thereafter Shleshma along with Shonita obstructs the channel of the Rom-koopa leading to the stoppage of regeneration of the hair⁴⁴. Thus this stage needs Uddipan and Lekhana karma to combat the local action of Kaphadosha. According to the modern concept of regeneration and growth of hair with reference to this disease, one of the modes of local treatment suggests the need of activation of the hair follicles through prompting of mild irritant drugs. Vatsnabh, Langli, Gunja, Snuhi, Arka, Dhatura, Karveer, Bhallataka and Chitrak etc is a local irritant. As irritants, accelerate the intracellular activities that might have relation with stimulation of regrowth of hair. Due to their Ruksha, Tikshana, Laghu, Ushna and Sookshma Srotoganni property clears the obstructions of hair roots leading the Roma-Koopa Vishodhana. These Visha-Upvisha and its formulations like oil and Lepa for Abhyanga (massage) greatly improve the

blood circulation and promotes the absorption of the drug, thus increasing the nutrition of the hair roots and scalp.

These drugs having *Laghu*, *Ruksha* and *Sukhma guna*, *Tikta* and *Katu Rasa*, *Katu Vipaka* and *Ushna Virya* which is intended to have a *Tridoshashamak* effect. *Vishaghna*, *Kandughna* and *Jantughna* properties of these drugs remove the local infection and help in checking the hair fall and thus help in the cessation of the further process of *Khalitya*.

CONCLUSION

From all this, it can conclude that in *Ayurveda* various *Visha- Upvisha dravya* which is indicated in *Khalitya* (Hair-Fall) has a strong possibility to break down the pathogenesis. Various researchers also proved the effectiveness of *Visha- Upvisha dravya* and its formulations to treat *Khalitya*. So formulations prepared by these poisonous plants are more efficacious and fast acting.

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