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# A study of Ghrita Kalpana w.s.r. To Vagbhata Samhita

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### **Abstract**

Ghrita is most widely used for medicinal purpose. Its time of administration (kala), rout of administration, dose to be given (matra) and anupana should be taken into consideration while using ghrita for medicinal purpose. Ghrita used for medicinal purpose gives desired result with appropriate selection of above mentioned factors. What is the logic behind all concept, there indications and contra indications? The present paper focuses on the above points to get convincing answers.

**Key words**: ghrita, vagbhat samhita, matra, kalpana, kala, anupana.

### Introduction

In Ayurveda, medicines are given in 5 different forms as <sup>1</sup> Swarasa(juice), kalka(paste), kwatha(decoction), hima(cold decoction) and phanta, called as "kalpana". Here kalpana means formulation, preparations which could be used for further medicinal purposes. <sup>2</sup> Among this kalpanas, swarasa (juice) is the most potent form of medication than kalka (paste), kwatha (decoction), hima(cold decoction) and phanta. Kwatha(decoction) is the heaviest form to digest among all the above given kalpana's. <sup>3</sup> Thus kwatha is a form which is considered as one of the potent as well as easiest form to digest. Most widely used form of medicine in Ayurveda is kwatha (decoction) and its upkalpanas (subsequent preparations).

Taila paka, kshira paka, rasa prakriya, ghrita paka,asav and arishta are considered as the upkalpana's (subsequent preparations) of the kwatha<sup>4</sup>. This kalpana (preparations) and upkalpanas (subsequent preparations) are meant to convert crude drugs into a form which could be assimilated easily in the body, helps to preserve the potency of drug and make drug palatable to the patient.

One of the best substances that easily assimilated in the body in its natural as well as in its medicated form is "ghrita". Ghrita" considered as best among all the other sneha as it is assimilated easily in the body of young as well as the old ones, achieves the properties of drug by which it gets medicated without losing its original properties.

# Preparation of ghrita kalpana<sup>7</sup>

Sneha kalpana is prepared by taking sneha in one matra, drug kalka(paste) in 1/4<sup>th</sup> of sneha and adding drava(liquid) four times of sneha. Heating the given combination till following characters are observed gives the sneha kalpana.<sup>8</sup>

- 1. The drug kalka (paste) could be moulded in varti with two fingers.
- 2. If the *kalka* (paste) is exposed to fire no sound is observed.
- 3. "Phen shanty", that means no further bubbles are observed over ghrita while heating it.
- 4. *Ghrita* gets all the characters of crude drug by which it was medicated such as smell, taste, color and its medicinal properties.

Thus when this *sneha* gets prepared finally, it could be used for massaging the body, taking it orally, for the purpose of *nasya*(nasal drops), *gandush*(gargles), *basti*(enema), oiling the eyes, *Vrana* (wound) chikitsa etc.

## Indication for sneha sevan<sup>9</sup>

Oleation therapy in general is prescribed for those who are to be given fomentation (swedan) or panchakarma procedures like Vaman and Virechan, those who have roughness in the skin(ruksha tvaka), those suffering from diseases due to the vitiation of vata, those who indulge in physical exercise, wine and women and those who suffer from mental strain.

## Contra indication for sneha sevan<sup>10</sup>

Oleation therapy should not be administered to patients who are eligible for drying (rukshans) therapy except for the purpose of administering elimination therapy, *kapha* and *medas* (fat) are aggravated, aggravated condition of *kapha* reflects in the form of mucus secretion from the mouth and anus, those whose power of digestion is weak, those suffering from thirst and fainting, the pregnant women, those whose palate gets dried up, those having aversion of food, those suffering from vomiting, abdominal diseases, diseases due to improper digestion as well as metabolism, those afflicted with *gara* type of poison, the weak, emaciated, those having aversion to the intake of unctuous substances, those intoxicated and those being administered inhalation and enema therapies. If oleation therapy is administered to such persons, they are likely to fall victims of disastrous complications.

## Indication for ghrita sevan<sup>11</sup>

Intake of *ghrita* is prescribed for those whose bodily constitution is dominated by *vata* and *pitta*, who is suffering from diseases due to vitiation of *vata* and *pitta*, those desirous of good eye sight, those suffering from phthisis and consumption, the old aged, children, the weak, those desirous of longevity, those desirous of strength, good complexion, voice, nourishment, progeny, tenderness, luster, *ojas*, memory, intelligence, power of digestion, wisdom, proper functioning of sense organs and those afflicted with injuries due to burns, by weapons, poison and fire.

## Properties of ghrita<sup>12</sup>

Ghrita promotes memory, intellect and power of digestion, semen, ojas, kapha and fat. It alleviates vata, pitta, toxic conditions, insanity and fever. It is the best of all the unctuous substances. It is auspicious, cold in potency and sweet both in taste as well as vipaka. When administered according to the prescribed procedure, it increases thousand times in potency and develops manifold utilities.

Old cow *ghee* is useful in intoxication, epilepsy, fainting, insanity, toxic manifestation, fever and pain in the ear, head as well as female genital tract

### Discussion

Snehan is one of the six methods of treatment.<sup>13</sup> For the purpose of snehan, ghrita used in 64 combinations<sup>14</sup> or could be given alone (acchapan).<sup>15</sup> Different formulations of ghrita are mentioned in different chapters.

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Classification of Ghrita according to chapters 16:-

Name of Chapter Jwar chikitsa adhyaya	No. of times it is mentioned 09
Raktapitta	03
Kasa	19
Shvas	04
Rajayakshma	09
Chrdihrudrogtrushna	04
Arsha	05
Atisara	03
Grahani	02
Mutraghat	02
Prameha	02
Gulma	11
Udara	04
Pandu	04
Kushtha	05
Shwitrakrumi	01
Vatavyadhi	04
Vatashonit	02
Balopcharniya	04
Balamayapratishedh	03
Balgraha	02
Bhutpratishedh	05
Unmad	05
Apasmar	05
Timirpratishedh	06
Shirorog	02
Guhyarog	04
Mushikalarka	01
Rasayana S	01/38/

There ways of administrations is given as follows: 17

1.Porridge (Odan) 2.Vilepi(a type of gruel preparation with four times water) 3.Rasa (meat soup) 4. Meat 5.Milk 6.Curd 7.Yavagu (a type of gruel prepared with six times of water) 8.Soup 9.Shak (curry) 10.Yush (vegetable soup) 11.Kambalika (sour milk mixed with whay and vinegar) 12. Khad(butter milk boiled with acid vegetables and spices) 13. Sattu(roasted grain flour) 14. Pastry prepared of tila 15.Madya (liquor) 16.Leha (linctus) 17. Bhakshya (food involving mastication during intake) 18.Abhyanga (massage) 19. Basti(enema) 20. Uttar basti (douch) 21.Gandush(gargle) 22. Karna taila(ear drop) 23. Nasya(inhalation) 24. Akshi tarpana(preparation soothing to eye).

Ghrita could be used in different ways during treatment i.e. for enema (basti), uttar basti (douch), nasal drops (nasya), massage (abhyanga), and gargles (gandush). In urdhwa jatrugat diseases ghrita is used for the purpose of nasal drops<sup>18</sup> (nasya) considering nose as nearest path towards the brain.<sup>19</sup> Madhu yashtyadi ghrita is used in pittaj head disorders, as ghrita helps to alleviate the doshas in the head. In diseases like oligospermia, impotency medicated ghrita are used

for the purpose of *uttar basti*(douch) as drugs given by genital rout helps to cure the disease early by acting locally. In this case *qhrita* is used as it helps to preserve and increase the *ojas* and semen.<sup>20</sup>

## Matra for ghrit sevan<sup>21</sup>

It is observed that *sneha* is used for *shodhan* and *shaman* purpose, to expel out vitiated *dosha* from body (*shodhanartha*) *acchapan* has been explained, here *acchapan* means using only *sneha* at a time. <sup>22</sup> *Shamanartha*(pacification purpose) doses of *sneha* have been explained <sup>23</sup> as minimal dose (*laghu matra*), medium dose (*madhyam matra*) and high dose (*uttam matra*). *Shamanartha* (pacification of dosha) different doses of *ghrita* have been explained varying from *2masha to 1pala* e.g. matra of *Panchagavya Ghrita - 3 masha*<sup>24</sup>, it is explained in charaka and some other doses according to vagbhata samhita are as follows:

Sauvarchaladi Ghrita (Va. C <mark>hi. 6/29)</mark>	One Prastha
Dhanvanter Ghrita (Va. Chi. 11/24)	2 Pala (1 Pala:- 48G)
Neelini Ghrita (Va. Chi. 14/55)	2 Pala (1 Pala:- 48 G)
Tiktak Ghrita (Va. Chi. 19/7)	1 2 Pala (1 Pala:- 48 G)
Brahmi Ghrita (Va. Utt.6/25)	4 Pala
Shatavaryadi Ghrita (Va. Utt.34/49 )	1 Picchu (Karsh matra)
Sarvarogbhaya nashak Narsinha Ghrita (Va. Utt.39/172-173)	1 Pala

When these different ghritas are used is based on predominance of *dosha* and stages of diseases.

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Kshatouraskadi Ghrita (Va. Chi. 3/90)	Sa bhakta
Samsaktu Ghrita (Va. Chi. 3/107)	Sa Bhakta
Dadimadi Ghrita (Va. Chi. 3/9165)	Paschat Bhakta
Eladi Ghrita (Va. Chi. 5/31)	Purvanh Kaala
Jivantyadi Ghrita (Va. Utt. 13/-3)	Nisha Kaala
Triphladi Ghrita (Va. Utt. 13/11)	Nisha Kaala
Phala Ghrita (Va. Utt. 34/66)	Aartava Kaala
Sarvarogbhaya nashak narsinha Ghrita (Va. Utti. 39/172-173s)	Sa Bhakta evamCheshta yukta

Two basic types of treatment are *shodhan* and *shaman*. In conditions where *doshas* are suppose to be expelled out from body, *ghrita* is advised to be given alone<sup>26</sup>. In conditions where pacification (*shaman*) of *dosha* is needed, *ghrita* combinations (*pravicharana*) is advised<sup>27</sup>.

Ghrita is heavy to digest (guru) thus it is not advised to be given in aama awastha of disease. In diseases like raktapitta, gulma, yudara, shotha, medicated ghrita is advised to use before starting the treatment that is in the sama awastha of disease, to expel out excessive doshas from body (virechanarth) and ignite the digestive power (agni) thus helps in the assimilation of further medicines taken internally.

In *Pandu*, *snigdha* and *tikshna* treatment is advised<sup>31</sup> thus *ghrita* medicated with strong purgative medicines are used. In *pandu*, *udara*, *kushta doshas* are expected to be expelled out from body without harming the strength of patient.By using *ghrita* medicated with strong purgative medicine helps to expel out increased *dosha* from body and helps to preserve strength of patient as *ghruta* is best unctuous substance (*snehottama*)<sup>32</sup>. It also helps to bring *doshas* to their normal properties.

Acharyas have advised to take all kind of medicines along with another dravya having opposite but not against the properties of medicinal drug called as anupana. It will help to enhance the effect of drug, helps to take medicine to the desired site of action. In case of ghrita intake, acharyas have advised to take peyaa, madhu (honey), ushnodaka (hot water), yavkshar as anupana. When anupana (after drug) is not explained, it is advised to take ushnodaka along with ghrita. It is observed that anupanas explained to take along with ghrita helps to saturates, nourishes, provide energy, increases bulk of the body, brings about completion, settles down the food taken, breaks down the food mass, produces softness, moistens, digests and helps in easy transformation and quick absorption of food.<sup>33</sup>

Anupana for ghrit sevan<sup>34</sup>

Vasa Ghrita( Va. Chi. 2/43)	Madhu
Dashamool Ghrita( Va.Chi.3/5)	Manda
Kshatouraskaadi Ghrita (Va. Chi. 3/90)	Sathi Chawal
Samsaktu Ghrita (Va. Chi. 3/107)	Sattu
Dadimaadi <mark>Ghrita (Va. Chi. 3/165)</mark>	Yavakshar
Anyaanya Ghrita (Va. Chi. 4/55)	Yavakshar+ Saindhav Lavana
Dashmoolsiddha <mark>Ghrita (Va. Chi. 4/14)</mark>	<u>Madhu</u>
Siddha Ghrita(Va. Chi. 5/15)	Madhu
Ashwagandhadi Ghrita (Va. Chi. 5/24-25)	Sharkara + Ksheera
Elaadi Ghrita(Va. Chi. 5/31)	Ksheera
Balaadi Sid <mark>dha Ghrita (Va. Chi. 5/41)</mark>	Saindhava Lavana
Pushkaraadi Ghrita (Va. Chi. 6/31)	Kanji + Saindhav Lavana
sNilini Ghrita (Va. Chi. 14/55)	Yavaagu + Man`d`a
Triphlaadi Ghrita (Va. Utt.13/11)	Sharkaraa + Madhu +Triphla
	Kashaya
Sarvarognashak narsinha Ghrita (Va.Utt.	Nirmala Khan`d`a + Sharkaraa
39/172-173)	+ Madhu

Vagbhata samhita mentioned that a good medicine is one which dose is less but still helps to eliminate dosha quickly from body, which is palatable, got digested easily and pacifies the disease. Similarly the medicine should not be sharp producing the side effects. It should not weaken the patient and should have pleasant colour, odour and taste. The appropriate use of ghrita kalpanas in desired conditions explained in Vagbhata samhita will produce such effects. Hence study concludes that before using ghrita for medicinal purpose its dose (matra), anupana, time of administration (kala), must be taken into consideration. Ghrita given in different time and in different doses acts differently.<sup>35</sup>

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