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Vapavahan : An Overview

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1. Introduction:

Ayurved is ancient science with its own basics and fundamentals. Strotus and dhatu is one of the most important concept regarding physiology of Ayurved. Some parts or terminology are still not clear to us .One of them is Vapavahan. Vapavahan is one of the mula of medovaha strotas according to Charak .It is accepted as omentum or mesentary as per modern anatomy. We want to clear it's meaning on the basis of overview of vapavahan.

In modern science physiology is anatomy based and in Ayurved anatomy or sharir is physiology based. It is difference in views of both sciences. So there are certain changes in the overlook, diamensions and terms of anatomy of both the sciences. Ayurved is in Sanskrit language and it is in sutra forms. It is another view to elaborate it in today's meaning .

It is humble word that it is one of the way of thinking about Ayurved .So that we can put light on some points which can help to simplify and potentiate our own terms.

2. Aims And Objectives :

To study Vapavahan from samhita and to put forward one view about it's meaning .

3. Materials And Methods :

It is conceptual study about Vapavahan and it is studied with references in samhitas specially Charak samhita .

4. Review And Observations :

It is sure that our aacharyas were perfect about all terminologies and methodology of Ayurved .We ourselves are not sure about some terms because of lack of connectivity with them.

Here some referances about Vapavahan.

मेदोवहानाम् स्त्रोतसां वृक्कौ मूलं वपावहनं च ॥

च. वि. ५/८

वपावहनं वपा उदरस्था स्निग्ध वर्तिका ।

यामाहुर्जनास्तैलवर्तिकेति ।

चक्रपाणि

पंचदश कोष्ठांगानिस्थूलान्त्रं च वपावहनम् चेति ।

वपावहनम् मेदःस्थानं तैलवर्तिका इति ख्यातम् ॥

च. शारीर ७/१०

These are some references about Vapavahan. Here word taila-vartika or snigdha- vartika is used for vapavahan .Vartika means small piece of cotton .It is obvious that it should not be long

otherwise aacharya charak may used words like vartula,deergha-mandala ,deergha –sutra. So vartika stands for small nature of that part.

If we see ,omentum is large enough not to feet as vartika .On the other hand ,pancreas are small in size,only 5-6 inch.The typical vartika which is used for lamp or samayee is twin in nature and embedded in oil or grit.It is oily and bigger in the mid-part and small or tapered at one end.

According to anatomy, pancreas is dual gland having endocrine and exocrine parts in it.It is located behind stomach and lies in the curve of duodenum.

Now it is clear that the upama of Tail-vartika or Snigdha-vartika is more belongs to Pancreas than omentum or mesentery.

मेदःसंश्रयास्तु प्रचक्ष्महे ।
निन्दितानि प्रमेहाणां पूर्वरूपाणि यानि च ।

च. सू. २८/१५

These are medapradoshaj vyadhi. This shows disturbance in metabolism which is also related to pancreatic function.

Pathophysiology of diabetes or samprapti of prameha strongly points out that vapavahan is most concern in it and it is pancreas ,not else.

अव्यायामात् दिवास्वप्नात् मेद्यानां चाति भक्षणात्।
मेदोवाहिनी दुष्यन्ति भुक्त्वा च स्वपताम् दिवा ।

च. वि.५/१६

These are hetu of medovaha strotas dushti and may be responsible for dysfunction of pancreas .

5.Conclusion :

According to references and observations, medovaha strotas-mula Vapavahan is nothing but Pancreas in modern anatomy.We can relate it with omentum to some extent but resembalance and acceptance with pancreas is more confident with present study.

6.References :

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2. Vd. A.D.Aathavale :Ayurvediya vyadhivinishay
3. Madhujeevan:Strotas visheshank
4. Internal medicine of Harrison.