

Applied Aspect of Fatal Signs in Complexion and Voice**Dr. Hari Krishna Shriwas**Asst. Professor (Author), Department of Samhita siddhanta and Sanskrit,
B.G. Garaiya Ayurvedic College
Rajkot, Gujarat**Abstract:**

The chapter Varnasvariya mindriyam Adhyaya is about Arishta lakshana (near death signs) perceived by auditory and visual senses. Swara (Voice) is an audible feature, whereas color and complexion are visual features. Sudden change in frequency, rhythm, resonance, tone, the pitch of voice and complexion of the body is indicative of serious pathology of the body. The characteristic features of arishta are described in the fatal sign in complexion and voice.

Keywords: a rishta, fatal signs, near death signs, change in voice, change in complexion.

Introduction:

Charak has placed Indriya Sthana (section about near death signs) before Chikitsa Sthana (section about the treatment of diseases) possibly, to guide physician when not to treat a patient. In this chapter of Indriya Sthana, Varnasvariya mindriyam Adhyaya, Charak mentions near death signs and symptoms that can be directly observed by visual and other faculties. This chapter also describes prakriti, the natural disposition of an individual, and vikriti, or abnormalities, since such knowledge helps in discerning any sign of vikriti in a "healthy" individual. Three types of morbid conditions are observed namely, lakshana nimitta, caused by bodily marks, lakshya nimitta, caused by etiological factors which disturb the health, and nimitta anuroopa vikriti, a break down for no apparent reason resembling etiological factors. The chapter describes various near death signs with changes in color, the complexion of body parts and voice.

Factors For Assessment Of Residual Span Of Life:

The following entities should be examined by the physician desiring to assess the residual span of life of the patient using direct observation, and inference such as:

- Physical appearance (complexion, appearance of eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin), including attributes

perceived by the senses (voice, smell, taste, touch, etc.)

- Behavioral traits (mood, upkeep, conduct, etc.)
- Dietary habits and lifestyle (regimens, ability to digest, etc.)
- Existing health conditions (signs of diseases, symptoms, complications, drug use, effect of medicines on illness and on the patient)

Bad omens perceived by the physician on his way to patient's house, changed conditions of the patient's residence, signs and symptoms indicating the residual span of life may be evident on these factors. Hence physician should pay careful attention to each one of them and interpretation should be made based on his observations, knowledge and scriptural advice.

Some of the signs and symptoms are not apparent in a patient but can be observed in the surrounding of the patient. These are evaluated by logic based on scriptural instructions and inference. The factors not observed in patients are often circumstantial like an informer who comes with news of patient and the good/bad omens seen by the physician. Those which can be seen in patients are examined by observing their constitution and morbid conditions. But all these factors should be assessed wisely in the quest for the life of the patient

Factors responsible for natural constitution

The natural constitution of a person depends upon Jati (origin as per social structure), Kula (race), Desha (place), Kala (time and season), Vaya (age),

Pratyatmaniyata (individual habits and habitat). The different variations seen in persons are based upon their origin as per social structure, race, place of living, season, age and individual habits.

Types of pathological abnormalities

The pathological conditions are classified as:

- Lakshana nimitta: pathological appearance based on symptoms
- Lakshya nimitta : Diseases based upon etiological factors
- Nimittanurupa: This type of pathology is based on signs resembling with etiological factors.

The first type of pathological conditions are based on symptoms, whose causative factors are pre-determined by destiny in the form of physiognomic signs. Some of these signs may be latent in the body, and appear at particular time in particular parts of body giving rise to particular related morbid conditions.

The second type of pathological conditions are based on etiological factors which appear as per the etiopathogenesis described (in Nidana Sthana section).

The third type of pathological conditions is based upon the factors that resemble etiological factors, but in fact, they are not etiological factors in nature. It appear without any apparent cause and indicate the measure of the life-span particularly the signs of imminent death due to decadence of life. The physicians pay due importance to this for the knowledge of life (and death). Based on this, I will explain the signs observed in the person which indicate his imminent death. This is the summary. We shall explain this in detail.

Normal complexion

There are four types of natural complexion – black, dark (blue or brown), dark-fair (blue or brown), fair white, There may some more complexions with combinations of such colors.

Abnormal complexion

The unnatural or pathological complexions include blue, blackish, coppery, green and snow white. Similarly, there are some other unnatural

types of complexion which appear suddenly for unknown reason. These are the normal and abnormal complexions of body. Normal complexion in one half of the body and abnormal complexion in the other half and both are demarcated clearly by a line, same abnormality on left and right side of body, front and back side of body, upper and lower or internal and external parts of the body is considered arishta (near to death signs). Such demarcation abnormality on face and other parts too indicates death.

On the same line of differentiation of complexion, malaise and cheerfulness, roughness and unctuousness are described.

Similarly, sudden appearance of piplu (Acne), vyanga (Pigmented skin), tilakalaka (Mole) and pidaka (Boil) on the face of the patient is inauspicious.

Sudden appearance of any one of the abnormal colors in nails, eyes, face, urine, stool, hands, legs and lips together with diminished strength, complexion and senses indicate imminent death. Such other abnormal complexions too that appear suddenly for the first time without any apparent cause in the patient with constant deterioration of health are the signs of death.

Normal and abnormal voice

The normal human voice resembles the voice of hamsa (swan), krauncha (demoiselle crane), nemi (wheel), dundubhi (kettle drum), kalavinka (house sparrow), kaka (crow), kapota (dove) and jarjara (a type of drum). The voice of person with disease resembles that of sheep and is feeble, inaudible, indistinct, choked, hoarse, painful and stammering. Thus normal and abnormal voices are described.

If the abnormal and inauspicious voices occur suddenly, or rhythm, tone, pitch, resonance and frequency of voice changes on sudden onset, it is inauspicious (there is a grave indication of imminent death).

Various fatal signs in complexion

If half of the face there is blue, blackish, coppery or tawny color and the color of the remaining half is otherwise. Manifestation of unctuousness in one half of the face and roughness in the other half is inauspicious.

The appearance of swelling in one-half of the face and emaciation in the other half. Spontaneous appearance of various types of tila (black mole), piplu (port wine mark), vyanga (freckles), and raji (spots like mustard) in the face of the patient.

The appearance of flowers like spots in nails and teeth and sticky and powdery substance over the teeth is an indicator of death. Discoloration of lips, legs, heels, eyes, urine, stool and nails of the patient are indicators of diminished strength.

When both the lips become bluish like ripe fruits of jambu, this is a clear indication of death.

In a patient who is very much weak, due to Ojokshaya (immune depletion) along with any changes occur in voice either as single problem or multiple issues, that indicates death.

In chronic immune deficient person, there is all possibilities of dhatusaraheenatha (Severe wasting of tissues) can lead to abnormal voice.

Such other abnormalities in voice and complexion of an individual who is devoid of strength and flesh also indicate imminent death.

Thus the fatal signs related with complexion and voice are described. One who knows the details of these facts will not be confused in knowing lifespan of patient.

Discussion:

- The prognosis of disease leading to death can be predicted by keen observation of complexion, color of body parts and voice.
- The natural constitution of a person depends upon Jati (caste), Kula (race), Desha (place), Kala (time and season), Vaya (age), Pratyatmaniyata (individual habits and habitat). The different variations seen in persons are based upon their caste, race, palce of living, season, age and individual habits.
- The complexion is a tool to assess malaise, cheerfulness, dryness and unctuousness in body i.e. the circulatory and metabolic state of body.

Conclusion:

Sudden change in following factors indicate near death signs:

Complexion, voice, smell, taste, touch, eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin, psyche, desire, cleanliness, conduct, behavior, memory, shape, nature, strength, malaise, intellect, exhilaration, dryness, unctuousness, drowsiness, heaviness, lightness, qualities, diet, regimens, digestion of food, manifestation of disease, disappearance of disease, characters of disease, premonitory signs of the disease, symptoms, complications, administration of proper medicine, and effect of medicine on disease, luster, shadow, dream, state of informer about the patient. Bad omens perceived by the physician on his way to patient's house, changed conditions of the patient's residence, signs and symptoms indicating the residual span of life may be evident in these factors. Hence physician should pay careful attention to each one of them and interpretation should be made based on his observations, knowledge and scriptural advice.

- The examination of complexion does not just mean the color only. It also includes objects of visual perception like coarseness, glossiness etc. Abnormal swara (voice) include fluctuations in the normal quality of sounds produced (hoarseness of voice, dysphonia), absence of the normal physiological sounds like absence of peristalsis in peritonitis, presence of abnormal sounds like crepitus in joints & crepitations, rhonchi etc. in lungs. Abnormalities in touch include tactile perception of abnormal hardness, softness, warmth etc.
- The morbid conditions are of three types. Such as those indicated by bodily marks, those caused by etiological factors and those resemble etiological factors.
- Lakshana nimitta include visible end stage manifestations.
- The abnormal color produced can be considered as ojokshaya lakshana (depletion of quality of tissue). In Raktarshas (bleeding piles), when there is excessive bleeding, it may lead to poor complexion, strength, enthusiasm and depleted Ojas. If proper measure is not taken the condition may become fatal. The unnatural color of skin can be compared with the cyanotic conditions,

discoloration seen in the fatal hepatic and renal pathologies etc. Appearance of white spots, white nails and loss of pigmentation can be seen in chronic liver failure.

- In chronic kidney disease, the conjunctival deposition of calcium leads to redness and gritty feeling in the eye called uremic red eye. Also deposition of calcium as a band in the lamina propra of cornea leads to band keratopathy.
- In chronic hepatic failure, erythematous patches may appear over many parts of the body, especially over the chest wall and supraclavicular regions.
- Appearance of abnormal complexion in the entire or half of the body of the individual without any significant reason can be due to abnormal peripheral circulation. Oxygenation can affect the complexion. In deep vein thrombosis (DVT) alteration in pigmentation is well appreciated.
- When both the lips become bluish like ripe fruits of jambu, this is a clear indication of death. As per modern science this condition is similar to central cyanosis. It is directly due to Vata Pratilomata (reverse direction of Vata) in different organs. The main Srotas involved are Rasavaha srotas and Raktavaha Srotas.

Abnormal voices:

- In sannipatha jwara - swarasada (low pitched voice) is a lakshana.
- In kshathaja kasa - paravatha ivaakoojan (cooing sound like that of a pigeon comes out of the throat) In Apatantraka –kapota iva koojan (make sound like a pigeon).
- In Tetanus -sudden death occurs due to laryngeal spasm .
- Dysphonia—Disturbance of phonation is due to disturbance in vocal cords. Strained, harsh, low pitched voice, nasal voice.
- In laryngeal tumors like supra glottic cancer and glottis cancer hoarseness of voice is a late symptom.

In fact the abnormal changes in color and voice of the patient reflect serious changes in the

physiology. Deep seated pathologies of cardio vascular system, Respiratory system, endocrine system often presents with color changes. Similarly lesions in the central nervous system can lead to changes in the voice. Dysarthria, Dysphasia and Dysphonia which may become fatal. In short this chapter highlights the events related with major systems in the body which can cause death.

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