

**Visha Gunas: An Ayurvedic Perspective, A Review Article****Author- Dr.Mangesh Patil**

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Kanchanwadi ,Aurangabad**Abstract-**

Agad tantra is a branch of ashtang ayurved which deals with the study of visha( poisons) and its treatment.visha is defined as a substance which causes vishannata (sadness)and is destructive to life .It is a substance that detereats well being and health of the body. it vitiates doshas after entering in to the body.it is the properties (gunas) of vishas that makes it fatal or lethal even if came in contact of lesser amount.ayurvedic ancient texts have given a detailed description of visha gunas (properties of visha) and mentioned the cause of its faster effectiveness or acute action on the body. These ayurvedic ancient texts differ about the number of gunas and their properties.

This is a article is an effort to review these visha gunas. All the gunas present in visha are very much penetrative and fatal and vitiates doshas.this is why study of visha gunas is necessary for its treatment.we need to know the visha gunas if we hahe to use it for medicinal purpose.Charaka states that a poison will be a good medicine if applied ,processed and used properly.

**Key Words-**Visha, Gunas, Properties, Poison**Introduction –**

**A**gad Tantra Deals With The Study Of Vishas

(Poisons) In Evry Aspect.It Also Deals With The Treatment Of Poison.It Is The Properties Or Visha Gunas That Makes It Fatal. It Is Quite Rightly Said That That A Poison If Used Properly ,After Scientific Processing Can Be Used As Medicine And A Medicine If Used Improperly May Produce Fatal Results. To Use Visha (Poison) For Medicinal Purposes We Need To Know Their Properties .

**Aim And Objective –**To Study Visha Gunas Accordin To Different Ayurvedic Texts

**Materials And Methods**

The whole study is based on literary review collected from classical ayurvedic texts .this study is carried out under following heads.

1. Defination Of Visha
2. Definationofguna
3. No.Ofgunas As Stated In Different Ayurvedic Texts
4. Number Of Visha Gunas Mentioned In Different Texts
5. Visha Guna Comparison According To Different Texts

6. Visha Guna And Their Probable Action
7. Visha,Madya,Oja Comparison
8. Discussion
9. Conclusion
10. References

**Guna Nirukti –**

Guna aamantrate –which attracts substances having diffrent properties are gunas. ayurvedic ancient textts differ as far as number of guna is concerned .according to vaisheshik darshana it is 24 according to nyay darshana also it is 24 while according tocharak samhita it is 41. these charakokt 41 gunas are further divide as 5 vaisheshik gunas ,20 gurvadi gunas, 10 paradi gunas and 6 aatma gunas. the gurvadi gunas are a pair of 10 properties that are opposite to each other e.g.guru-laghu.

The 10 visha gunas described by charaka are laghu,ruksha,aashu,vishad,vyavayi,vikasi,tikshna,su kshma,ushna,&anirdeshya rasa<sup>1</sup>. while sushruta also mentioned 10 visha gunas which excludes anirdeshya ras and includes apaki guna as compared to charakokt gunas<sup>2</sup>. Yog ratnakar also re-iterates sushrutokt 10 gunas.ashtang sangrah quotes 10 while ashtang hriday describes 11 visha gunas with different name as avyakt rasa to anirdeshya rasa of charak . Bhav prakash quotes 7 while sharangdhar

samhita tells 8 visha gunas. the 8 visha gunas described by sharangdhar are yogwahi, madavaha, sukshma, vyavayi, vikasi, aagneya, chhedi & jivithar<sup>3</sup>.

Guna	Brihat Trayi				Laghu Trayi	
	Su.Samhita yogratanakar <sup>4</sup>	Charak <sup>5</sup>	Asht.Sangrah <sup>6</sup>	Asht.Hriday <sup>7</sup>	Shar.Samhita <sup>8</sup>	Bhavprakash <sup>9</sup>
Ruksh	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Ushna	✓	✓	✓	✓	Aagney	Aagney
Tikshna	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Sukshma	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aashu	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Vyavayi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vikasi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vishad	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Laghu	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Apaki	✓	X	X	Visham Paki	X	X
Anirdeshya Rasa	X	✓	Avyaktarasa	Avyaktarasa	X	X
Chhedi	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Madavaha	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Jivithar	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Yogwahi	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
<b>Total</b>	10	10	10	11	8	7

Vyavayi, vikasi, sukshma, & ushna (aagney) are the common visha gunas described by brihat trayi and laghu trayi. For treating poison or to use them for medication, it is very important to know how these visha guna acts. following chart gives an idea of how all gunas acts.

**Visha Gunas And Their Action-**

Some other visha gunas like yogwahi described by bhavprakash & sharangdhar needs to be elaborated. the yogwahi guna carries or increases the effectiveness of other gunas beside him. Madavahi guna effects brain function & increases tamo guna. These visha gunas are exactly opposite to oja gunas and similar to madya gunas.

Sr. No.	Guna	Su.Samhita (Kalp.Sthan 2/19)	Charak Samhita (Chi23/24)	Asht. Sangrah (Utt.4/14)	Shar.Samhita (Purva Khandha 4/12)
1	Ruksh	Vaat Prakopa	Vaat Prakopa	Vaat Prakopa	-
2	Ushna	Rakta,Pitta Prakopa	Pitta Prakopa	Pitta Prakopa	-
3	Tikshna	Sarva Dosha Prakop,Matimoha Utpatti	Marmaghna	Rakta,Pitta Prakopa	-
4	Sukshma	Sharer Avayay Pravesch	Asruka Prakopa		Dehasya Sukshma Chhidra Pravesch
5	Aashu	Sheeghra Mrityu	Deha Vyapti	Aashu Deha Vyapti	-
6	Vyavayi	Prakritim Bhajet	Deha Vyapti		Purva Vyapyakhil Kaya Tatra Pakam Gachhati
7	Vikasi			Marm Chhedan	Sandhibandh Shithilkar
8	Vishad		Gati Dosha		-
9	Laghu	Dushchikitsya	Durupkram	Durnirharan	-
10	Apaki	Durhara,Pran Ghatak		Avashya Mrityukarak	-
11	Anirdeshya Rasa	-	Kapha Prakopa	Rasashch Sarvanuvartate	-

**A Comparitive Chart Of Madya, Visha ,Oja ,Ghrita Gunas**

Ojas <sup>10</sup>	Ghrita <sup>11</sup>	Madya <sup>12</sup>	Visha <sup>13</sup>
Guru	laghu	Laghu	Laghu
Sheeta	Sheeta	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Ushna</i>
Mrudu	Mrudu	Teekshna	Teekshna
Shlakshna	Shlakshna	Sukshma	Sukshma
Bahala	yogvahi	<i>Vishada</i>	<i>Vishada</i>
Madhura	Madhura	Amla	Anirdeshyarasa
Sthira	Soumya	Vyavayi	Vyavayi
Prasanna	Prasanna	Aashu	Aashu
Picchila	Alpa abhishyandi	Vikasi	Vikasi
Snigdha	Snigdha	Ruksha	Ruksha

**Discussion-**

Agad tantra is a branch of ayurved which deals with study of poisons and their treatment, visha is defined as a substance which produce vishannata sadness and is destructive to life .It is the visha gunas that make it fatal even if consumed in less amount.visha gunas are elaborated in different texts .In all these ayurvedic texts visha gunas differ in number and properties.we have seen that though all ayurvedic texts differ in properties they quote 4 properties in common i.e.vyavayi,vikasi,sukshma and ushna (aagneya)a comparison of visha gunas stated by different ayurvedic texts is carried out .Their mode of action according to different acharyas is also mentioned .All the gunas (properties) mentioned in visha are fastlyand acutely penetrative and fatalas they vitiates all doshas.

**References**

- 1)cha.chi.23/23
- 2)su.sa.kalpa 2/19
- 3)sharangdhar samhita purva khanda of 4/22
- 4) su.sa.kalpa 2/19
- 5) cha.chi.23/23
- 6) Asht. sangrah (utt.4/14)
- 7)asht.hriday ut.35 /7
- 8) Shar.samhita (purva khanda 4/12)
- 9)bhav prakash
- 10)ch.chi24/71
- 11)ch.su.27/232
- 12) cha.chi.24/30
- 13) cha.chi.23/23

**Conclusion-**

Properties of a substance decide how is it going t affect on the body. Agad tantra deals with the study of vishas (poisons) in evry aspect.It also deals with the treatment of poison.It is the properties or visha gunas that makes it fatal .It is very important to study visha gunas to treat them or if they have to be used as medicines.The properties of vishas and their action on the body is literarily studied here