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**Case Study** 

### AYURVEDIC MANAGEMENT OF ADENOMYOSIS

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### **ABSTRACT**

Adenomyosis is a gynecological condition with ectopic endometrial tissue in the uterine myometrium. This condition often results in symptoms such as heavy menstrual bleeding, dysmenorrhea, chronic pelvic pain, and can significantly impact a woman's quality of life. If untreated, it can progress to endometriosis and require a hysterectomy. Adenomyosis has a prevalence of 9% in healthy individuals, but this increases to 70% in those with endometriosis. However, Ayurvedic formulations with properties like Anulomaka, Vatashamaka, Lekhana, and Balya can provide significant relief from pain and irregular menses, thus improves patient's quality of life. Background: A married Hindu female patient of 26 years came to NIA Prasuti-stri roga OPD on 22-02-24 with chief complaint of painful menses since menarche and associated complaint of small sized clots p/v (1st to 11th day) and brownish discharge p/v after 7 days of menses (8th to 11th day). Her sonography findings were suggestive of adenomyosis. **Methodology:** Mainly *Vata dosha* vitiation symptoms were observed in the patient. Her complete Nidana Parivarjana was done, also advised to follow Rajaswalacharya. Vatashamaka, Vatanulomak and Balya dravyas were used in treatment. The treatment was continued for 2 months. **Result:** There was significant relief in pain during menses, brownish discharge after 2 months of treatment. Her sonography findings were normal.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Adenomyosis is a gynecological condition characterized by the presence of endometrial glandular and stromal tissues appearing in the myometrium, surrounded by hypertrophic smooth muscle. These endometrial cells migrate, often to the posterior side or back wall of the uterus, responding to monthly hormonal changes. The severity of adenomyosis symptoms is directly proportional to the degree of involvement and penetration of the uterine muscle<sup>[1]</sup>

In India, the prevalence of adenomyosis is approximately 23.5%, with 80% of cases occurring in women aged 31-50 years.<sup>[2]</sup> Patients often report heavy menstrual bleeding (menorrhagia) in 50%,



painful menstruation (dysmenorrhea) in 30%, and irregular menstrual cycles (oligomenorrhea or hypomenorrhea) in 20% of cases.[3,4] These symptoms are due to abnormal presence of endometrial tissue hormonal responding to changes. causing inflammation and increased prostaglandin production. For women who have completed their families, hysterectomy is a definitive treatment option for symptomatic adenomyosis. However, there are several conservative treatments available, including: NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs), hormonal therapies, menstrual suppression with progestins, GnRH (Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone) analogues, etc., which are having several side-effects.

*Vata* is responsible for the movement and regulation of body functions. *Apana Vata* controls the processes of menstruation, defecation, urination, and childbirth.<sup>[5]</sup> It ensures that these bodily functions occur smoothly by maintaining the downward movement of energy in the pelvic region. When *Vata* is vitiated (imbalanced), it can lead to abnormal movements of energies within the body. Vitiated *Vata* 

can cause the displacement or improper movement of the endometrial tissue, leading it to penetrate into the myometrium. This abnormal movement and displacement of tissue is a key feature of adenomyosis. The improper movement of *Apana Vata* can lead to disturbances in the menstrual cycle, such as irregular periods, painful menstruation (dysmenorrhea), and heavy bleeding (menorrhagia). Ayurvedic formulations with properties such as *Vatanulomaka*, *Vatashamaka*, *Lekhana*, *balya* can provide significant results in relieving pain, regularizing menstrual cycle, thus it can enhance the quality of life.

## **Case Report**

A married Hindu female of 26 years, visited to the OPD of Prasuti Tantra & Stree Roga of National Institute of Ayurveda on  $22^{nd}$  February, 2024 with complaints of painful menstruation since menarche and associated complaint of brownish discharge p/v with clots after 7 days of menses since last 2 months.

# **Menstrual History**

Age of Menarche – 13 years Duration - 7/24-28 days LMP – 17-02-2024

**Table 1: Detailed menstrual history** 

Pattern	Regular
Pain	Present, on initial 2 days (Relieves only on taking injections/medication - Meftal)
Clots	Small sized (5 rs coin size), 1st to 11th day
Colour	Dark red
Smell	Absent
Flow	Normal

**Table 2: Initial pad history** 

Day 1st	2 pads – Fully soaked
Day 2 <sup>nd</sup> & day 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1pad/day - Fully soaked
Day 4th, 5th & 6th	1pad/day - Half soaked
Day 7 <sup>th</sup>	Spotting
Day 8th today 11th	Brownish discharge

**Marriage History**: Patient was having a married life of 1 year.

**Obstetric History - Nulligravida** 

**Contraceptive History-** Barrier method used by male partner.

**Previous Medical History-** Non-significant **Previous Surgical History-**Non-significant

**Family History** - Non-significant **Allergic History**- Non-significant

**Table 3: Personal history** 

Diet	Vegetarian	Bladder	Clear
Appetite	Decreased	Bowel	Clear
Sleep	Sound and late sleeping habits (12:00am-1:00am)	Addiction	None

**Table 4: Physical examination** 

G.C.	Fair	Weight	61 kg
B.P.	110/70	ВМІ	22.42 kg/mt <sup>2</sup>
P.R.	76/min	P. Oedema	Absent
Height	5'5"	Pallor	Absent

# **Systemic Examination**

CNS – Patient was conscious, well oriented to place and time, and all 12 pairs of cranial nerves are responsive.

CVS – S1S2 audible, normal, no abnormal sounds heard.

RS - Air entry is equal on both sides.

GIT- Per Abdomen - Soft, Non-tender

## **Table 5: Gynecological examination**

P/V	P/S	
Cervix – No abnormal discharge present healthy, no ulcerations, no erosion, no	Uterus – Anteverted, anteflexed, normal in size and shape, free mobile	
hypertrophy	Cervix – Downward, firm	
Vaginal walls - Healthy, pinkish	Cervical motion tenderness – Non-tender	
	All fornices – Non-tender	

### Table 6: Dashvidha Parikshya Bhava

1	Prakruti	Vata-Kaphaja	6	Satmya	Sarvarasa Satmya
2	Vikruti	Vataja	7	Satva	Avara
3	Sara	Madhyama	8	Ahara Shakti	Avara
4	Samhana	Madhyama	9	Vyayama Shakti	Madhyama
5	Pramana	Madhyama	10	Vaya	Madhyamavastha

# Table 7: Routine investigations (Done on 03/02/2024)

Hemoglobin	12.1g/dl	Vitamin D Total	17.96 ng/ml
CBC	WNL	Random Blood Sugar (RBS)	106.80 mg/dl
Vitamin B 12	182.60 pg/ml	USG (uterus & adnexa)	Adenomyosis
TSH	1.02 μ IU/ml		

### Vividha Nidana

Following *Nidana Sevana* was present in this case

- 1. Daily intake of curd (*Dadhi*-1 bowl/day or 150-200gm) since 10 months
- 2. Daily intake of ice-cream since 6 months
- 3. Daily intake of *Namkeen* (1 bowl/day)
- 4. Sleep late at night (12:30 01:00 AM)-Ratrijagarana
- 5. History of *Vegadharana* during working hours (urine urge)
- 6. Lack of *Rajaswalacharya* or other specific regime during menstruation period.

## Role of Vividha nidana

#### Dadhi

- She has been consuming market-packaged curd almost daily.
- It is made from raw milk and not like homemade curd (*Madhuramla Dadhi*), it acts as *Mandaka Dadhi* (Unfermented curd).<sup>[6]</sup>
- Mandaka Dadhi is known to vitiate all three Doshas.
  Aacharya Charaka also refers to it as Abhishyandikari.
- Acharya Charaka has advised not to eat curd at night and recommended avoiding it in autumn, summer, and spring and warned that ignoring these guidelines could lead to health issues,<sup>[8-9]</sup> but the patient was not aware for them.

#### Ice-cream

- Cold exposure can disrupt blood circulation and prostaglandin production in the uterus, causing dysmenorrhea<sup>[10]</sup>.
- Dairy products like ice cream contain arachidonic acid, increasing prostaglandin levels and causing menstrual pain. Prostaglandins trigger uterine contractions to shed the endometrium<sup>[11]</sup>.
- Ayurveda suggests that cold foods aggravate Vata, increasing pain and discomfort.

## Namkeen

- Eating too much salty or spicy food can cause water retention, inflammation, and bloating.
- High levels of spices, chillies, and besan present in namkeen can vitiate the *Vata* and *Pitta dosha* due to their *Katu rasa*.

# Ratrijagarana

• It leads to the vitiation of the *Vata dosha*<sup>[12]</sup>.

# Vegadharana

• In Ayurveda texts, the Acharyas have stated that suppressing natural urges disturbs all three *Doshas*, especially *Vata dosha*<sup>[13]</sup>.

## Not following *Rajaswalacharya*<sup>[14]</sup>

- Aacharya Sushruta prescribes *Havisya Annam*, which includes *Shali rice* with *Ghrita* and milk, or *Yava* (barley) as explained by Aacharya Dalhana.
- *Ghrita* helps raise good cholesterol levels, acting as a plasma antioxidant.

- *Shali rice* balances the *Tridosha* and is nourishing. Milk also has nourishing (*Bṛumhana*) and rejuvenating (*Rasayana*) properties.
- Yava (barley) has light (Laghu), sweet (Madhura), cooling (Sheeta), and laxative (Sara) properties, with a low Glycemic Index. It is used for weight reduction (Karshanartha), bowel cleansing (Koshthashodhanartha), and digestive fire enhancement (Agnivardhanartha). It promotes stool formation and alleviates Kapha, Pitta, and Rakta disorders. Although mildly Vatakara, this effect is counteracted by adding milk or Ghrita.

The patient wasn't aware of specific regime to be adopted during menstruation (*Rajaswala charya*), so she didn't get its benefits. This is how the condition developed from various causes (*Nidana Sevana*).

### . Danne Verslete

Nidana Panchaka

- Nidana- Causes mentioned previously
- Poorvaroopa- Kashtartava
- Roopa- Kashtartava, menstrual disturbance
- Upshaya- Vata shamak and vatanulomaka aahar vihara
  - Rajaswala charya
- Samprapti- Apana Vata, when aggravated by various causative factors (Nidana sevana), can also aggravate other Doshas.

## Samprapti Ghataka

- Dosha Vata (Apana vata and Samana vata)
- Dushya Rasa- Rakta- Mamsa Dhatu
- Srotas Aartavavaha
- Srotodushti Vimarg gamana, Siragranthi
- Sthana Garbhashaya

# Probable Samprapti



**Table 8: Treatment given to patient** 

1	Lavana bhaskar choorna 2gm	BD with water	Before food	
	Shantivardhaka choorna 2 gm		(Pragbhakta)	
2	Ashwagandha choorna 2 gm	BD with milk	Empty stomach	For 2 cycles
	Bala beeja choorna 2 gm		(Abhakta)	
	Yashtimadhu choorna 2 gm			
	Munakka 8 naga (pcs)			
3	Ashwagandharishta 15 ml	BD with equal	After food	
		amount of water	(Pashchatbhakta)	

Table 9: Patient was advised to follow

Pathya	Apathya
Rajaswalacharya for first 3 days of menses	Ratrijagaran
Eat <i>Vata shamaka</i> vegetables (Bottle gourd, Ridged gourd, spinach, fenugreek, pointed gourd)	Dahi sevana
Eat seasonal fruits	Oily, spicy food
Include Saindhava lavana in daily diet	Vega dharana

### **RESULT**

After taking medication for 2 cycles

- There was 80% relief in previous complaint of painful menses.
- Relief in clots and brownish discharge p/v.
- Her USG was done on 27 April 2024 and shows normal study.

Table 10: Menstrual history after treatment

Pattern	Regular
Pain	Mild, bearable (analgesics not required)
Clots	Small, only 1st day
Colour	Red
Smell	Absent
Flow	Normal

Table 11: Pad history after treatment

Day 1st	2 pads- fully soaked
Day 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Day 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 pad/ day- fully soaked
Day 4th & Day 5th	1pad/ day- half soaked
Day 6 <sup>th</sup>	Spotting

### **DISCUSSION**

- Normal menstruation is a function of *Apana Vata*. Therefore, painful menstruation can be considered a result of Apana Vata imbalance (Apanavayu dushti). In this case, the patient was engaging in activities that aggravate *Vata*, such as sleeping late in night (*Ratrijagaran*), consuming cold foods (*Sheet* aahara), following a diet dominated by pungent tastes (Katu ras), and suppressing natural urges Suppressing natural (Vegadharana). (Vegadharana) causes Apana Vata to move in the opposite direction (Pratiloma gati). This vitiated *Vata* leading to unbearable pain and adenomyosis. Consequently, the treatment administered in this case was *Dosha* specific and tailored to address the vitiated Vata Dosha specifically.
- > Shantivardhaka Choorna is a formulation from the NIA Navsadara. formulary that contains Sauvarchala, Saindhava Lavana, Trikatu, Lavang, Sukshma Ela, Swarnagairika, and Nimbu Satva in equal quantities. This preparation predominantly features Lavana (salty), Amla (sour), and Katu (pungent) tastes, which help alleviate Jatharagni Mandhyata (impairment of digestive fire) and reduce Vata and Kapha doshas. Because In Ayurveda, it is said that all diseases originate from a weakened digestive fire (Mandagni), as stated in "Roga Sarvepi Mandagni".[15]
- ➤ Lavanabhaskara Choorna<sup>[16]</sup> has Vatanulomaka (promoting the downward movement of Vata) and Vatashamaka (pacifying Vata) properties due to its predominance of Madhura rasa (sweet taste), Madhura vipaka (sweet post-digestive effect),

Snigdha guna (unctuous quality), and Ushna veerya (heating potency). It removes existing *Stroto* avarodha (blockages in the channels) by penetrating the body's minute Strotas (channels). Some ingredients of this *Choorna* possess *Katu rasa* (pungent taste), Tikshna guna (sharp quality), and Ushna veerya, which contribute to its effectiveness. Additionally, the Katu rasa has "Shonitsamghatbhedana" property (thrombolytic activity), which helps break down clots formed in the myometrium due to the migration of endometrial cells.

Lavanbhaskar Choorna and Shantivardhak Choorna are given before food because Acharya Charaka mentioned that in cases of Apana Vata Vaigunya (disorders related to Apana Vata), medicines should be administered before meals- "Apane Vigune Poorvam".[17]

- ➢ Ashwagandha<sup>[18]</sup> is characterized by its Laghu (light) and Snigdha (unctuous) qualities, along with Tikta (bitter), Katu (pungent), and Madhura (sweet) Rasa. It also has Madhura vipaka (sweet post-digestive effect) and Ushna veerya (heating potency). This herb is commonly used to address conditions related to vitiated Vata. Additionally, Ashwagandha soothes the nervous system's pain response, offering analgesic properties. It also exhibits anti-tumor, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and immune-modulating activities.
- Madhuyashti<sup>[19]</sup> possesses Guru (heavy) and Snigdha (unctuous) qualities, with Madhura (sweet) and Tikta (bitter) Rasa. It has a Sheeta Veerya (cooling

potency) and is known for its *Vata-Pitta shamaka* (pacifying *Vata* and *Pitta*), *Medhya* (intellectenhancing), *Rasayana* (rejuvenating), *Vedana sthapana* (analgesic), and *Shothahara* (anti-inflammatory) properties.

- ➤ Bala<sup>[20]</sup> is characterized by its Laghu (light), Snigdha (unctuous), and Pichhila (slimy) qualities, with a Madhura (sweet) Rasa, Madhura vipaka (sweet post-digestive effect), and Sheeta veerya (cooling potency). It has Vata-pitta shamaka (pacifying Vata and Pitta) properties, and is also known for its Balya (strengthening), Brumhana (nourishing), Shothhara (anti-inflammatory), and Prajasthapaka (supporting fertility) properties.
- ➤ Munakka<sup>[21]</sup> possesses Sniadha (unctuous), Guru (heavy), and Mridu (soft) qualities, along with a Madhura (sweet) Rasa and Madhura vipaka (sweet post-digestive effect). It has a Sheeta veerya (cooling potency) and Vata-pitta shamaka (pacifying Vata and Pitta) properties. Additionally, Munakka is known for its Vatanulomaka (promoting the downward movement of Vata), Medhya (intellect-Balya (strengthening), enhancing), Brumhana (nourishing), and Garbhsthapaka (supporting pregnancy) properties.

Acharya Charaka has mentioned *Munakka* in the *Jwarhara Mahakashaya* (group of herbs effective against fever). Fever (*Jwara*) is considered a *Rasapradoshaja Vikara* (a disorder caused by the vitiation of *Rasa Dhatu*). Since *Artava* (menstrual fluid) is an *Upadhatu* (sub-*Dhatu*) of *Rasa Dhatu*, any vitiation of *Rasa* can lead to the vitiation of *Artava* as well. Therefore, *Munakka* is used to address such conditions.

These four medicines are given on an empty stomach because they are heavy to digest and require strong *Agni* (digestive fire) for proper digestion. Acharya Sushruta states that taking medicines without food increases their potency and quickly destroys diseases.<sup>[22]</sup>

➤ Ashwagandharishta<sup>[23]</sup> is an Ayurvedic polyherbal fermented formulation mentioned in the Bhaishajya Ratnavali under Murchharogadhikara. It is widely recognized as a Rasayana, known for its ability to prolong lifespan and rejuvenate the body. The formulation includes a variety of potent ingredients such as Ashwagandha, Musli, Manjistha, Haritaki, Haridra, Daruharidra, Yasti, Rasna, Vidari Kand, Arjun, Mustaka, Anantmool, Trivrt, Chitrak, Rakt Chandan, Safed Chandan, Vacha, Priyangu, Nagkesar, Dhaiphool, Soanth, Maricha, Pippal, Tvak, and Tejpatta.

This preparation offers a range of therapeutic benefits, including *Medhya* (intellect-enhancing), *Rasayana* 

(rejuvenating), *Balya* (strengthening), and anti-stress properties. Additionally, it has *Deepana-pachana* (digestive) actions that help alleviate *Jatharagni Mandhyata*, an impairment of the digestive fire that is considered a fundamental cause of *Strotodushti* (blockage of body channels). The formulation is characterized by its predominant *Madhura-tikta rasa* (sweet-bitter taste), *Laghu-ruksha guna* (light and dry qualities), *Madhura vipaka* (sweet post-digestive effect), and *Ushna veerya* (heating potency).

In Ayurveda, *Aasava* and *Arishta* are given after food because their fermented ingredients stimulate digestive fire, enhancing digestion and nutrient absorption. Taking them after a meal also helps prevent potential stomach irritation.

Medhya<sup>[24]</sup> medicines were used because studies show women with adenomyosis have a higher risk of anxiety and depression. Shothahara medicines were given due to the inflammatory nature of adenomyosis. Vedanasthapaka (pain-relieving) medicines were administered for dysmenorrhea, a common feature of adenomyosis, and Balya medicines were given for their Vata-pacifying properties.

# CONCLUSION

From the above case study, it can be concluded that, in addition to medication, attention should be given to identifying and avoiding the *Nidana* (causative factors) before focusing on the *Chikitsa* (treatment) according to the patient's *Prakruti* (constitution) and the predominant *Dosha* in the specific disease. *Vatashamaka Aahara* (diet) and *Vihara* (lifestyle), adherence to *Rajaswala Paricharya* (guidelines for women during menstruation), along with lifestyle improvements and *Vata-shamaka Chikitsa* (treatment), are effective in treating adenomyosis.

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