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Case Study

EFFECTIVENESS OF AYURVEDIC TREATMENTS IN SHIWTRA OF CHILDREN W.S.R. OF VITILIGO

Saloni Ranawat^{1*}, Ram Kumar², Anukriti Guar³, Neetu Singh Siyag³

*¹PG Scholar, ²Professor & Head, ³Lecturer, PG Dept. of Kaumarbhritya, MMM Govt. Ayurvedic College, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.

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ABSTRACT

Vitiligo, also known as *Shwitra* or *Kilasa* in Ayurveda, is the most common pigmentation disorder. It is characterized by an imbalance of the three *Doshas (Vata, Pitta* and *Kapha)*, affecting the *Rakta, Mamsa* and *Meda Dhatus*. Although *Shwitra* is harmless, it poses a significant cosmetic issue that can impact the emotional, psychological and social well-being of individuals. In a case involving a 14-year-old male diagnosed with vitiligo (*Shwitra*), the patient experienced increasing depigmented patches on the skin. The management of this condition followed Ayurvedic principles and involved a treatment protocol designed based on the patient's symptoms. The treatment starts with a combination of herbal drugs such as *Mahamanjishtadi Ghanvati, Praval Pisti, Bakuchi Churna* and *Shuddh Swarna Gairika* taken orally. Additionally, *Somaraji Taila* was applied locally. This protocol was effective in reversing the depigmented patches, leading to re-pigmentation. Future cases may adopt similar protocols, using different combinations of drugs based on Ayurvedic parameters, to achieve even better results.

INTRODUCTION

The skin is the body is most visible organ and plays a major role in physical, social and psychological communication. Every day, paediatricians meet patients with dermatological issues, which make up around 25% of OPD practice. All type of skin problem has been covered beneath the *Kushta*^[1] categories in Ayurveda. The name "*Switra*" comes from the *Sanskrit* word "*Sweta*," which meaning "white patch". Thus, *Switra* is a condition in which the body develops white spots. As stated in *Kashyapa Samhita Shweta Bhava Michanti Shwitram*^[2].

According to *Charka* three different varieties of *Switra* are referenced in *Dhatus*, depending on the color and *Ashraya*: red when found in *Rakta* (blood), coppery when found in *Mamsa* (muscular tissue) and white when found in *Medas* (fatty tissue)^[3].

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Patches of hypopigmentation appear as a result of focal melanocyte loss. It is believed to be the outcome of autoimmune cell- mediated melanocyte destruction. Often symmetrical, generalized vitiligo affects the hands, wrists, feet, knees, neck and areas surrounding bodily orifices^[4].

According to *Vagbhatta Switra* pathogenesis is influenced by vitiated *Tri-Doshas (Vata, Pitta,* and *Kapha)*, particularly *Bhrajaka Pitta*, which impaired *Rasa, Rakta, Mamsa* and *Medo dhatu^[5]*. Many *Switra* patients who do not benefit from conventional treatment turn into Ayurvedic treatment hope for cure of the disease. In Ayurveda *Shodana, Shamana* and *Nidana Parivarjana* are the treatment principles for any disease. *Shamana Chikitsa* is more preferred than *Shodana Chikitsa* in paediatric group, because children have *Mridu* and *Sukumara* body constitution. ^[6]

OBJECTIVES

To study the effect of external application and internal use in treating *Switra* in children.

MATERIALAND METHOD

Case Description

A male patient of 14 years approached the Kaumarbhritya OPD of Madan Mohan Malviya

Government Ayurveda Collage and Hospital, Udaipur, on 15/11/2024 with complaints of white patches behind the right side of the ear. No positive family history is noted and there was a no history of burn or injury.

History of Present Illness

The patient was normal before 2 years, later noticed small white patch behind the right side of the ear. At first time the patient neglected it as the patch was not associated with itching and burning sensation, after a gap of 1 year, patient noticed the patch is gradually started spreading and increasing in size. So patient mother took him to nearby allopathic hospital. There they examined patch and diagnosed as vitiligo, thereafter advised with topical steroid application and tablet but no satisfactory improvement seen. hence the patient has come to our hospital for Ayurvedic treatment.

History of Past Illness

No any history of past illness.

MANAGEMENT

General Examination

- Heart rate 84/min
- Respiratory rate -18/min
- BP- 110/80 mm of Hg
- Pallor Absent
- Icterus Absent
- Bowel Some time constipated
- Bladder 6-7 time /day
- Lymph Node Not palpable
- Oedema Absent

Local examination

- Site of lesion Behind the right side of ear
- Number of lesion 4
- Colour of lesion White
- Distribution Asymmetrical
- Itching Absent
- Discharge -Absent
- Hair colour White

Table 1: Line of Treatment

Day	Internal Medicine	Local Application
1st day to 60	Mahamanjishtadi Ghanvati 250 mg	Soma Raji Tail over effected
days	Praval Pisti – 150 mg	area as per quantity
	Bakuchi Churna – 250 mg	associated with sun exposure
	Shuddh Swarna Gairika -150 mg	
	Combination of medicine 2 divided doses after meal.	

Every 15 days follow up should be taken

Table 2: Assessment Grading for Subjective Parameter [7]

Symptoms	Grading			
Twak Rukshata	Grade 0	Normal	No dryness	
	Grade 1	Mild	Dryness on exposure to sunlight or other allergens.	
	Grade 2	Moderate	Dryness during exposure to cold environment.	
	Grade 3	Severe	Always dry	
Kandu	Grade 0	Normal	No itching	
	Grade 1	Mild	Itching on exposure to cold, sunlight or allergens	
	Grade 2	Moderate	Itching on exposure to cold environment	
	Grade 3	Severe	Severe itching	
Daha	Grade 0	Normal	No burning sensation	
	Grade 1	Mild	Burning sensation on exposure to mid noon sunlight	
	Grade 2	Moderate	Burning sensation on exposure to morning sunlight or irritants	
	Grade 3	Severe	Always burning sensation	
Twak Shwetata	Grade 0	Normal	Normal skin colour	
	Grade 1	Mild	Less depigmentation at margins and more on a lesions	
	Grade 2	Moderate	Depigmentation is more than pigmentation or equal on lesions	
	Grade 3	Severe	No pigmentation only white colour	
Roma	Grade 0	Normal	Normal hair colour	
Vivarnata	Grade 1	Mild	Less than 20 % of hair on lesions has Vivarnata	
	Grade 2	Moderate	25-75% of hair over the lesions has <i>Vivarnata</i>	
	Grade 3	Severe	More than 75% of hair over the lesions has Vivarnata	

Table 3: Assessment criteria for no. of patches[8]

Number of patches	Score
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
>4	5

Table 4: Assessment criteria for colour of patches [9]

Colour of patches	Score
Normal skin colour	1
Red colour	2
White to reddish	3
Red to whitish	4
Whitish	5

Table 5: Observation during treatment (Subjective parameter)

Symptoms	Grading				
	1st Day	15 th Day	30th Day	45 th Day	60th Day
Twak Shwetata	3	3	2	1	1
Twak Rukshata	2	2	1	1	0
Kandu	0	0	0	0	0
Daha	0	0	0	0	0
Roma Vivaranta	2	2	1	1	1

Table 6: Observation during treatment of colour of patches (Objective parameters)

Colour of Patches	<i>{</i> <i>Q</i>	Grading			
	1st Day	15 th Day	30th Day	45th Day	60th Day
Normal skin colour	34 8	2 1	1	-	-
Red colour	A	AR AR	P / / -	-	2
White to reddish	- //	OSHDHA	-	3	-
Red to whitish	-		4	-	-
White	5	5	-	-	-

Table 7: Observation during treatment number of patches (objective parameters)

Number of Patch	Grading				
	1st Day	15 th Day	30th Day	45 th Day	60th Day
1	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	2
3	-	-	3	3	-
4	4	4	-	-	-
>4	-	-	-	-	-

Table 8: Symptomatic Relief

Symptom	Percentage
Twak Shwetata	50%
Twak Rukshata	60%
Kandu	-
Daha	-
Roma Vivaranta	50%

Before treatment



After treatment mode of action of medicine



Mahamanjisthadi Ghan Vati^[10]

S.No.	Ingredients	Pharmacological Action		
		Ayurveda	Morden	
1	Manjishtha (Rubia cordifolia Linn.)	Kusthahar, ^[11] Varnya, Raktasodhana ^[12]	Anti-acne property, anti-oxidant properties ^[13]	
2	Haritaki (Terminalia chebula Retz.)	Kusthaghna, ^[14] Rasayana. ^[15]	Anti-oxidant properties ¹⁶	
3	Amalaki (Emblica officinalis)	Kusthaghna, Rasayana ^[17]	Anti-aging, antioxidant properties ^[18]	
4	Bibhitaki (Terminalia bellerica)	Switraghana [19]	Antioxidant activity, anti-inflammatory activity ^[20]	
5	Katuki (Picrohriza kurroa)	Kushtaghna [21]	Antifungal activity, [22] anti-oxidant activity[23]	
6	Vacha (Acorus calamus Linn.)	J <mark>antughna^[24], Rasayana^[25]</mark>	Anti-inflammatory activity ^[26]	
7	Daruharidra (Barberis aristate)	Shothanashak ^[27] , Varnya ^[28]	Antimicrobial activity ^[29]	
8	Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia)	Rasayana ^[30]	Anti-leprotic activity ^[31]	
9.	Nimba (Azadirechta indica)	Twagadoshahar ^[32]	Antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties ^[33]	

The combination of *Tikta, Katu, Ruksha Guna, Ushna Veerya* and *Kutu Vipaka,* enables the formula to balance the three *Doshas (Vata, Pitta* and *Kapha),* Purify the channels and tissues (*Srotoshodhak*), Enhance complexion and skin health (*Varnya*). Main ingredients in the formula include *Manjistha* is a blood purifier and complexion enhancer with anti-inflammatory properties. *Nimba* have anti-parasitic *Somaraji Taila* [35]

agent, *Haridra* works as anti-inflammatory and skin health promoter (*Vrnya*) and *Vacha* works as *Shtroto Shodhak* (channel purifier) and *Medhya* (cognitive function enhancer). Overall, *Mahamanjisthadi Ghanvati* works to disrupt the disease process (*Samprapti Vighatana*) and restore balance to the body.^[34]

C No	Inguadianta	Pharmacological Action			
S.No.	Ingredients	Ayurveda	Modern		
1	Bakuchi	Khusthaghna Rasayana ^[36]	Anti-leprosy properties, Antioxidant properties ^[37]		
2	Haridra	Twakdoshaghna ^[38]	Antioxidant effects ^[39]		
3	Daruharidra	Shothanashak ^[27] , Varnya ^[28]	Antimicrobial activity ^[29]		
4	Sarshapa	Khusthaghna ^[40]	Antimicrobial activity ^[41]		
5	Karanja	Kushtaghna ^[42]	Anti-oxidant properties[43]		
7	Aragwadha	Kushtaghna ^[44]	Anti-oxidant activity[45]		

Somaraji Taila also have Lekhana (blistering) property to remove dead skin, Ropana (healing) property to promote wound healing, Varnya (pigmentation-enhancing) property to stimulate melanogenesis. Gomutra in Somaraji Taila stimulates Bhrajaka Pitta, promoting proper melanin formation. The main ingredient, Somaraji (Bakuchi), has a profound effect on skin melanoblast cells. According to modern medicine Somaraji contains Psorallin, which stimulates melanocytes to produce melanin and enables skin cells to absorb long-wave UV radiation, providing photoprotection. As a result, Somaraji Taila Lepa effectively disrupts the disease pathway (Samprapti Vighatana) of vitiligo (Switra), promoting skin health and melanin production [46].

As described in the *Bhaishaja Ratnavali, Somaraji Taila* is a traditional blend of herbs and oils, including *Bakuchi, Haridra, Daruharidra, Sarshapa, Kusta, Karanjabeeja, Edagabeeja, Aragwadha Patra, Sarshapa Taila, Gomutra*. All the drugs are having *Katu, Tiktha Rasa, Ushna Virya, Katu Vipaka* and *Rasayana* (Rejuvenating and antioxidant properties properties) and also they are *Kapha Medhohara* property and acts as *Kustagna, Switragna* and *Kandugna* (anti-leprosy, anti-vitiligo, and anti-itching properties).

Bakuchi Churna

Bakuchi churna comprises Katu, Tikta, Rasa, Usna, Ruksha, Gunas, Usna, Virya, Katu, Vipaka, and Rasayana properties, and possesses the Kapha Medohara property. It functions as Kustagna, Shvitragna and Kandugna. Bakuchi contains psoralen, when applied to hypopigmented skin, induces erythema and residual pigmentation due to its photosensitizing action^[47].

Praval Pishti

Praval Pishti predominantly exhibits Madhura, Amla and Kashaya Rasa. It is characterized by its Laghu quality, Sheetavirya (cooling effect) and Madhura Vipaka. It effectively balances the Kapha and Pitta Doshas. Praval Pishti also positively influences various bodily tissues, including Rasa, Rakta, Mamsa, Ashthi, Sukra [48]. It also balances all the three Dosha, Kantikara, Mangalkara and best for Pittaja Vikaras and also indicated in Kasa, Raktapradara, Rakta pitta, Amlapitta [49].

DISCUSSION

Switra is a disease where Vata and Pitta is obstructed by Kapha, so in this condition Vata is in Moodavastha and Pitta is in Kshaya Avastha. In that condition when we give Katu, Tikta Rasa, Katu Vipaka, Ushna Virya Pradana medicine, in this case all of the medicine are Tikta, Katu, Ruksha Guna, Ushna Veerya and Kutu Vipaka. it stimulates the Agni and also help to break the Avarana of Kapha. As Agni is stimulated and

starts properly functioning in *Raktavaha Srotas* patient will be improve in pigmentation of skin.

CONCLUSION

By observing the above treated case and pharmacological properties, the combined action of external application of *Somraji Tail* and internal use of combination of *Mahamanjistha Ghanvati*, *Bakuchi Churna*, *Shudhha Swarna Garika* and *Praval Pishti* have proved to be effective in treating *Switra*.

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*Address for correspondence Dr. Saloni Ranawat

PG Scholar,

PG Dept. of Kaumarbhritya MMM Govt. Ayurvedic College,

Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Email: saloniranawat18@gmail.com

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