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Diagnosis and management of *Karnini Yonivyapad* w.s.r. to Cervical Erosion and its significance in Modern Era

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda has two-fold objectives. One is to maintain the positive Health and second is to eradicate the disease. Obstetrics is the branch of medicine that has to do with the care of the pregnant women during pregnancy, parturition and the puerperium. Pregnancy is one of the most unique, exciting and joyous time in a woman's life. After completing entire nine months of gestation period baby is delivered. Due to straining during labour in the absence of labour pains, the *Vayu* obstructed by fetus, withholding *Kapha* and getting mixed with *Rakta* produces *Karnika* in *Yoni*, which obstructs the passage of *Raja*. Due to presence of *Karnika* (a small muscular ball), this condition is termed as *Karnini Yonivyapad* by Acharya Charaka (Cha. Chikitsa 30/7-8). Common symptoms are vaginal discharge with other symptoms like weakness, pain in back and calves, loss of vital fluids, the pruritus on and around the vulva, thighs and pelvic joints. It can be treated by the combined effect of oral medication and local therapy. Use of *Shodhan Varti*, tampons, and *Uttarabasti* is the main treatment. Depending on the signs and symptoms it can be correlated with Cervical Erosion.

Key words: Karnika, Karnini Yonivyapad, Menstrual disorder, Cervical Erosion, Shodhan Varti, Uttarabasti.

INTRODUCTION

Health of a nation mainly depends on the health of *"Stree"* because she is the only creature who has amazing power of creation. Acharya Sushruta has nicely explained the definition of Health.^[1] According to him Health of a person is one who has balanced *Doshas* (normal body functions, balanced *Agni* (digestive power), properly formed *Dhatus* (tissues), proper elimination of waste material and who is of cheerful nature. As mentioned in our Classics woman suffers from twenty *Yoni Rogas.* Out of which one the

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Website: www.jaims.in Published by Maharshi Charaka Ayurveda Organization, Vijayapur, Karnataka (Regd) under the license CC- very important is *Karnini Yonivyapad*. It can be compared with cervical erosion on the basis of signs and symptoms. The incidence of this disease is 35-85% in woman with active reproductive period.

Derivation of Yoni

- The word *Yoni* is derived from the Sanskrit root '*Yuj*' meaning to join suffixed by 'ni' to form the word '*Yoni*'.
- According to Vagbhata in A.S.Uttara. 38/51 Indu-The word Yoni refers to Garbhashaya Dwar-Mukha.^[2]
- According to Sushruta in Su.S.Shareera. 5/55: Yoni resembles the hollow of conch shell and possesses three whorls.^[3]

Three Avarta of Yoni

Anatomically *Yoni* consists of three *Avartas*. These three *Avartas* of *Yoni* can be compared to this anatomical part of female genital tract-

- 1st Avarta is Apatyapatha or vagina.
- ^{2nd} Avarta is Garbhashaya Greeva or cervix.

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3rd Avarta is Garbhashaya or uterus with its adnexa.

Twenty Yonirogas:[4-10]

According to (Cha.Sutra.19/3-9); (Cha.Chikitsa.30/7); (Cha.Chik.30/37); (Su.Uttara.38/5); (A.S.Uttara.38/32); (A.Hr.Uttara.33/27); (Ka.S.Sutra.27/56). All these Classics have given the total number of *Yonivyapads* as twenty.

Vivechana

Twenty Yonivyapads are defined as;

- According to Dalhana The word Yonivyapad refers to the diseases of Yoni.
- According to Gangadhara The illness based on the female genital tract is known by the name Yonivyapad.

General Etiology

According to Acharya Charaka in Cha.S.Chikitsa. 30/7-8

Abnormal dietetics and mode of life, abnormalities of *Artava* and *Beeja*, and curses of anger of God are the causative factors ^[5] of all these 20 disorders of *Yoni*.

According to Sushruta in Su.S.Uttara. 38/3-6

Maharshi Sushruta has added that when a woman having *Ruksha* body or else a weak or very young woman does excessive coitus with men having big size penis^[11] then her *Vayu* gets aggravated. This *Vayu* withholding *Pitta* and *Shleshma* already vitiated due to their specific causes reaches the *Yoni* and produces various disorders.

According to both *Vagbhatas* in (A.S.Uttara. 38/32 and A.Hr.Uttara. 33/27-28

Both *Vagbhatas* accepting abnormalities of *Artava* and *Beeja* as well as curses of god as causative factors have added that abnormal diet having coitus in abnormal postures of body, excessive coitus and use of objects made of iron for sexual pleasure are also causes of *Yonivyapad*.^[8, 9]

According to Kashyapa in Ka.S.Siddhi. 4/6

Kashyapa says that if *Nasya* is given to a woman during her menstrual period is over she suffers from *Yonishosha* (vaginitis).^[12]

Madhav Nidana, Bhavprakash & *Yogratnakar* has followed *Charaka*.

Bhela^[13] has included the diseases of sacral region, Yoni and Garbhashaya (uterus) among the diseases developing in a particular body part due to Vata (Bhela.S.Sutra. 25).

Considering the descriptions of all the classics some etiological factors emerge out are - 1. *Mithyachara* (bad conduct); 2. *Pradushta Artava* (vitiated menstrual bleeding); 3. *Beeja Dosha* (Semen and ovum); 4. *Daiva* (god)

Twenty Types of Yonivyapads on the basis of Dosha

According to Charaka^[5] - Vataja Yonivyapads are 11 in number. These are Vatiki, Acharana, Aticharana, Prakcharana, Udavarta, Putraghni, Antarmukhi, Suchimukhi, Shushka, Shandhi, Mahayoni.

Pittaja Yonivyapads are 3 in number. These are Paittiki, Raktayoni, Arajaska. Kaphaja Yonivyapad is 1 in number which is Slaishmiki. Tridoshaja Yonivyapads are 1 in number. It is Sannipatiki. Vata Pittaja Yonivyapads are two in number. These are Paripluta and Vamini. Vata Kaphaja Yonivyapads are 2 in number. These are Upapluta and Karnini.

According to Sushruta^[14] - Vataja Yonivyapads are 5 in number. These are Vatala, Vandhya, Vipluta, Parpluta, Udavarta. Pittaja Yonivyapads are 5 in number. These are Paittiki, Rudhirakshara, Sramsini, Putraghni, Vamini. Kaphaja Yonivyapads are 5 in number. These are Atyananda, Karnini, Acharana, Aticharana, Shleshmaja. Tridoshaja

Yonivyapads are 5 in number these are Shandhi, Phalini, Mahati, Suchivaktra, Sarvaja.

According to Ashtanga Sangrah^[8] - Vataja Yonivyapads are 11 in number. These are Vatiki, Vamini, Aticharana, Prakcharana, Udavarta, Jataghni, Antarmukhi, Suchimukhi, Shushka, Shandhi, Mahayoni. Pittaja Yonivyapads are 2 in number. These are Paittiki and Raktayoni. Kaphaja Yonivyapad is one in number. This is Slaishmiki. Tridoshaja Yonivyapads is one in number. This is Sannipatiki. Vata Pittaja Yonivyapads are 2 in number. These are Lohitakshaya, Paripluta. Vata Kaphaja Yonivyapads

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are 2 in number. These are *Upapluta* and *Karnini*. *Krimij Yonivyapad* is one in number. This is *Vipluta*.

Karnini Yonivyapad : Vishishta Nidana

It develops due to vitiation of *Vata* and *Kapha* or only *Kapha* according to *Charaka* as well as both *Vagbhata* and *Sushruta* respectively. *Karnika* of *Yoni* may give rise to blood stained vaginal discharges. *Sushruta* has described presence of unctuousness etc features of vitiation of *Kapha* which refers mucoid vaginal discharge. In *Karnini Yonivyapad* due to involvement of *Rakta* in the development of *Karninika*, sometimes blood stained or pinkish vaginal discharges coming from that *Karnika* may be found.

According to Charaka in Cha.S.Chikitsa. 30/27-28: Due to straining during labour in the absence of labour pain the *Vayu* obstructed by foetus, withholding *Kapha* and getting mixed with *Rakta* produces *Karnika* in *Yoni* ^[15] which obstructs the passage of *Raja*. Due to presence of *Karnika* this condition is termed as *Karnini*.

According to Sushruta in Su.S.Uttara. 38/15-17: Sushruta says that vitiated Kapha along Rakta produces Karnika [16] in Yoni. Other features of vitiation of Kapha i.e unctousness and itching etc are also present.

According to *Vagbhatas* in (A.S.Uttara. 38/51) and (A.Hr.Uttara. 33/50-51): Both the *Vagbhatas* have followed *Charaka*.^[17,18]

Indu while clarifying the description says that due to premature ejaculation of fluid, brought about by untimely straining the aggravated *Vayu* withholding *Kapha* and *Rakta* produces *Karnika* in *Yoni* which obstructs the passage of *Raja*. This refers to either normal excretion of reproductive organ of women coming at the end orgasm or else deliberates the discharge of urine by women to deceive her husband.

In a woman undesirous of coitus both the discharges i.e., secretion from reproductive system and urine are seen.

Vitiated *Kapha* solidifies *Rakta* giving it a shape of abnormal muscular structure which is propelled by

Vayu. This structure obstructs the orifice of uterus, thus the deposited *Shukra* does not ascend upwards resulting into absence of fertilization. The shape of this growth resembles pericarp of lotus or muscular sprouts.

Madhav Nidana, Bhavaprakash & Yogratnakar have followed *Sushruta*.^[19]

Karnini

Table 1: Points of congruence between

Yonivyapad and Cervical Erosion.

Karnini Yonivyapad	Cervical Erosion
May be due to <i>Beeja Dosha</i> (congenital)	May be congenital
Mithyavihar & Artava Dosha are the causative factors.	Hyperaemia due to excessive coitus.
Over straining during labour in absence of labour pain is the main cause.	Disease occurs in postnatal period because at the time of cervical ulcer caused due to straining during labour, columnar epithelium of endocervix advances and replaces squamous epithelium of infravaginal portion of cervix (main pathogenesis of Erosion).
Produces narrowing of cervical OS and infertility due to non-acceptance of Shukra.	Due to congestion and edema the os may be narrowed excreted thick mucus hinders the entry of sperms resulting into infertility.
Due to vitiation of <i>Kapha</i> , unctousness, excessive mucoid discharges, itching etc.	Excessive mucoid discharge is a main symptom, due to associated trichomoniasis itching may also present
Due to association of <i>Rakta</i> with <i>Kapha</i> it appears red in colour sometimes even blood stained discharge might be present.	Cervix is bright red in colour, often covered with thick white mucous, blood-stained discharges may be present.
Use of <i>Shodhan Varti & Uttar Basti</i> (vaginal irrigation) is the main treatment.	Cauterization is the treatment.

Nidana Sevana

 Intake of Kaphakar, Abhishyandi & Srotomalinikar Ahara leads to Kaphavriddhi.

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 Excessive straining during parturition leads to morbidity of *Vata Dosha*.

Samprapti

According to *Vagbhata* in A.S.Uttara. 38/55, vitiated *Vata Dosha* afflicts the *Shleshma* and *Rakta* in *Garbhashaya Dwara*. As a result of which due to *Kapha Dosha, Rakta Dhatu* undergoes organization to form a minute *Granthi* ^[20] like elevation. This *Granthi* like structure is known as *Karnini* and the disease is called *Karnini Yonivyapad*.

Samprapti Ghataka:[21]

Dosha - Predominantly Vata, & Kapha associated with Pitta

Dushya - Rasa, Rakta, Mamsa

Srotas - Artava vaha and Rasa-Rakta-Mamsavaha srotas

Sthana - Garbhashaya dwara

Srotodushti - Sanga

Vyadhi Swabhava - Chirakaari

Sadhyaasadnyata - Krichchhrasadhya

Roopa: According to *Vagbhata*^[20] in A.S.Uttara. 38/55 Indu:

Clinical manifestation of Karnini Yonivyapad includes

- Typical Karnini lesion with minute elevations at Garbhashaya Dwara simulating Karnika; Obstructed menstruation; Infertility; and Cervical stenosis.
- The minute elevation i.e., Karnika can be compared with Nabothian follicle which develops in follicular cervical erosion. Karnika can also be compared with cervical erosion of cervix because when touched the patient feels a grating sensation.
- Symptoms of vitiated Kapha are Pandu Varna, Pichchhila Yoni (Mucoid discharge), Kandu (pruritis vulva), Sheetalata (wetness) in Yoni.
- Symptoms due to Vitiated Vata are backache, pain in lower abdomen, sickness etc.

General Line of treatment of Kaphaj Yonirogas

According to *Charaka*,^[22] *Vagbhata*^[23] and *Yogratnakar* in Cha.S.Chikitsa. 30/42; A. Hr.Uttara. 34/50 and *Yogratnakar Yonivyapad Chikitsa* it has been mentioned that, "In all the *Sleshmaja Yonirogas*, *Ruksha and Ushna* treatment should be prescribed to the women."

Uses of *Basti:* According to *Charaka* and *Vagbhata*, *Basti* of cow mixed with the drugs having predominantly *Katu* properties (*Katu Rasa* and Katu *Vipaka*) should be given to the woman. (Cha.S.Chikitsa. 30/85)^[24] and (A. Hr. Uttara. 34/60).^[25]

Application of *Varti* - According to Charaka^[26] and Vagbhata^[27] in Cha.S.Chikitsa. 30/62 and A.Hr.Uttara. 39/48; Local application of paste of *Shyamaadi Aushadhi* should be given.

Use of Varti - According to Charaka in Cha.S.Chikitsa. 30/70-73, the Varti prepared with above drug should be placed in vaginal canal for the treatment of *Yonirogas* caused by vitiation of *Sleshma*[28]

According to Vagbhata^[29] in A.S.Uttara. 39/64-66:

- A pessary prepared with a piece of cloth soaked several times in the bile of hog.
- A pessary prepared with powdered Yava or Masa mixed with rock salt and pestled with latex of Arka should be placed either repeatedly or for a short time & should follow irrigation of vaginal canal with lukewarm water.
- A pessary thick like index finger prepared with *Pippali, Marich, Masa, Saindhava, Kustha & rock* salt (*Bha.Pra.Chikitsa.* 70/74).^[30]

Congenital Diet in Kaphaja Yonirogas

According to Yog Ratnakar Yonivyapad Chikitsa- Use of oil, Sidhu, barley etc. cereals and Pathya Arishta (Abhayarishta) is congenital in Kaphaja Yonirogas.

Treatment of Karnini Yonivyapad

According to Charaka ^[31] and Vagbhatas ^[32] in (Cha.S.Chi. 30/43 and A.S.Uttara. 39/44) both considered *Karnini Yonivyapad* to be a *Vata - Kaphaja* disease.

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In the *Yonirogas* caused by the vitiation of *Kapha* and *Vata* both the *Doshas* together the *Uttarbasti* (vaginal or uterine instillation) with the oil medicated with *Jeevaniya* group of drugs should be given.

According to Sushruta (Su. S. Uttara. 38/28) - All the measures of capable of supressing the *Kapha* should be used. A pessary prepared with *Shodhana* drugs should be used. *Uttarabasti* with the oil treated with *Jeevaniya* group of drugs. Pessary ^[33] prepared with *Kustha, Pippali,* tender leaves of *Arka* and rock salt pestled with urine of goat should be applied locally.

Modern Review of Cervical Erosion

The medical term for cervical erosion ^[34] is 'cervical ectopy'. It is a condition in which cells that normally line the inside of the cervical canal extend on to the surface of the cervix.

Normally, the inside of the cervical canal is lined with columnar epithelium and the outside with squamous epithelium. These connect at the squamo-columnar junction.

In cervical erosion, the columnar epithelium may extend further down and protrude on the surface of the cervical OS and onto the vaginal portion of cervix. It may also undergo squamous metaplasia and transform to stratified squamous epithelium.



Factors Affecting Cervical Erosion

Estrogen level: Cervical erosion is believed to be a response to high levels of circulation of Estrogen in

the body. Estrogen levels may be high at different times in a woman's life.

In Pregnancy: Cervical Erosion is a very common finding during pregnancy. It is believed to be due to the high levels of Estrogen levels in the body at that time. It can cause mild bleeding during pregnancy, usually during sexual intercourse when the penis touched the cervix. The Cervical erosion disappears spontaneously 3-6 months after childbirth.

Causes of Cervical Erosion:[35]

- 1. Congenital,
- 2. HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy),
- 3. Birth control pills,
- 4. Infections



Plate 2: Showing Congenital Cervical Erosion

At birth (Congenital):^[36] Cervical erosion is found in at least 1/3rd of all female babies. It tends to disappear during childhood. Many researchers believe that this is a response to the maternal estrogen that the babies are subjected to while still in the uterus. The erosion disappears as the influence decreases.

In women on Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT): HRT in menopause mainly consists of replacement of estrogen in the body through pills, patches, creams etc. This estrogen can cause cervical erosion. In postmenopausal women not on HRT, Cervical erosion is rarely seen in women after the menopause as the level of estrogen in the blood is very low.

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In women on birth control pills: All birth control pills contain the hormones, estrogen and progesterone in different strengths. Cervical erosion is more common in women taking pills with a high level of estrogen.

Infections: The theory that infection is the cause of cervical erosion is slowly losing ground. Evidence is increasing that infection does not cause cervical erosion but it is rather the other way around - the changed cells of cervical erosion are more susceptible to various bacteria and fungi and tends to get infected very easily. As such, cervical erosion and cervical infections are often seen together, leading to the belief that infection causes cervical erosion.

Miscellaneous Causes: It is believed by many that, chronic infection of the vagina, vaginal douching, and chemical contraceptives like anti-sperm gels can change the normal level of acidity of the vagina and cause cervical erosion. But these theories are yet to be proved.

Signs and Symptoms of Cervical Erosion

These are - 1) Chronic III Health; 2) Increased Vaginal Discharge; 3) Bleeding; 4) Backache; 5) Infertility. Most women with cervical erosion do not have any symptoms. But women with a large area of cervical erosion can suffer from:

Increased Vaginal Discharge: The vaginal discharge is usually copious, clear or cloudy and slippery to the touch. If infections occur, there may be pus cells making the discharge mucopurulent. Infections can also cause the vaginal discharge to have a foul smell.

Bleeding: Contact with the columnar cells of cervical erosion can cause the fragile tissue to break causing bleeding. This is seen usually after sexual intercourse or even after passing hard stool.

Pregnant woman who complains of mild bleeding in early pregnancy or blood-stained vaginal discharge (brown, black or red) should always be asked if they had sex in the 12 hours prior to the episode of bleeding.

Many symptoms like backache, chronic ill health and even infertility have been said to be due to cervical erosion. But it is more likely that these are the symptoms of chronic pelvic infection which may be the result or cause of cervical erosion.

On Examination: The area of cervical erosion is seen as a bright, red surface around the external os (mouth of the cervix). It extends inside the cervix. The margin is well defined and the whole area may be smeared with cervical discharge. It feels soft but a little granular to the touch of the examining finger. It can bleed a little during examination. It can look like and be mistaken for cervical cancer.

Investigations:^[37]

Pap smear Test: For this test, firstly cervix is viewed through speculum with the patient in lithotomy position. In this test cells are scrapped from the cervix. Then it is examined under a microscope to check for the disease or the other problem.

Colposcopy and Biopsy: If histopathological findings are suspicious colposcopy and Biopsy should be performed.

Cervical erosion has to be differentiated from other cervical ulcers caused by- carcinoma, Syphilis, and other sexually transmitted diseases. Cervical biopsy should ideally be carried out.

Cone biopsy: Cervix is viewed through speculum with the patient in lithotomy position. In Cold Cone Biopsy a large area of tissue around the cervix is excised for examination.

Treatment of Cervical Erosion:[38]

If the cervical erosion has no symptoms but has been discovered on routine examination, treatment is not necessary. If symptoms are present however, active treatment becomes necessary. The aim of the treatment of cervical erosion is to destroy the columnar cells so that normal squamous cells can grow in their place. This can be done by-

- Electrocautery: The cells are burned off by using heat generated by electric current.
- Diathermy: High temperatures are applied to the area of cervical erosion so that the cells are damaged.

- Cryocautery: Firstly, the Cervix is viewed through speculum with patient in lithotomy position. Then a compressed nitrogen gas flows through a Cryo probe making the metal cold enough to freeze and destroy the abnormal cervical tissue. Here extreme cold generated by the application of nitrous oxide gas is used to destroy the cells of cervical erosion.
- Infections: Infections should also be controlled by antibiotics.
- Post-operative advice: The area of cervical erosion takes 6-8 weeks to heal. So the patient is asked to avoid sex or use tampons or douches during this period to avoid any injury.

DISCUSSION

Our Ayurvedic Classics have clearly mentioned about Karnini Yonivyapad. An elevated lesion of Garbhashaya greeva characterizes Karnini Yonivyapad. Depending upon the characteristic features it can be considered to Cervical erosion in modern parlance. Acharya Charaka has explained Karnini Yonivyapad to be a disease of parous women. Specific etiology of Karnini Yonivyapad is Akaale VaahamaAnnaaya. Intake of Mithya Ahara leads to Dosha Prakopa resulting in compromised immunity. MithyaVihara used by women are early marriages, increased parity, use of Apadravya (foreign objects) in vagina, trauma to the cervix, due to infection and inflammation are the causative factors of Karnini Yonivyapad. Congenital factors of this disease are Beeja Dosha. Unknown factors or Daiva factors are Purvajanma Prakopa.

CONCLUSION

Karnini Yonivyapad (Cervical Erosion) is not a harmful condition if asymptomatic. It generally does not lead to any medical complications like cervical cancer. Thus, it has no evidence to cancer. In pregnancy also it does not harm to embryo and pregnant woman both. Cervical Erosion usually resolves with time without treatment. Women usually do not know that they have it. In case painful symptoms, cauterization is an effective method of treatment. Any women suffering from cervical pain, unusual discharge per vaginally, bleeding after sex should seek the opinion of doctor.

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