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Formulation of Nidana Panchaka in Breast Cancer

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ABSTRACT

Breast Cancer is one of the most common types of malignancy among Indian woman currently. The current increase in the world wide prevalence of this disease suggests an urgent need of detailed analysis, diagnosis and treatment line through Ayurvedic principles. As cancer is least understood in technical terms of Ayurveda, *Nidana Panchaka* a basic tool to understand and diagnose a *Vyadhi*, is used to analyze it. Even though a direct diagnostic correlation of breast cancer is not available under the major *Vyadhi* classifications, it is possible to elicit and formulate *Nidana Panchaka* based on the references of *Sthana Roga, Shopha, Granthi, Arbuda* etc. The current article is an effort to formulate *Nidana Panchaka* for Breast Cancer, from the background of basic principles of Ayurveda, for a better analysis and diagnosis of the *Vyadhi*.

Key words: Breast, Cancer Diagnosis, Sthana Roga, Shopha, Granthi, Arbuda, Nidana Panchaka.

INTRODUCTION

A total of 1 lakh breast cancers cases are predicted by 2020^[1] where as 2 lakh of cases are expected by 2030 in India.^[2] This suggests that, in spite of the advanced science and technology, the conventional sciences could not reduce the incidences in the society. In this scenario Ayurveda can add on a better cancer management and prevention through its holistic approach. A strong, evidence based conceptualization on *Nidana Panchaka* can provide a better understanding, diagnosis and treatment even in case of *Anukta Vyadhi*. Breast cancer which is recognised as the most common and prevalent cancer at present and poses a higher threat in the nearest future has

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taken up for an in detail literary analysis in Ayurveda and an attempt has been made to formulate a standard *Nidana Panchaka* Proforma for the diagnostic purpose of breast Cancer.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Breast cancer is a malignant (cancerous) growth that begins in the tissues of the breast. It can also occur in the armpit area, where there is more breast tissue.^[3]

Types of Breast cancer

The most common types of breast cancers

- Ductal Carcinoma : starts in the cells which line the breast's ducts, beneath the nipple and areola. Between 85% and 90% of all breast cancers are ductal.
- Lobular Carcinoma : begins in the lobes, or glands which produce milk in the breast. About 8% of breast cancers are lobular.

Second most common types of breast cancers

These are a group of breast cancers that invade nearby tissue.^[4]

a) Invasive (Infiltrating) Breast Cancer

This has the potential to spread out of the original tumor site and invade other parts of breast and

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body.^[5] There are more than 100 types and subtypes of breast tumors, according to the World Health Organization.^[1]

The least common type of breast cancer

b) Inflammatory Breast Cancer

It is named for its appearance. Though it is the least common, but most aggressive of breast cancers, taking the form of sheets or nests, instead of lumps. It can start in the soft tissues of the breast, just under the skin, or it can appear in the skin.

Breast Cancer Diagnosis

An early and effective Breast Cancer Diagnosis plays a major role in its treatment aspect and cure rate. An effective Breast Cancer Diagnosis is made by conventional science based on the following.

- a) Clinical signs and symptoms
- 1. A lump or a thickening in the breast or in the armpit
- 2. A change of size or shape of the mature breast
- 3. Nipple fluid (not milk) leaking
- 4. A change of size or shape of the nipple
- A change of color or texture of the nipple or the areola, or of the skin of the breast itself (dimples, puckers, rash)
- 6. Unusual pain in the breast or in the armpit.
- 7. Other signs include a generalized swelling of part of a breast, skin irritation, nipple pain, redness or scaliness of the nipple or breast skin.
- b) Breast examination: Self examination and clinical examination can help to elicit clinical signs and symptoms for the diagnostic purpose.
- c) Investigations: Imaging techniques like Mammography, CT scan etc are used to assess size, shape and spread of the disease, where as investigations like Biopsy is used to assess the nature of invasiveness and to fix the treatment line through histopathological assessment. Nipple discharge examination is also done at times even though it is not reliable for diagnostic purpose.

d) Staging: TNM Staging which includes T stages (size of the tumour), N stages (spread to the lymph nodes) and M stages (metastases) are used to to decide the treatment and to predict survival rate.^[3]

Sthana Roga

The first reference on Sthana Roga is available in Sushrutha Samhitha.^[6]The other references of Sthana are available in Madhava Roaa Nidana. Sharangadhara Samhitha, Bhavaprakasha and Kashyapa Samhitha. The word "Sthana Roga" comprises all diseases of female breast.^[7] Sthana Roga are of 5 types. They are Vataja, Pittaja, Kaphaja, Sannipataja, and Kshataja.^[8]

Nidana Panchaka of *Sthana Roga* mentioned in classics

Nidana Panchaka i.e. Nidana, Poorvaroopa, Roopa, Upashaya and Samprapti are nothing but Vyadhibodhaka Nidana.^[9] These five aspects helps for the diagnosis of diseases. In case of doubt regarding the diagnosis of a particular disease, examination of the Nidana Panchaka responsible for this disease can clarify the doubt. Poorvaroopa which forms a part of Roopa has been stated separately because it helps in the diagnosis of a disease before its manifestation. Upashaya act as a diagnostic aid in the diseases of unclear symptoms.^[6]

Nidana of Sthana Roga

Nidana means cause of production (Janaka Karana). Sushrutha says whatever number of Gathi (Nadi) are produced by what so ever Karana, that much ever Sthana Roga can be found in Stree because of the same reason. Gayadasa opines that Sthana Roga Hetu and Sankhya should be taken from the Hetu and Sankhya of Gathi (Nadi Roga) by Atidesha Tantrayukti.^[6] Madhavanidana, Bhavaprakasha are also quoted the same as Sushrutha.^{[10],[11]}

Nadi Roga Nidana

Samanya Nadivrana Nidana according to Sushrutha are;

1. Neglecting Pakwa Sopha (suppurated swelling).

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2. If *Vrana* with *Prachura Pooya* (abundant pus) is neglected.^[6]

Ashtanga Samgraha and Ashtanga Hrudaya vary slightly in this regard. The Nidanas are;

- 1. By not cutting open (operating) ripe swelling.
- 2. A patient of *Vrana* (ulcer) indulging in unsuitables (foods, activities etc.)^{[12],[13]}

Nidana for *Shalya Nimitha Nadivrana* as per *Sushrutha, Vagbhata* is nothing but a hidden foreign body.^{[6],[13]} *Bhavaprakasha* explains *Shalyaja Nadi Vrana Nidana* more elaborately. A thorn or any other foreign matter which is small, which has entered the body and remained inside for a long time produces a sinus ulcer forming pus exudes frothy warm blood mixed pus, exudes out daily suddenly and accompanied with pain.^[14] According to *Kashyapa, Sthana Roga* is considered as one among the 64 *Soothika Rogas* and all these diseases including *Sthana Roga* are produced due to abnormal delivery.^[15]

Sthana Roga won't occur in Kanya

The *Dhamani* located in breasts in *Kanya* have closed openings (*Samvrutatwa*) which do not allow *Doshas* to spread and as such breast diseases do not occur in them. Haranchandra says absence of elimination of *Doshas* which are responsible for the production of *Sthana Roga* is the reason for *Sthana Roga*.^[6]

Poorvaroopa of Sthana Roga

Symptoms which manifest themselves before the appearance of the disease are known as *Poorvaroopa*. *Poorvaroopa* is of 2 types;

- a) The symptoms (*Roopa*) which are not clearly manifested.
- b) The symptoms which are manifested in the stage of interaction of *Dosha* and *Dooshya* and that which are different from actual symptoms of the disease.^[9]

Poorvaroopa of *Sthana Roga* are not mentioned directly by any of the *Acharyas*.

Roopa of Sthana Roga

According to *Charaka*, the symptoms when fully manifested are called as *Roopa*. *Chakrapani* says the symptoms of the fully manifested disease indicating specific characteristics of the disease like the dominance of *Doshas*, various stages like *Ama*, *Pakwa* etc. are called as *Linga*.

According to *Sushruta* and *Madhavanidana*, all the five types of breast disease have the signs and symptoms similar to those of external abscess except *Raktha Vidradhi*.^{[10],[6]}

Table 1: Showing Bahya Vidradhi Bheda and itsRoopa

Vidradhi Bheda	Nature of Abscess	Nature of discharge
Vataja Vidradhi	Abscess of too rough, highly painful and with origin and suppuration in varied ways.	Thin
Pittaja Vidradhi	Ripe <i>Udumbara</i> fruit or blackish, with fever and burning and arising and suppurating rapidly.	Yellow
Kaphaja Vidradhi	Earthen saucer, pale, cold, stiff, with mild pain, itching and arising and suppurating slowly in long time.	White
Sannipataja Vidradhi	Painful, raised rim, severe, large and it suppurate irregularly.	Various colours
Kshataja Vidradhi / Agantuja Vidradhi	Features of <i>Pittaja</i> abscess.	Not specified, probably yellow as in <i>Pittaja</i> <i>Vidradhi</i>

Upashaya of Sthana Roga

The Oushada, Ahara, Vihara which brings about Sukha by acting directly against Hetu, Vyadhi or both or by acting indirectly is called as Upashaya. Chakrapani says even Chikitsa Sootra is also included in Upashaya.^[9] Upashaya of Sthana Roga are not mentioned directly by any of the Acharyas.

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Anupashaya: That which is opposite to *Upashaya* is called as *Anupashaya* and it is also called as *Satmya*. *Anupashaya* occur by the indulgence with *Hetu* only according to Chakrapani.^[9]

Samprapthi of Sthana Roga

The genesis of the disease by the specific action of vitiated *Doshas* responsible for its causation is called *Samprapthi* as per *Chakrapani*.^[6] The vitiated *Doshas* reaching the breasts of lactating or non lactating women vitiate *Mamsa* and *Rakta* and produce diseases of the breast.^[10]

Diseases of Sthana mentioned in classics

Stanavidradhi, Sthana Keelaka, Stanaruja are the classically explained *Stanashritha Vyadhi*.^{[8],[17],[18]}

Neglecting a *Pakwashopha* or a *Vrana* having *Prachurapooya* are the major *Nidana* for *Sthana Roga*.^[6] It suggests the chance of occurrence of Shopha and *Vrana* directly in *Sthana*. *Vrana* is a further stage of *Shopha* or *Poorvarupa* of *Vrana* is *Shopha*.^[19] *Vrana* in *Sthana*, axillae is *Kruchra Sadhya*, mentioned by *Ashtanga Hrudaya*; this directly says the possibility of *Vrana* as a separate disease in *Sthana*.^[20]

There are many type of *Shopha*. Very important ones are explained in the classics. As per *Granthi* and *Arbuda* definition it should be considered as a kind of *Shopha*.^[6] *Arbuda* is big *Granthi* as per *Ashtang Hrudaya* and *Ashtanga Samgraha*.^[21] It is a type of *Shopha* as per *Charaka*.^[22] According to the concept of *Shadkriyakala Vranabhava* which occur at a later stage (6th stage) is also applicable to the diseases like *Shopha*, *Arbuda* etc.^[23]

Pidaka a kind of *Shopha* as per *Charaka*. A *Pidaka* can occur in any mascular places (*Mamsaleshu Avakasheshu*), fatal spots (*Marma*) etc. It can arise even without *Prameha* due to vitiation of *Medas*; they are not recognized till they occupy a certain place. Moreover a *Pidaka* in *Sthana* of a *Pramehi* is fatal.^[22] Swelling in the axillae is one of the major symptoms in case of *Kshudra Roga* like *Kaksha, Gandhanama* and *Vidari*.^{[24],[25]} Small *Pidaka* (eruptions) more than one, near the axial, is known as *Kaksha* where as a single

big eruption of the same nature (of *Kaksha*) is known as *Gandhanama*.^[25] *Visarpa* is another type of *Shopha* as per *Charaka*.^[22] *Visarpa* definition itself suggests that it is a kind of *Shopha* and this also full fill the *Shopha Lakshana* (*Utseda Samanya*).

DISCUSSION

Importance of *Nidana Panchaka* w.r. to an *Anuktavyadhi*

Nidana Panchaka is the basic tool to diagnose a Vyadhi. All 5 Vyadhi Bodhaka Nidana together gives a clear cut idea about the Vyadhi. Vyadhi Janaka Nidana gives a direct idea of Nimittakarana and an inference about Dosha and Dosha Dooshya Sammoorchana. *Poorvaroopa* fix the time period of *Nidana* (*Hetu*) intake. A Poorvaroopa indicates a forthcoming Vyadhi formation. Roopa gives a clear idea about Dosha and Dosha Dooshya Sammoorchana of the Vyadhi and helps to link the Vyadhi with Nimitta Karana. Upashaya and Anupashaya helps to link Vyadhi with Nimitta Karana and also helps to formulate Chikitsa Sootra. Samprapti becomes the Karana for Dosha Dooshya Sammoorchana (Karya). Samprapthi explains link between Nimitta Karana and Dosha, Dosha and Dosha Dooshya Sammoorchana in a Vyadhi.

Charaka says incase of *Anuktavyadhi* or unnamed disease, the *Prakruti* (*Swaroopa*), *Adhistana* (*Ashaya*) and *Samuthana* (*Nidana*) of the disease should be focused because same vitiated *Dosha* can cause different *Vyadhi* based on *Samuthana* and *Adhistana*. Knowledge of *Nidana Panchaka* gives clarity on *Prakruti* (*Swaroopa*), *Adhistana* (*Ashaya*) and *Samuthana* which are essential tools to fix a *Chikitsa*.

As per *Chakrapani* the name of the disease can help only for *Vyavaharartha*, but for *Chikitsartha*, *Swaroopa* of the *Vyadhi* can only help. He also says that basically *Vikruti* and *Prakruti* of *Doshas* should be known incase of any disease. Each one of the *Nidanapanchaka* give affirmation on nature and type of *Dosha* particularly.

Probable types of Sthana Roga w.r. to breast cancer

None of the classically explained diseases like *Sthana Vidradhi, Sthana Keelaka, Stanaruja* have exactly

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similar symptoms and bad prognosis as that of breast cancer. Hence these cannot be directly co-related to breast cancer.

Neglecting a *Pakwashopha* or a *Vrana* having *Prachurapooya* is the major *Nidana* for *Sthana Roga*. It suggests the chance of occurrence of *Shopha* and *Vrana* directly in *Sthana*. *Vrana* in *Sthana*, axillae is *Kruchra Sadhya*, mentioned by *Ashtanga Hrudaya*; this directly says the possibility of *Vrana* as a separate disease in *Sthana*.

Among the types Shopha Granthi and Arbuda are most suitable for breast cancer correlation. A direct possibility of Pidaka in Sthana and its bad prognosis as in breast cancers suggests a probable correlation with breast cancer. But a Pidaka usually suppurates faster which is not seen in all common types of breast cancers. Yet fitting of rare type of breast cancer into Stanapidaka is a possibility still. The modern researches also suggested the rare possibility of herpes as one of the cause of the breast cancer even though the exact relation is unclear. Hence fitting of rare type of breast cancer into Visarpa is also a rare possibility. Diseases of axillae are always connected in breast diseases like breast cancer as per modern science and it is one among the advanced stage symptom of breast cancer. In rare cases of breast cancer swelling in axilla is the first symptom to diagnose. When Kaksha Pradesha is considered as an Adhishatana for Shopha, the diseases like Kaksha, Gandhanama and Vidari having Shopha Lakshana (Utseda Samanya) are the possibilities as per the available literature and practical observations.

Breast Cancer diagnosis in Ayurveda

Most types of breast cancers will generally fit into the term *Shopha*. As *Shophas* are of many types, many types of cancers can be identified, classified and added in future also. According to the definition of the term cancer, it can be identified as an *Ekadeshothitha Shotha* in its initial stages especially. Depending upon the size and firmess of the growth it will fall into the diseases like *Granthi, Arbuda* which can be identified as most commonly seen diseases in relation with breast cancer. *Vrana* can be considered as the later stages in all types of *Shopha* including

Granthi and *Arbuda*. *Vranabhava* may explain the possibility of metastasis which is *Asadhya*. *Pidaka*, *Visrapa*, *Kaksha*, *Gandhanama* and *Vidari* could be a rare possibility in breast cancer diagnosis.

As per practical observations on the disease breast cancer, it is found that sometimes it is not possible to fit this disease under any one diagnosis. Eg: The combination of a specific lump surrounded by a gross inflammation. So this combination can be taken as a *Vyadhi Sankara* and not exactly fits under one *Vyadhi*. This may be because when *Arbuda* is situated in *Marma Sthana*, additional *Shopha* symptoms may be produced due to *Marmopaghata*. Hence breast cancer can be diagnosed as a *Vyadhi Sankara* at times.

Table 2: Showing possible diagnosis of breast cancerin Ayurveda

<i>Vyadhi Vinishchaya</i> in Ayurveda	Vyadhi Nama
Rarely possible diagnosis where Sthana is an Adhistana	1. Sthana Pidaka 2. Visarpa
Rarely possible diagnosis where Kaksha is an Adhistana	 Kaksha Gandhanama Vidari
Common Diagnosis w.r. to common types of breast cancer where <i>Sthana</i> is an <i>Adhistana</i>	 Sopha Granthi Arbuda Any combination of the above Any of the above with Vranabhava

Standard *Nidana Panchaka* Proforma for the Ayurvedic diagnosis of breast Cancer.

A) Nidana of breast cancer

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Table 3: Showing Nidana of breast cancer

Nadi Roga	1. Neglecting Pakwa Sopha (suppurated	
Nidana		swelling) or not cutting open
		(operating) ripe swelling.
	2.	If Vrana with Prachura Pooya
		(abundant pus) is neglected or a
		patient of <i>Vrana</i> (ulcer) indulging in

	unsuitables (foods, activities etc.)	
Shalya Nimitha Nadivrana Nidana	A foreign body which is small, hidden, which has entered the body and remained inside for a long time quickly results into Shalya Nimitha Nadi Roga.	
Soothika Roga Nidana	64 Soothika Rogas including Sthana Roga are produced due to abnormal delivery.	
Sthana Roga Nidana in Stree	Anything which dialates the Dhamani of Sthana and allowing Doshavisaranata through it.	
Shophanidana	Any of the Shophanidana which also applies to diseases having Utseda Samanya likes Granthi, Arbuda, Pidaka etc. and also to Vrana which is nothing but the later stage of Shopha.	
Dosha as Nidana (Samavayee Karana)	 Vata is the reason to start any Shopha, without which a Shopha cannot be produced. Kaphaja Swabhava of Arbuda is dominantly seen in most cases of breast cancer. 	
	 The disease become <i>Tridoshaja</i> due to localisation and chronicity in later stages. 	

B) Poorva Roopa of breast cancer

Poorva Roopa of *Sthana Roga* are not mentioned directly by any of the *Acharyas*.

Table 4: Showing Poorva Roopa of breast cancer

Vidradhilakshana	Any of the <i>Vidradhilakshana</i> with or without <i>Srava</i> which are not clearly manifested can be identified as a <i>Poorvaroopa</i> .
Other than Vidradhi Lakshana	Special symptoms other than Vidradhi Lakshana may be also identified. Eg: Aruchi, Dourbalya, Gourava etc. and Stanika Lakshana like mild pain, itching etc. due to Marmopaghata etc.
Symptoms of	Any specified clinical symptoms of

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breast cancer breast cancer in milder form.

C) Roopa of breast cancer

Table 5: Showing Roopa of breast cancer

Bahya	Fully manifested symptoms of Vataja,	
Vidradhi	Pittaja, Kaphaja, Sannipataja, Kshataja	
Lakshana	Vidradhi/ Agantuja types of Bahya Vidradhi	
except Rakta	Lakshana with or without Srava, These	
Vidradhi	symptoms will also indicate Ama, Pakwa	
Lakshana.	etc. stages grossly.	
Common	 Kaphaja Vidradhi Lakshana Granthi And Arbuda Lakshana Eka Deshothitha Shopha Lakshana Lakshana of Ama stage of Arbuda is	
breast	more common due to absence of Paka.	
cancer	Only in case of untreated or inoperable	
correlated	conditions Paka Lakashanas and Vrana	
symptoms.	Lakshana are observed in last stages.	

D) Upashaya of breast cancer

Upashaya of *Sthana Roga* are not mentioned directly by any of the *Acharyas*. The *Dosha* dominance seen in common types of breast cancers and the observation on current treatment practices and research studies of both Ayurveda and Modern science suggests the following *Upashaya* and *Anupashaya*.

Table 6: Showing Upashaya of breast cancer

	I	
Upashaya	Ahara	Ushna, Agni Deepaka, Snigdha (Not Ati Snigdha), Laghu, Satmya Bhojana
	Vihara	Moderate activities depending upon individuals Bala.
	Shamana Oushada	Ushna, Teekshana, Kaphavatahara or Tridoshahara , Agni Deepaka, Ama Pachaka Dravyas.
	Chikitsa Sootra	Sthanika Swedana, Sthanika Lepa, Vamana, Virechana, Rakthamokshana, Shastrakarma, Agni Karma.

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Anupashaya	Indulgence with Hetu,
	Oushadha, Ahara, Vihara,
	<i>Oushada, Chikitsa</i> opposite
	to Upashaya and Satmya

E) Samprapthi of breast cancer

Since most of the breast neoplasms are having lump (a kind of *Utseda*) as a definite symptom the and the diseases like *Granthi, Arbuda, Pidaka, Visarpa* etc. are variations of *Ekadeshothitha Shopha* itself, *Shopha Samprapthi* can explain a *Samanya Samprapthi* of breast cancer. Among all these diseases *Arbuda* is more similar to common types of breast cancer because of its excessive *Kaphaja Swabhava*.

Flow Chart 1: Showing Samprapti in Breast Cancer

In persons who have Mandagni by intake of Vata Kapha Pradhana Tridoshaja Nidana -> Produces excessive Kapha and Vata Vruddhi (especially: Margavarodhajanya Vata Vruddhi) -> Vayu gets vitiated and brings Kapha Pradhana Tridosha into the external channels of the breast and gets obstructed by them. \rightarrow Continuing this vicious circle of a reciprocal Karya and Karana the Dosha spreads locally and vitiate Rakta, Mamsa or Meda of the breast. \rightarrow Produce round, elevated, hard swelling results into Granthi, Arbuda etc. with or without additional Samanya Shopha. \rightarrow When neglected knowingly or unknowingly due to Kaphaja Swabhava, Apaka and Chira Kaleena Vrudhi or when treated improperly or insufficiently the Granthi, Arbuda, Shopha etc. crosses 5th stage of *Shadkriyakala* and attains *Vranabhava* which makes the Vyadhi Asadhya.

In this *Samprapti* the continuous vicious circle in relation with *Vatavrudhi* can intensify the *Shopha* inexorably. This can better explain cancers which have *Utsedasamanya*, in Ayurvedic point of view.

Samprapti Ghataka

- Dosha Kapha Vata Pradhana Tridosha
- Dushya Twak, Shonitha, Mamsa, Meda
- Adhishthana Amashaya
- Strotas Rasavaha, Raktha Vaha, Mamsa Vaha, Medovaha

- Stroto Dusti Sanga
- Agni Mandagni, Vishamanagni
- Rogamarga Bahya

CONCLUSION

Nidanapanchaka plays a key role in diagnosing and treating Anuktavyadhi. Common breast cancer diagnosis in Ayurveda are Sthana Sopha, Sthana Granthi, Sthana Arbuda, any combination of the above or any of the above with Vranabhava. Rarely possible diagnosis on uncommon breast cancer could be Sthana Pidaka, Sthana Visarpa, Kaksha, Gandhanama and Vidari. Breast Cancer can be diagnosed as a Vyadhisankara. The proposed Standard Nidana Panchaka Proforma based on Sthana Roga can be utilised for Ayurvedic Breast Cancer Diagnosis and for the development of Ayurvedic Breast Cancer Treatment protocol.

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