

REVIEW ARTICLE

A CONCEPTUAL REVIEW ON AROHANA ANUVASANA VASTI

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Abstract

Panchakarma is a unique approach of Ayurveda with specially designed five procedures, ie, Vamana, Virechana, Niruha vasti, Anuvasana vasti and Nasya, in order to eliminate the vitiated doshas from the body. Among Panchakarma procedures, Vasti(enema) is considered as the superior therapeutic and rejuvenative procedure and it is considered as Ardha chikitsa, which possess broad spectrum of actions. Vasti is classified mainly into three types-Niruha vasti, Anuvasana vasti and Uttara vasti. Anuvasana vasti (unctuous enema) is a type of Vasti in which Snehadravya (unctous substance) is being administered through anal canal into the rectum. Anuvasana vasti done in escalating pattern ie, by increasing the dose daily is known as Arohana anuvasana vasti. An attempt has been made here to review the concept of Arohana anuvasana vasti and its dosage in different Ayurvedic classics. Detailed description about dose of Anuvasana vasti according to different Acharyas are explained in this article.

Introduction

Panchakarma (Pancha = five, Karma = procedures) are five specially designed purificatory procedures which are aimed at achieving therapeutic and rejuvenative effects. Panchakarma not only prevents diseases but also restores the health of an individual. Vamana, Virechana, Niruha vasti, Anuvasana vasti and Nasya are the five Panchakarma procedures framed in order to eliminate the vitiated doshas from the body. Among them, Vasti(enema) is considered as the superior therapeutic procedure and also considered as Ardha chikitsa. According to Vagbhata, Vasti is mainly classified into three - Niruha vasti, Anuvasana vasti, and Uttara vasti. Anuvasana vasti is also known as Sneha vasti or Snaihika vasti as only Sneha dravyas (viz. medicated Taila, Ghrita, Vasa, or Majja) are administered through the anal canal into the rectum.

ANUVASANA VASTI

The word *Anuvasana* is derived from the root word *'Vaasa'* with prefix *'Anu'* and *'Lyut'* suffix. Its meaning is to dwell near to or to inhabit along with.³ *Vasti* in which *Aushadha siddha sneha* (medicated unctuous materials) is adminis-

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tered according to the condition of disease and *Dosha* is called *Anuvasana vasti*. According to Acharya Charaka and Acharya Vagbhata both *Sneha vasti* and *Anuvasana vasti* can be used synonymously. *Anuvasana vasti* makes use of *Sneha* alone which is the *Agrya aushada* (primary therapeutics) for *Vata dosha*. Hence by directly administering the *Sneha* to the *Vata sthana* (principal abode of *Vata*) i.e., *Pakwashaya*, it helps in regulating the *Vata dosha*.

DEFINITION ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT ACHARYAS

According to Acharya Susrutha and Acharya Vagbhata, Vasti that can be administered daily after taking food and that does not produce any harm even after staying for long time is called as *Anuvasana vasti* ^{4,5}

According to Acharya Vangasena, it is named *Anuvasana* because *Thaila* or *Ghritha* used in it anoints the body during night. It is so named because it is given in a lying posture on bed after proper *Sodhana* and wholesome diet.⁶

CLASSIFICATION OF SNEHA VASTI

As per Acharya Susrutha, Chakrapani, Gayadasa and Dalhana, *Sneha vasti* is classified into three types based on its dose - *Sneha Vasti*, *Anuvasana Vasti* and *Matra Vasti*. According to them, dose of *Sneha vasti* is 1/4th quantity of *Niruha vasti* (240ml). Dose of *Anuvasana vasti* is ½ the quantity of *Sneha vasti* (120ml) and that of *Matravasti* is 1/4th quantity of *Snehavasti* or ½ the quantity of *Anuvasana vasti* (60ml).

DOSE OF ANUVASANA VASTI

Anuvasana vasti is considered as synonymous to Sneha vasti by Acharya Charaka and Acharya Vagbhata and its quantity is less than Niruha vasti in three quarters. But according to Dalhana⁸, Chakradatta⁹, Vangasena¹⁰ and Deepika commentary of Sarangadhara Samhitha¹¹, Sreshta matra (highest dose), Madhyama matra (medium dose) and Kaneeyasi matra (lowest dose) of Anuvasana vasti is mentioned as 6 Pala (288 ml), 3 Pala (144 ml), and 1½ Pala (72 ml). As per Deepika commentary of Sarangadhara Samhita, Uttama matra (highest dose) of Anuvasana vasti can be administered to persons having good digestive capacity and strength. Similarly, persons with moderate digestive capacity and strength can be administered with Madhyama matra of Anuvasana vasti. Hrasva matra (lowest dose) of Anuvasana vasti can be administered to persons with minimal digestive capacity and strength.

INDICATIONS OF DIFFERENT DOSES OF ANUVASANA VASTI 12

MATRA	INDICATED CONDITIONS					
	Ativyayama, Ativyavaya,					
	Atipaana, Atyadhwa,					
Uthama	Atisangina, Snehasatmya, Vayastha					
	Drida Agnibala, Adhaprakupitha Vayu, Vaa-					
	tatmaka					
Madhyama	Madhyama avastha					
Avara	Alpa vayo vyadhi bala					

AROHANA ANUVASANA VASTI

In contemporary practice, *Anuvasana vasti* is administered in two ways. One method is administering *Vasti* in constant dose for the entire course of therapy and the other method is administering *Anuvasana vasti* in escalating dose. The latter one is also known as *Arohana anuvasana vasti*. The literal meaning of *Arohana* is "*Neechaturdhwagamanamiti*" i.e., Escalation following an ascending pattern or act of rising. ¹³ In *Arohana anuvasana vasti*, it is done in escalating pattern with daily increase in dose for a specific period of time. Acharya Vangasena, Chakradutta, Deepika Commentary of Sharangadhara Samhita by Adamalla and Vrinda Madhava have mentioned about *Arohana anuvasana vasti*.

DESCRIPTIONS ABOUT AROHANA ANUVASANA VASTI BY VARIOUS

ACCORDING TO VRINDA MADHAVA (8th century AD)

The Uttama, Madhyama, Avara matra are respectively 6 Pala (288ml), 3 Pala (144ml) and 1½(72ml) Pala. In Uttama matra the first dose should begin with 2 Pala (96ml) and increased by ½ Pala(24ml) daily till attaining 6 Pala (288ml), Madhyama matra should be started with a dose of 1 Pala (48ml) and be increased by one Akṣha or 1 Karsha(12ml) till attaining 3 Pala(144ml) and the Avara matra should be started with dose of 2 Karṣa(24ml) and increased by eight Masha. In the context of Avara matra it is mentioned that the dose should be increased by Vasu masha. Vasu is 8 in number, so 8 Masha (8ml) should be increased daily to achieve 1 ½ pala(72ml), this should be the pattern of the dose of Arohana anuvasana vasti. 14

CHAKRADUTTHA (11th century AD)

According to Chakradutta in *Uttamamatra* starting dose is 2 *Pala* (96ml) and is increased by 1/2 *Pala* (24ml) daily,in *Madhyamamatra* starting dose is 1 *Pala*(48ml) and is increased by 1 *Aksha* or 1 *Karsha*(12ml) in *Kaneeyasimatra* starting dose is 2 *Karsha* (24ml)and is increased by 8 *Maasha* (8ml). In *Sloka* it's mentioned as *Vasu maasha vridhi. Vasu* signifies the number 8. So, we infer to increase 8 *Masha* daily in *Kaneeyasi matra*. ¹⁵

Table 1. Dose of Anuvasana Vasti By Vangasena

DOSE	DAYS									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Uttama matra	Prasruta (2pala)	2½Pala	3Pala	3½Pala	4Pala	4½Pala	5 <i>Pala</i>	5½ Pala	6Pala	
	96 ml	120ml	144ml	168 ml	192ml	216ml	240ml	264ml	288ml	
Madhyama Matra	4karsha (1Pala)	5 <i>Karsha</i>	6Karsha	7Karsha	8Karsha	9Karsha	10Karsha	11Karsha	12Karsha (3Pala)	
	48ml	60ml	72ml	84ml	96ml	108ml	120ml	132ml	144ml	
Heena Matra	2	2½	3	3½	4	4½	5	5½	6	
	Karsha	Karsha	Karsha	Karsha	Karsha	Karsha	Karsha	Karsha	Karsha	
	24ml	30ml	36ml	42ml	48ml	54ml	60ml	66ml	72ml	

VANGASENA (12th century AD)

As per Vangasena, *Uttama*, *Madhyama* and *Heena matra* of *Anuvasana vasti* are 6 *Pala* (288ml), 3 *Pala*(144ml) and 1 ½ *Pala*(72ml) respectively. While administering *Arohana anuvasana vasti*, *Uttama matra* begins with dose of 1 *Prasruta* or 2 *Pala*(96ml) increased by ½ *Pala* (24ml) daily, *Madhyama matra* begins with 1 *Pala*(48ml) increased by 1 *Pichu* or 1 *Karsha*(12ml) daily, *Avara matra* beginning with ½ *Pala* (24ml) or 2 *Karsha*(24ml) increased by ½ *Karsha*(6ml) daily and reaches 6 *Pala* (288ml), 3 *Pala*(144ml), 1 ½ *Pala*(72ml). 16

DEEPIKA COMMENTARY OF SARANGADHARA BY ADAMALLA (14th century AD)

As per Deepika commentary of Sarangadhara Samhita, the Uttama, Madhyama, Avara matra are 6 Pala (288ml), 3 Pala(144ml) and 1½ Pala(72ml) respectively and can be fixed considering the Rogibala (strength of patient) and Agnibala (digestive capacity). In Uttamamatra dose is 6 Pala (288ml), it should commence with a dose of 2 Pala (96ml), in Madhyama matra dose is 3 Pala(144ml), it should commence with 1 Pala(48ml) and increased with 1 Karsha(12ml) daily for a period of 9 days till it reaches 3 Pala(144ml), in Kaneeyasimatra dose is 1½ Pala(72ml), it should commence with Ardhapala or Karsha dwaya (24ml) and increased daily with a quantity of 8 maasha (8ml) for a period of 9 days till it reaches 1 ½ Pala(72ml). 17

Table 2. Dose of Anuvasana Vasti by Vrnda Madhava, Chakradatta, Deepika Commentary

DOSE	DAYS								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttama matra	2Pala	2½Pala	3Pala	3½Pala	4Pala	4½Pala	5Pala	5½ Pala	6Pala (288ml)
	96ml	120ml	144ml	168ml	192 ml	216 ml	240ml	264ml	288ml
Madhyama Matra	4Aksha (1Pala)	5Aksha	6Aksha	7Aksha	8Aksha	9Aksha	10Aksha	11Aksha	12Aksha (3Pala)
	48ml	60ml	72ml	84ml	96ml	108ml	120ml	132ml	144ml
Heena matra	2Karsha (24Masha) 24ml	32 <i>masha</i> 32ml	40 <i>masha</i> 40ml	48 <i>masha</i> 48ml	56 <i>masha</i> 56ml	64 <i>masha</i> 64ml	72 <i>masha</i> 72ml	-	-

PREVIOUS STUDY Sl.no Shamna.K.K, MD in Panchakarma, work named "A clinical study on Arohana anuvasanakrama with special reference to Kateegraha" Depart-1 ment of Panchakarma, VPSV Ayurveda College, Kottakkal, 2013, KUHS Priyadarshani Arvind Kadus, Surendra M.Vedpathak, article on "Anuvasana vasti in escalating dose is an alternative for Snehapana before Va-2 mana and Virechana: Trends from a pilot study"2014, Vol 5, Issue 4,p.246-250. Soumya O S, MD in Panchakarma, work named "Comparative clinical study to assess the effectiveness of Sodhanartha arohana sneha vasti with 3 Sodhanartha snehapana in Kateegraha" Department of Panchakarma, Govt. Ayurveda college, Tripunithura, 2019, KUHS Seena S, Remya Vijayan, Pooja Prakash, Departmental work conducted at Govt. Ayurveda college, Tripunithura named "A clinical trial to assess 4 the effect of Arohana anuvasana vasti for 9 days in reducing pain and improving functional ability of Lumbar degenerative disc disease" Department of Panchakarma, Govt. Ayurveda college, Tripunithura, 2021, KUHS Susan K.E., MD in Panchakarma, work named "Effect of Arohana anuvasana vasti with Sahacharadi thailam(Mezhukupakam) in Kateegraha" department of Panchakarma, Govt. Ayurveda college, Thiruvananthapuram, 2021, KUHS 5

Discussion

While considering the dose of Anuvasana vasti, instead of administering a fixed dose an escalating pattern is followed in Arohana anuvasana vasti. The concept of escalating dose of Anuvasana vasti is not mentioned specifically in Brihat trayees. The novel idea of Arohana anuvasana vasti was put forward in later treaties like Chakradatta, Vangasena, Vrinda Madhava. In Uttama matra, 2 Pala (96ml) is administered in the beginning and then increased by ½ Pala (24ml) daily, in Madhyamamatra 1 Pala (48ml) in the beginning and then increased by 1 Arsha (12ml) daily, in Kaneeyasi matra, 2 Karsha(24ml) is given in the beginning and increased by 8 Masha (8ml) daily. According to Vangasena, there are slight difference in case of Kaneeyasi matra, 2 Karsha (24ml) is given in the beginning and increased by ½ Karsha (6 ml).

According to Acharya Vagbhata and Acharya Caraka, one or three *Sneha vasti* should be administered for *Kapha-ja rogas*, five or seven for *Paittika rogas*, nine or eleven for *Vatika roga*. While following *Arohana sneha vasti* pattern, the *Uttama* and *Madhyama matra* will take 9 days to reach the maximum dose, 6 *Pala* (288ml) and 3 *Pala*(144ml) respectively. In *Kaneeyasi matra* the maximum dose of 1 ½ *Pala* (72ml) is attained by 7 days as per acharya Chakradutta, Vrndamadhava, Deepika commentary of Sharangadhara. But according to Vangasena, the *Kaneeyasi matra* is attained by 9 days.

While administering fixed dose in Uttama matra of Anuvasana vasti for 9 days a total quantity of 2592 ml is required but only 1728 ml is required for Arohana anuvasana vasti. On administration of fixed dose of Madhyama matra for 9 days a total quantity of 1296 ml is required but while following *Arohana anuvasana* pattern only 864 ml is required. Following *Avara matra* in fixed dose, total quantity of 648 ml is required for 9 days but only 432 ml is required while following *Arohana anuvasana vasti*. So, adopting escalating pattern of *Anuvasana vasti* will be more

feasible and cost effective.

In the context of *Anuvasana*, Acharya Vagbhata says that *Samyaklakshana*, *Ayogalakshana*, and *Atiyogalakshana* of *Anuvasana* are similar to that of *Snehapana*¹⁸. Thus, complications that may arise due to oral administration of large quantity of *Sneha* are likely to occur in per rectal administration also. In the context of *Sneha adhyaya* in Ashtanga Sangraha its mentioned that administering large quantity of *Sneha* in *Ajnata koshta* there may be even threat to persons life. ¹⁹ Thus it is safer to follow an escalating pattern of *Anuvasana vasti* as it may be more convenient for patient and chances of complications are less. In case of administration of large quantity of *Sneha* as *Anuvasana*, *Sneha apakti lakshanas* like *Jadya*, *Agni mandya* are likely to occur ²⁰.

Arohana anuvasana vasti aims at increasing the dose of medicines daily. According to previous studies, by giving escalating dose of Anuvasana vasti there is a chance of longer retention time of Sneha administered.²¹ Patient will be accustomed to gradual increase in dose and this might prevent complications. Studies shows well-tolerability of Arohana anuvasana vasti in patients with low back ache and lumbar degenerative disc diseases.²¹⁻²³Comparative studies on Anuvasana vasti in escalating dose as an alternative for Snehana pana have been done. From these studies, it may be concluded that the Samyak snigdha lakshanas achieved through Arohana snehapana can be achieved through Arohana anuvasana vasti also. ^{24,25}

Conclusion

According to the strength of patient (*Rogi bala*), disease (*Roga*) and digestive capacity (*Agni*) the dose of *Arohana anuvasana vasti* can be selected. The *Uttama matra* of *Arohana anuvasana vasti* starts with dose of 2 *Pala* (96 ml) and reaches a maximum dose of 6 *Pala* (288ml) on 9th day, in *Madhyama matra* the starting dose is 1 *Pala* (48 ml) and its

maximum dose is 3 *Pala*(144ml) and in *Heena* matra starting dose is 2 *Karsha* (24 ml) and its maximum dose is 1 ½ *Pala* (72 ml). In *Anuvasana vasti*, fixed dose of *Sneha* is administered daily whereas in case of *Arohana anuvasana vasti* escalating pattern is followed, thus quantity of *Sneha* used is comparatively less, thus *Arohana anuvasana vasti* is more economical.

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