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Case Study

PITTAJA ARTAVADUSHTI AND ITS TREATMENT: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

In order to give rise to new offspring, female body undergoes menstrual cycle. It involves the shedding of endometrium manifested as $M\bar{a}s\bar{a}num\bar{a}sika$ Rajah Pravrtti i.e., $\bar{A}rtava$ Pravrtti. Due to changes in life style of women in terms of $\bar{A}h\bar{a}ra$, $Vih\bar{a}ra$, there is more physical and emotional stress and this may result in $\bar{A}rtavadusti$, where the normal menstrual cycle gets disturbed or presented in altered form.

Background: A married Hindu female patient of 35 years came to NIA *Prasuti-stree Roga* OPD on 25th July, 2019 with complaints of painful menstruation since last 14 years, heavy bleeding during menstruation since last 10 years and mild burning micturition with increased frequency of micturition (on/off) since last 2 years.

Methodology: Mainly *Pitta Doṣa* vitiation symptoms were observed in the patient. Her complete *Nidāna Parivarjana* and *Prakṛti Vighāta* was done and *Pitta Doṣa Śāmaka Dravyas* were used in treatment including specific *Pittaja Ārtavaduṣṭi* line of treatment mentioned in Ayurvedic classics. She was given combination of *Yaṣṭīmadhu Cūrṇa, Miśi* (Fennel), *Munakkā* (dried *Vitis vinifera*), *Goghṛta* twice a day in the form of *Kalka* with warm water, *Kuṭakī Cūrṇa, Munakkā, Dhāgā Miśrī* in equal parts in the form of pea sized *Guṭikā* twice a day with cold water, *Gokṣura Cūrṇa, Copcīnī Cūrṇa* twice a day with water, *Avipattikara Cūrṇa* before meal, twice a day with water. The treatment was continued for 2 months.

Result: There was relief in menstrual and urinary symptoms after 2 months of treatment.

KEYWORDS: Artava, DUB, Menorrhagia, Pittaja Artavadushti, Asrugdara.

INTRODUCTION

During normal menstruation, there is cyclic loss of blood every month with its normal color, for a duration of 3-5 days as mentioned in Ayurvedic classics.[1-3] But when this normal menstrual bleeding pattern is altered in duration, amount, color and regularity, the condition is called *Ārtavadusti*. This condition can occur due to many reasons, including physical stress, emotional stress, nutritional status, infection, usage of medications including birth control pills and sexual arousal etc. Menstrual problems are increasing day by day due to sedentary lifestyle, faulty food habits and stressful life. Prevalence of menstrual disorders has been recorded as high as 87% in the India in 2012.[4] Different *Nidānas* are mentioned by *Ācāryas*, which are responsible for Artavadusti, these are - excessive intake of Katu, Lavana, Usna, Tīksna Āhāra Dravvas, Divāswapna, Cintā and Vegadhārana etc. As a result of these Nidāna Sevana, Dosa vitiation takes place and which further leads to the vitiation of Dhātus and

Srotasas. So, *Nidāna Parivarjana* along with different *Yogas*, given by *Ācāryas* to treat the *Ārtavavyāpadas* based on *Doṣas* involved, helps to pacify these *Doṣas* and cures the disease symptoms. Thus, in this article, an attempt has been made to analyze the effect of Ayurvedic treatment in a case of Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding.

Aim

To understand about the importance of *Nidāna Parivarjana, Rajaswalācaryā* and effect of different *Doṣa* and disease specific *Yogas* in treating *Pittaja Ārtavaduṣṭi*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Selection of patient: The patient was selected from *Prasuti Tantra evam Stree Roga* OPD, of NIA Jaipur, after obtaining voluntary informed consent.

Case Report

A married Hindu female patient of 35 years, who was a teacher, visited to the OPD of *Prasuti*

Tantra & Stree Roga of National Institute of Ayurveda on 25th July, 2019 with complaints of painful menstruation since last 14 years, heavy bleeding during menstruation since last 10 years and mild burning micturition with increased frequency of micturition (on/off) since last two years. Patient was having a married life of 14 yrs. Patient was taking modern medication since a long time, but not getting

cured. So, she came to the OPD of NIA Hospital in a hope for permanent relief & better treatment.

Menstrual History

Age of Menarche – 13 years Duration - 7/28-30 days LMP – 15-07-2019

Table 1: Detailed menstrual history

Pattern	Regular
Pain	Present, on initial 2 days (Relieves only on taking medication - Meftal)
Clots	Small sized, Initial 2-3 days
Color	Dark reddish
Smell	Present (Blood like)
Flow	Heavy

Table 2: Initial pad History

Day 1st	7 pads
Day 2 nd , 3 rd	5 pads
Day 4th	3 to 4 pads
Day 5th, 6th	2 pads
Day 7 th	Spotting

Pads were fully soaked on initial 4 days

Obstetric History - G₂ P₂ L₂ A₀

G₁- FTND, 14 years back, Male child delivered at hospital.

G₂- FTND, 11 years back, Male child delivered at hospital.

Contraceptive History -Condom used by husband since last 10 years.

Previous Medical History – Taking Meftal Spas Tablet during menses since 4yrs (1-2tab./day for initial 2 days)

Previous Surgical History and Family History -Non - significant

Personal History

Diet - Vegetarian

Appetite - Normal

Sleep - Disturbed and late sleeping habits

Bowel - One time in morning/Regular/Satisfactory/Daily

Micturition - Mild burning (on/off) with increased frequency (1-2 times /hour),

During sleeping hours – 3-4 times

Allergy History - None

Addiction - No history of smoking, alcohol or tobacco intake. Daily intake of 200-250ml coffee.

Physical Examination

0/E -

Table 3: Physical examination

G.C.	Fair	Weight	61kg
B.P.	120/70 mm Hg	BMI	22.42
P.R.	76/min	Body built	Moderate
Height	5'5"	Pallor	Not present

Systemic Examination

Respiratory system

Inspection – B/L symmetrical chest

Auscultation- B/L air entry - Equal on both sides

Cardio-vascular system

Auscultation - Normal heart sounds

Central nervous system - Normal

Orientation – Well oriented to time, place and person

Gynecological examination

P/S-

Cervix - No abnormal discharge present

Healthy, No ulcerations, No erosion, No hypertrophy

Vaginal walls - Healthy, Pinkish

P/V-

Uterus - Anteverted, Anteflexed, Normal in size and shape, free mobile

Cervix - Downward, Firm

Cervical motion tenderness - Non - tender

All fornices - Non - tender

Daśavidha Parīkṣya Bhāva

Table 4: Daśavidha Parīksya Bhāva

1.	Prakṛti	Pitto-Vātaja	6.	Sātmya	Sarvarasa Sātmya
2.	Vikṛti	Pittaja	7.	Satva	Madhyama
3.	Sāra	Asthisāra	8.	Āhāra Śakti	Madhyama
4.	Saṁhanana	Madhyama	9.	Vyāyāma Śakti	Madhyama
5.	Pramāṇa	Madhyama	10.	Vaya	Madhyamāvasthā

Investigations - (done on 26-07-2019)

Table 5: Routine investigations

Hemoglobin	13.5g/dL	Australian antig <mark>e</mark> n (HBsAg)	Negative
ESR	12mm	HIV screening	Negative
СВС	WNL	TSH	1.03 μ IU/ml (Normal)
BT	4 min	RFT	WNL
СТ	6 min	LFT	WNL
Random Blood Sugar (RBS)	94mg%	USG	Normal Study
VDRL	Non-reactive	Pap smear	Normal smear

Urine examination

Routine - Color - Pale yellow, Clear

pH-6.0

Protein, Sugar - Absent

Microscopic – RBCs - Nil/hpf, Pus cells - 1-2/hpf, Epithelial cells - 0-1 /hpf

Vividha Nidāna

Following *Nidāna Sevana* was present in this case almost since 15vrs.

- 1. Daily intake of curd (*Dadhi* nearly 1-2 bowls/day or 150-200gm)
- 2. Daily intake of Coffee (1-2 times /day)
- 3. Intake of pickle (Mango) daily
- 4. Pāpada and snacks fried in oil in evening snack.
- 5. *Rātrijāgaraṇa* (Sleeps after 12 am usually after phone or TV use)
- 6. *Aticintana* and *Viṣāda* (Stressed due to alcoholism and bad behavior of husband)

- 7. History of *Vegadhāraṇa* during working hours esp. urine urge.
- 8. Less intake of fruits and salad
- 9. Lack of *Rajaswalācarya* or any other specific regime during menses

Role of *Vividha Nidāna* in Formulation of *Samprāpti*

Āhārajanya Nidāna

1. Dadhi

- ➤ *Dadhi* used was the market packaged curd, she was taking almost daily since childhood.
- As it is formed from raw milk and not as the curd made in homes (Madhuramla Dadhi),so it acts as Mandaka Dadhi (Unfermented curd).^[5]
- As per *Bhāvaprakāśa*, use of this *Madaka Dadhi* may lead to increased frequency of micturition and burning sensation during micturition.^[6]
- Mandaka Dadhi is responsible for vitiation (Chart − 1) of all three Dosas.

It is also called as Ābhiṣyandakārī by Ācārya Caraka.^[8]

2. Coffee (Coffea arabica)

- ➤ It contains Caffeine (1,3,7-trimethylxanthine), which is an adenosine antagonist. Adenosine is an endogenous neuromodulator with mostly inhibitory effects.
 - So, excessive use of coffee is responsible for insomnia, high blood pressure, anxiety, frequent urination and urgency.^[9]
- A study was conducted to determine whether there is an association between drinking caffeinated beverages and menstruation. In the results, heavy periods were reported by 13.4% and prolonged periods by 9.7% of patients.^[10]
- Caffeineis also responsible for vitiating the Pitta and *Vāta Dosas.*[11] Vitiated *Pitta* is responsible Raktadusti. Dāha etc.Vāta vitiation. specifically that of Apāna Vāyu, causing the symptoms (Dysmenorrhoea, menstrual Excessive flow) and urinary symptoms (Frequency, Urgency).

3. Daily intake if mango pickle

- Different spices and oils used in pickles are *Uṣṇa*, *Tīkṣṇa* and *Kaṭu*. These are responsible for *Pitta* vitiation.
- Along with this, *Ācārya Caraka* has mentioned that unripe mango fruit causes vitiation of *Pitta Dosa*. [12]

4. Papada and snacks fried in oil in evening snack

- High levels of spices, chilies, oil present in these junks are the cause for vitiation of *Pitta Doşa*.
- As per Ācārya Caraka, Potato used in these food items is worst among the tubers^[13] and the excessive oil used is responsible for *Rakta* and *Pitta* vitiation.^[14]

5. Less intake of fruits and salad

- Fruits and salad are high alkaline foods and balances the intake of acid-forming foods such as meat, fish, dairy, nuts, and grains.
- ➤ They form roughage helping in regulation of normal *Apāna Vāyu* functions.
- Ācārya Caraka also indicated their use on regular basis and called the Phalavarga as Prāyopayogikaḥ.[15]

Vihārajanya Nidāna

1. Rātrijāgaraņa

➤ It leads to the vitiation of *Vāta* and *Pitta Dosas.*^[16]

2. Aticintana and Visāda

- Aticintana (Chart 2) is one of the causes of Rasavaha Srotodusti^[17]
- ➤ **Viṣāda** It is one of the important factors in increasing the *Rogas*.^[18]

Pitta Pradhāna Tridoṣa Duṣṭi (Chart-3) is resulting in disease symptoms.

3. Vegadhārana

- Mūtravega Dhāraṇa may lead to Mūtrakṛchra asmentioned by Ācārya Caraka in Navegāndhārniya Chapter.
- Doṣas vitiated by their Nidāna intake, results in burning sensation in urinary tract and difficulty in micturition.^[19]
- ➤ Vitiation of *Pitta* is responsible for frequent and burning micturition.^[20]

4. Not following the Rajaswalācarya

- ➤ Haviṣya Annam is prescribed by Ācārya Suśruta, which is intake of Śāli Odanam (Śāli rice) along with Ghṛta and milk or Yava Annam (Barley) as explained by Ācārya Dalhana.
- Figure 6 Ghṛta is helpful in raising the level of good cholesterol which is a plasma antioxidant. Sāli rice are Tridoṣa Śāmaka and Bṛṁhaṇa. Milk is having Bṛṁhaṇa and Rasāyana properties.
- Yava –It has Guru, Madhura, Śīta, Sara properties, and low Glycemic Index. It is used Karṣaṇārtha, Koṣṭhaśodhanārtha and Agnivardhanārtha. It is Purīṣajanana and Kapha-Pitta-Rakta Vikārahara. It is also mild Vātakara which is pacified by adding milk.
- As the patient was not following the *Rajaswalācaryā* so she was unable to get benefits of *Rajaswalācarya*.

That is how the pathological condition is arising from different *Nidāna Sevana*.

Nidāna Pancaka

- 1. *Nidāna* Previously mentioned causes are the *Nidānas*.
- 2. Pūrvarūpa Kastārtava, Mūtrakṛchra
- 3. Rūpa Pittaja Ārtavadusti
- 4. Samprāpti– Mentioned along with Hetus previously
- 5. Upśaya Pittaśāmaka Āhāra Vihāra,
- Rajaswalācarya
- Yoga and Prāṇāyāma.
- Stress releasing activities, meditation etc.

Samprāpti Ghataka

- Dosa Pācaka Pitta, Apāna Vāyu
- Dūsya Rasadhātu, Raktadhātu
- Srotas Rasavaha, Ārtavavaha, Mūtravaha Srotas
- Srotodusti Atipravrtti, Sanga
- Sthāna Garbhāśaya, Mūtravaha Saṁsthān

Sāpekṣa Nidāna

1. *Pittaja Āsṛgdara:* In this condition, there is excessive menstrual bleeding along with pain (*Arti*) and feeling of warmth (*Uṣṇtā*). Different colours like *Nīla*, *Pīta*, *Asita* etc.are also given as a

- symptom of *Pittaja Āsṛgdara* by $\bar{A}c\bar{a}rya$ *Caraka*. [22] $\bar{A}c\bar{a}rya$ *Suśruta* mentioned *Atiprasanga* (excess in amount and with prolonged duration during menstrual bleeding phase) and *Anṛtau* (less in amount when occurring in intermenstrual period) as its features, explained by $\bar{A}c\bar{a}rya$ *Dalhaṇa*. [23] But this case could be differentiated from *Pittaja* $\bar{A}sṛgdara$ on the basis of intermenstrual bleeding and fever etc. which was not present here in this case.
- 2. Pittala Yonivyāpada: Excessive intake of Katu, Amla, Lavana, Ksara Dravvas may give rise to Dāha (burning sensation), Pāka (suppuration), Jwara (fever), *Usntā* (feeling of hotness) and different colours of Ārtava including Nīla, Pīta, Asita etc. similar to the *Pittaja Āsrgdara*.^[24] Varnas can be clinically correlated with the presence of the pieces of mucous membrane may give appearance of yellowish, bluish or blackish colour. Also, there is excessive purulent discharge from Yonimārga due to vitiation of Pitta. In addition to this, *Ācarva Cakrapani* has told intermenstrual bleeding as a feature of *Paittika Yonivyāpada*. All these conditions could be correlated with acute inflammatory conditions caused by pyogenic burning infection resulting in sensation. suppuration, foul smelling discharges, fever etc. Here, Hyperemia occurs due to inflammation which may give rise to menstrual irregularities and menometrorrhagia. So, the Nidānas and Doṣas involved in causing Pittala Yonivyāpada are similar to the current case but it could be differentiated on the basis of the clinical features like intermenstrual bleeding and excessive purulent discharge par vaginum, which were absent in the case taken.
- 3. *Lohitakṣarā*: As per *Ācarya Suśruta*,in this condition, there is *Prakṣaraṇa* (trickling or oozing) of *Asra* (blood) per vaginum along with burning **Treatment Given**

- sensation.^[25] Such a condition can be seen in case of Cervical erosion or Cervical polyp and is different from normal menstrual bleeding.
- **4.** Ārtava Ativṛdhi: The causes and features match the case taken but here, the Ativṛdhi of Ārtava^[26] is taking place mainly due to Dhātu Vṛdhi, which could be correlated with increased estrogen level and abnormally thickened endometrium. But in the case taken, the vitiated Doṣas are causing Dhātuduṣṭi and USG is absolutely normal. Thus, on this basis it could be differentiated from Ārtava Ativṛdhi.

Final Diagnosis

Pittaja Ārtavadușți

- ➤ It includes all the causes which are responsible for *Pitta* vitiation and all the features which may result due to vitiated *Pitta Doṣa* including excessive menstrual bleeding along with painful menstruation.^[27]
- Ācārya Hārīta mentioned difficulty in urine along with burning sensation and dark reddish colour of menstrual blood under its features.^[28]
- Aruṇadatta mentioned blood like smell from menstrual blood as a feature of Pittaja Ārtavadusti.[29]
- Aṣṭānga Samgrahakāra mentioned about severe pain and burning sensation due to vitiated Pitta.^[30]

So, on the basis of above points, this case could be correlated with *Pittaja Ārtavadusti* condition.

Modern Correlation

This case could be correlated with the condition of Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding which isa state of abnormal uterine bleeding without any clinically detectable organic, systemic, and iatrogenic cause (Pelvic pathology, e.g. tumor, inflammation or pregnancyis excluded).^[31]

Table 6: Treatment given to the patient

	Tuble of Treatment Biver		o publication
1.	Yaṣṭīmadhu Cūrṇa – 3gm	3.	Gokṣura Cūrṇa – 2gm
	Miśi (Fennel) – 2gm		Copcīnī Cūrṇa – 2gm
	<i>Munakkā</i> – 3 in No. (without seeds)		Twice a day with water
	Goghṛta – 5 ml		
	Twice a day in the form of Kalka with warm water		
2.	Kuṭakī Cūrṇa Equal parts	4.	Avipattikara Cūrṇa – 4gm
	Munakkā (Pea sized Guṭikā)		Before meal, twice a day with water
	Dhāgā Miśrī		
	Twice a day with cold water		

^{*} The treatment was administered for 2 cycles

Pathya

Patient was advised to follow

- ✓ Rajaswalācaryā for first 3 days of menstrual cycle only including Haviṣya, that also in limited quantity.
- ✓ Barley *Roţī* with *Goghṛta* or Barley Porridge
- ✓ Yoga and Prāṇāyāma
- ✓ Vegetables like *Ṭiṇdā*, *Torī*, Spinach, *Bathuā*, *Parvala* etc.
- ✓ Seasonal fruits like Papaya, Banana, Pomegranate, Gooseberry, Watermelon etc.
- ✓ Include *Goghrta* in daily diet
- ✓ Use of *Dhāgā Miśrī* at place of sugar

Apathya

- Rātrijāgaraņa
- Divāśayana
- Oily, spicy and junk foods
- Dadhi Sevana
- Pickles
- Excess intake Coffee
- Stress

Rationality of Drug

- 1. Ācārya Vrdha Vāgbhata prescribed the Madhuka (Yastīmadhu - Glycyrrhiza glabra), Madhurasā (Fennel- Foeniculum vulgare), Mrdvikā (Munakkā - dried *Vitis vinifera*) along with *Ghrta* in the form of Kalka in Pittaia Ārtavadusti.[32] Yastīmadhu is Hima (Śīta), Swādvī (Madhura), Susnigdhā and having Pitta, Anila (Vāta) and Asra (Rakta) pacifying properties.[33] Madhurasā (Fennel) is Tikta, Swādu, Himā and corrects vitiated Vāta, Pitta and Rakta.[34] It is also considered as Dāhaśāmaka in Rājanighantu, so also helpful in reducing burning micturition. *Mrdvikā* (*Munakkā*) is Atimadhurā, Śītā, pacifies Pitta, Arti (pain) and Dāha (burning sensation). It is Mūtradosaharā and Vṛṣyā.[35] Ghṛta is Agnidīpaka, Yogavāhī, Yoniśodhaka. Yoniśūlahara. Due to Yogavāhī property, it increases the qualities of other drugs used with it. It Facilitates absorption and digestion of drug and facilitates the drug delivery to the target organ due to its lipophilic action.
- 2. Ācārya Suśruta mentioned Drākṣā (Munakkā), Sitā (Miśri), Tiktarohiṇī (Picrorhiza kurroa) along with cold water in Raktapitta pratiṣedha.

 [36] Tiktarohiṇī/Kuṭakī is Tiktā, Himā, Pitta-Rakta-Dāha Śāmaka.[37] Sitā is Himā and Vāta-Pitta Śāmaka.[38]
- 3. Gokṣura (Tribulus terrestris) is Śītala, Swādu, Vastiśodhana, possessing Mūtrakṛchra relieving properties.[39] Copcīnī (Smilax glabra) have Śūlaghnī and Mūtraviśodhinī properties.[40]

4. Avipattikara Cūrṇa is strong carminative, Antioxidant having Śodhana and Anti-inflammatory properties that aid in curing imbalances related to Pitta Doṣa, properties. It is Mala-Mūtra Vibandha Nāśaka.[41]

RESULT

Patient came to the OPD on 20-09-2019, after regular follow ups and taking medication for 2 cycles.

- ✓ There was complete relief in the previous complaints of heavy and painful menses.
- ✓ Relief in frequent burning micturition.

Menstrual history_- LMP-13-09-2019

Duration - 6 days

Interval - 30 days

Table 7: Menstrual history after treatment

Pattern	Regular
Pain	Mild, bearable (analgesics not required)
Clots	Small, only on 1st day
Smell	Not present
Flow	WNL

Table 8: Pad History after treatment

Day 1st	3-4 pads
Day 2 nd , 3 rd	2-3 pads
Day 4 th	1-2 pads
Day 5 th	1 pad
Day 6 th	Spotting only

DISCUSSION

The treatment given in this case was *Doṣa* specific, mainly acting on vitiated *Pitta*, which was indicated in *Pittaja Ārtavaduṣṭi* by *Ācārya Vṛdha Vāgbhata* is helpful in reducing the symptoms like heavy menstruation and severe pain during menstruation. *Kuṭakī*, *Munakkā* and *Dhāgā Miśrī*is helpful in controlling excessive menstrual flow, thus told in *Raktapitta Cikitsā* by *Ācārya Suśruta*.Gokṣura and Copcīnī helps in regulating the *Apāna Vāta*, by *Mala - Mūtra Viśodhana* property. Thus, relieving symptoms like pain and burning micturition. *Avipattikara Cūṛṇa* is *Pittaśāmaka* and *Śodhanakārī*. So, these drugs are having an overall *Pittaśāmaka* effect along with regulation of *Apāna Vāta*.

CONCLUSION

From the above case study, it could be concluded that along with the medication, one should also pay attention to the *Nidāna*, its *Parivarjana* and then finally on the *Cikitsā* part according to the *Prakṛti* of the patient and *Doṣa Pradhānyatā* in the particular disease. So, *Pitta Śāmaka Āhāra – Vihāra*, following the *Rajaswalācaryā* along with

improvement in life style and *Pitta Śāmaka Cikitsā* are effective in treating *Pittaja Ārtavadusti*.

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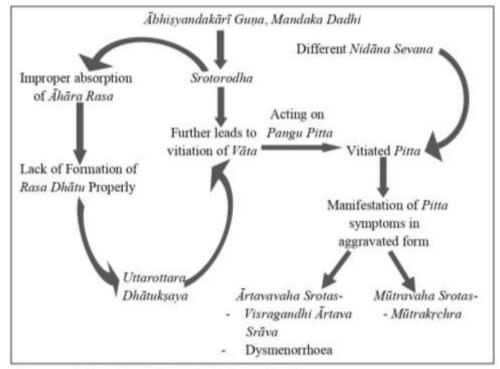


Chart - 1: Role of Mandaka Dadhi in Doşa vitiation



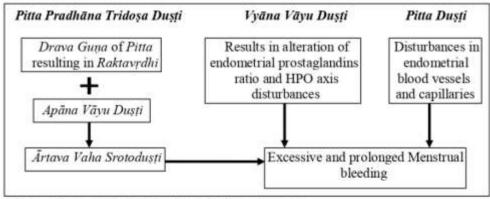


Chart - 3: Role of Tridoşa in formulation of disease