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# **Conceptual Analysis of Vicharchika W.S.R to Eczema: An Overview**

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#### Abstract

Skin is the mirror image of body and mind, which is also the largest organ of body; it reflects physical, mental and physchological state of an individual. Skin not only covers and protects the body but also performs some functions of excretion and metabolism. In the Ayurvedic texts all skin disorders are included under the Kushtaroga. Which is further classified in two divisions i.e. Mahakushta and Kshudrakushta, Vicharchika is one among them. Kushtha is one among Ashtamahagada also.Vicharchika is a type of kshudra kushta & Sadhya Kushtha by all acharya, often encountered by Ayurvedic Dermatologists characterized with symptoms likes Kandu, Srava, Pidika and Shyavavarna. Vicharchika can be seen at any age but frequently at a young age due to exposure to occupational, environmental factors, and mental stress. Junk food, irregular eating, repressing natural desires, using cosmetics and other chemicals, a polluted environment, a demanding existence, and emotional disorders all unquestionably play a significant role in the emergence of Vicharchika nowadays. The clinical presentation of Vicharchika is similar to Eczema in modern dermatology. Eczema (also called atopic dermatitis) is characterized by dry itchy skin with areas of poorly demarcated erythema and scale. Pruritus, erythema, oedema, papules, vescicles and oozing in the acute phase whereas itching, scaling, dryness, hyperpigmented and lichenified (thickened), and excoriations (scratch marks) are frequently seen in the chronic phase. By purging vitiated dosha and balancing the Dosha and Dhatu, Ayurveda provides treatment for the root of Vicharchika. Shodhana, Shamana, and Rasayana therapy make up the mainstay of Ayurveda's treatment for this illness.

#### **Keywords**

#### Kustha, Kshudra Roga, Vicharchika, Eczema

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## 1. Introduction

All skin diseases are included under the umbrella of *Kushtaroga*. Again, kustharoga classified in two divisions i.e Kshudra kustha and Mahakustha. So, all Kustha are having *tridoshaja* origin so, *Vicharchika* can be said in the same way i.e. *Kapha* is responsible for *Kandu, Pitta* is responsible for *Srava* and *Shyava* indicate the presence of *Vata*. Despite its Tridosha origin, various Acharyas mentioned different dominancy in *Vicharchika* i.e. *Kapha, Pitta, Vata-pitta Pradhana* which also suggests specific Symptom complexes. It is a type of kshudra kustha characterized by symptoms namely *Kandu, Srava, Pidika and Shyavavarna, also it is included under Rakta pradoshaja Vikara with dominance of kapha*. Vicharchika is often correlated to eczema based on clinical presentation. Eczema which is also known as atopic dermatitis characterized by dry itchy skin with areas of poorly demarcated erythema and scale. Environmental or genetic factors seem to play an important role in the manifestation of the disease.

## 2. Etymology of the Word Vicharchika

The word *Vicharchika* is derived from *sanskrit* origin "*charch adhyane*" by using the prefix "*Vee*" to it. The word *adhyane* has two syllables "*Adhi*" which means "above" and "*ayane*" means to spread out.

## 3. Classical Definition of Vicharchika

According to Acharya Charaka, it is a skin ailment wherein eruptions over the skin appear with dark pigmentation, itching and with a profuse discharge. Maharshi Sushruta described that vicharchika is a condition in which the skin has linear rough lesions with intense itching and pain but when the same itching, burning and pain are experienced in the feet alone, it is termed as *"vipadika"*. Acharya Vagbhatta narrated that the blackish eruptions with intense itching and watery discharge i.e. Lasikadhya is referred to as vicharchika. The Bhela samhita has mentioned the exact site of the lesion (Dhatugatva) i.e. blackish red deep rooted lesions i.e. Mamseropachita accompanied with oozing is called vicharchika. According to Acharya Kashyapa vicharchika as blackish brown pustuler eruptions with intense itching and pain having special symptoms like Vrana and Paka. Acharya Harita described that multiple pinhead-sized eruptions with ulceration and itching are called vicharchika. From the above discussion, it seems that the charka has described a wet type of vicharchika while sushruta has given the description of a dry type of vicharchika.

## 4. Nidana of Vicharchika

The etiological factors of *vicharchika* vary with different authors because the dominant *dosha* according to *Sushruta* is *Pitta*, whereas *Charka* and *Vagbhatta* accept the dominance of kapha. But according to *Charka*, the *kushtha* is never caused by any one of the singles *doshas*. Because of *sapta dravyas sangraha*(*vata*, *pitta*, *kapha and twak*, *rakta*, *mamsa*, *and ambu*), eighteen types of *kushthas* are produced. Hence, the etiological factors of *kushthas* are to be accepted as the etiological factors of *vicharchika*.So the *nidanas* of *vicharchika* may be classified into 3 groups: *1. Aharaj 2. Viharaj 3. Acharaj* 



# 5. Aaharaj Nidana

## 5.1 Mithya ahara

Intake of *chilchim* fish with milk, intake of *mulaka* and *lasuna* with *ksheera*, use of *mulaka* with *guda*, excessive use of alcohol with milk, intake of food mostly containing *yavaka*, *uddalaka* along with *ksheera*, *dadhi*, and *takra*, *kola*, *kulatha*, *masha*, *atasi*, *kusumbha* and *sneha*, continuous intake of *gramya*, *audaka* and *anupa mamsa* with *ksheera*, use of fish, citrus and milk together, excessive use of *navanna*, *dadhi*, *matsya*, *amla* and *lavana*, excessive use of *tila*, *ksheera* and *guda*, excessive oleation, continuous and excessive use of *madhu*, *phanita*, intake of food during indigestion, *asatmya ahara*, *adhyashana* and intake of polluted water.

## 6. Viharaj Nidan

### 6.1 Mithya vihara

To do physical exercise and to take sunbath after heavy meals, to perform sexual intercourse during indigestion, to do exercise or to perform sexual intercourse after *snehapana* and *vamana*, sudden changes from cold to heat or heat to cold without judiciously following the rules of gradual changes, entering into cold water immediately after one is affected with fear, exhaustion and sunlight. *Vega-Vidharana*: Suppression of the urge of emesis, with holding of the natural urges i.e. *Mutra* and *purisha vega* etc. are the *viharaja nidan* of *vicharchika*.

### 6.2 Panchakarm Apacharana

Panchkarmani kriyamani nishida sevanam, improper administration of snehapana therapy also creates problem.

## 7. Aacharaj Nidan

Acts insulting to *bramhanas*, guru and other respectable persons, indulgence in sinful activities, use of money or material acquired by unfair means are the causes of *aharaja* nidan.

No.	Rupa	CS	SS	AH	AS	BS	KS	MN	BP
1.	Kandu	+	+	+	+			+	+
2.	Pidika	+		+	+			+	+
3.	Shyava	+		+	+			+	+
4.	Srava	+		+	+	+	+	+	+
5.	Raji		+			+			
6.	Ruja		+				+		
7.	Rukshata		+						
8.	Rakta					+	+		
9.	Praklina					+			
10.	Vrana						+		
11.	Paka						+		

#### Table 1. Rupas

**References**: CS-Charak Samhita, SS-Sushruta Samhita, AH-Astanga Hridaya, AS-Astanga Sangraha, BS-Bhela Samhita, KS-Kasyapa Samhita, MN-Madhava Nidana, BP-Bhava Prakash



## 8. Purvarupa of Vicharchika

There is no illustration regarding the premonitory sign and symptoms of *vicharchika* in the text, but as it is classified as one of the kshudra kushtha roga, one can take the premonitory syndrome of the *kushtha vyadhi* to that of *vicharchika*. They are *asweda, swedadhikya, atislakshnata, vaivarnyata, toda, suptata, paridaha/Daha, pariharsha, ushmayana, gaurava, shwayathu, and visarpana.* 

## 9. Rupa of Vicharchika

*Rupa* i.e., signs and symptoms of *Vicharchika*, as stated by different *Acharyas* can be summarized in the table 1. These symptoms are being discussed here in brief:

- *Kandu*: *Kandu* is produced by the vitiated *Kapha dosha*. (Ch. Chi. 5/10, Su. Ni. 5/18, A. H. Su. 12/53). It is the chief symptom of Vicharchika and also can be felt as a Purvarupa of Kustha. It is a condition of severe itching and is the most disstressful symptom in the patient of *Vicharchika*.
- **Pidika**: "Peedayati Iti Pidika" i.e. which creates the Pida (Pain). In *Charaka Sutra*, it has been explained that, when the vitiated *Pitta* gets accumulated in *Twacha* and *Rakta* creates inflammation and redness then it is known as *Pidika*.
- **BahuSrava**: Srava means discharge, flowing, streaming (M. Monier Williams). Acharya Charaka has used the adjective "Bahu" meaning 'profuse discharge'. Regarding the pathology of Bahusrava vitiated Pitta and Kapha is responsible as per Charaka while vitiated Pitta is responsible as per Madhukosha. Vagbhatta has used the word Lasikadhya and Indu in his Shashilekha commentary defines it as 'Jalaprayah' meaning the nature of the discharge resembles to that of water. Contrary to other Achryas, Sushruta has mentioned the "Rukshata" (dryness) in Vicharchika. It seems if the Vata is dominant, the lesion will be dry, while in the dominance of Kapha or Pitta, it will be wet.
- **Shyava:** Shyava means dark brown or dark colored. (M. Monier William). This is the characteristic feature of the lesions of *Vicharchika*, mentioned by all *Acharyas* except *Sushruta*. It is due to vitiated *Vata*.
- **Raji:** It means lining which may develop due to thickening of the lesion, which indicates dry type of Vicharchika, Sushruta has described this symptom. *Dalhana* explained it as *Rekha*, means linings. Scratching may produce linear markings. *Raji* is caused by *vitiated Vata*.
- **Ruja**: Vata is the whole & sole factor responsible for ruja. *Sushruta* and *Kashyapa* have mentioned this symptom. *Ruja* means *Vedana* i. e. pain or irritation to the patient due to the chronic nature of the disease.
- **Rukshata:** Rukshata is the cardinal symptom of Vata. It means dryness (not smooth/soft), disagreeable hard and rough. Acharya Sushruta has mentioned it. This symptom is due to vitiated Vata.
- **Rakta:** Rakta means redness in the lesion. It is produced by the vitiated *Pitta*. This symptom has been mentioned in *Bhela Samhita*. In *Kashyapa Samhita*, instead of *Rakta*, the word *"Lohita*" has been used.
- **Praklinna:** Praklinna means 'with more wetness more Kleda'. Due to continuous discharge the lesion becomes wet. This sign is mentioned only in *Bhela Samhita*, caused by vitiated *Kapha* and *Pitta*.
- **Vrana**: Means a wound, ulcer, crack (M. Monier William). This symptom has been mentioned in *Kashyapa Samhita*. *Vrana* means ulcerated lesion. Because of scratching *Vrana* may be created. This is due to vitiated *Pitta*.
- **Paka:** Paka avastha may take place due to infection & purulent discharge. This symptom has been mentioned in *Kashyapa Samhita*. Paka is caused by vitiated Pitta.

## 10. Samprapti of Vicharchika

In classics there is no individual description regarding the samprapti of vicharchika. But being a variety of kushtha the common samprapti of kushtha should be considered.



Acc to Acharya Charak nidana 5/6, samprapti of kushtha is as follows. By various causative factors as mentioned in kushtha nidana, all the three doshas are simultaneously provoked, the four dushyas(twak, mansa, rakta and lasika) thin out or lose their tone. In these deranged four dushyas, the provoked doshas get located. This causes them to become vitiated and so the kushtha or the skin disease is produced.

According to Acharya Charak and Vagbhatta kapha pradhan tridosha get vitiated whereas Acharya Sushruta pitta pradhan tridosha vitiated.



Figure 1. Causative Factors of Kustharoga

According to Charaka Samhita (Ch.chi.7/9-10) Due to various Nidana Sevana, Tridosha gets vitiated simultaneously & produces shaithilya in the Twak, Rakta, Mamsa, & Ambu. Then Tridosha gets seated in Shithila Dhatu & vitiating them with Lakshanotpatti of Kustha Roga.

## 11. Samprapti Ghatkas

- Doshas : Tridosha
- Dushya : Twak, Rakta, Mansa, Lasika(ambu)
- Srotas : Rasa, Rakta, mansa & Udakavaha
- Agni : Jatharagni & Dhatwagnimandya
- Srotodusti : Sang & vimargagamana
- Sanchara : Tiryaga sira
- Adhishtana : Twaka
- Rogamarga : Bahya
- Swabhava : Chirkari

Each of Samprapti Ghataks can be described as follows-

## 11.1. Dosha Kapha (Ch.) Pitta (Su.) Pradhana.

Regarding the predominant *dosha Acharyas* holds a different of opinion according to *Acharya* Charaka, Vagbhata, Sharangadhara & Bhavaprakash, Vicharchika is a Kapha Pradhana Vyadhi Whereas Sushruta says as Pitta Pradhana & Madhava describes as Vata Pittaja.

Among commentators, *Dalhana* states *Pitta* and *Arunadatta*, *Indu* and *Shrikanthadutta Kapha* predominance. From the above discussion it is clear that most of the *Acharyas* have accepted *Vicharchika* to be a *Kapha* dominant disease.



## 11.2. Dushya

Twak, Rakta, Mamsa & Ambu are four responsible constituents for Vicharchika. Acharya Charaka in Nidana Sthana has postulated that when the four Dushyas are vitiated by three provoked Doshas.

- Twak –Twacha is the Indriya adhisthana of Sparshnendriya which has Vata predominance. So its vitiation causes symptoms like Kandu, Rukshata & Vedana.
- Rakta Acharya Charaka shows the vitiation of Rakta producing oedema, redness, Shyavata i.e. Vaivarnya & Kandu as Shonitaja Vikara (Ch. Su. 24/16)
- Mamsa If pathology is not stopped in time, Dosha provokes deeper Dhatu like Mamsa dusti. Mamsa dusti produces Toda, Sphota, Karkashata, Pidika, etc.
- Ambu Acharya Charaka has mentioned Vicharchika as Bahusravayukta whereas Vagbhata mentioned Vicharchika as Lasikadhya. Srava, Praklinna, Lasikadhya, etc are the result of Ambu dusti.

## 11.3. Srotas and Srotadusti

Srotas are the channels of transportation throughout the body. Here in *Vicharchika, Rasavaha, Raktavaha, Mansavaha* and *Udakavaha Srotas* are vitiated. *Lakshanas* of *Bahusrava* and *Raukshyam* are due to *Rasavaha Srotodushti. Kandu* and *Sthirat-wam* are due to *Mansavaha Srotodushti.* In this disease, two types of Srotodusti are observed i.e. 'Sanga' & 'Vimarga-gamana' of Dosha from Kostha to Shakha. Amavisha accumulates with Doshas & Dhatus & create the 'Sanga' where the Kha-vaigunya is present.

No.	Pathya	CS	SS	AH	BR
1.	Laghu Anna	+			+
2.	Tikta Shaka			+	+
3.	Purana Dhanya		+		
4.	Jangala Mansa		+	+	+
5.	Shastic Shali, Yava, Godhuma, Uddalak		+	+	+
6.	Masura			+	+
7.	Ghrita	+			+
8.	Mudaga	+		+	+
9.	Triphala	+	+	+	+
10.	Bhallatak	+	+	+	+
11.	Nimba	+		+	+
12.	Patola	+		+	+
13.	Adhak		+	+	+
14.	Adhak				+
15.	Chitraka	+	+	+	+
16.	Parisheka Avagaha of Khadir				
17.	Brihati Phala				+

#### Table 2. Pathyas

References: CS-Charak Samhita, SS-Sushruta Samhita, AH-Astanga Hridaya, BR-Bhaisajya Ratnavali

#### 11.4. Ama and Agni

Mithya ahara, Ahita ahara & Viruddha ahara are the main important causative factors of the disease. They cause vitiation of Jatharagni results in formation of Ama & Amavisha. *Jatharagnimandya* and *Dhatvagnimandya* produce *Ama*. *Ama* thus produced along with *pradhana Dosha Dushti* plays a vital role in the pathogenesis of *Vicharchika*.



- Udbhava Sthana Initial Dosha Sanchaya occurs in Amashaya.
- Sanchara Provocated Vata carries Prakupita Pitta & Kapha to the Bahyamarga.
- Adhisthana Twak-Shakha is the adhisthuna of Vicharchika.

# 12. Pathya and Apathya in Vicharchika

Pathya: The list of "Pathya" for Vicharchika (being a variety of Kushtha) is tabulated in table 2.

*Apathya*: The list of *Apathya* in *Vicharchika* is tabulated below:

No.	Apathya	CS	SS	АН	BR
1.	Guru Anna	+			+
2.	Dugdha	+	+	+	+
3.	Dadhi	+	+	+	+
4.	Amla Rasa	+	+	+	+
5.	Guda	+	+	+	+
6.	Tila	+		+	+
7.	Anupa Mansa	+		+	+
8.	Matsya				
9.	Mansa and Vasa		+		
10.	Taila		+		
11.	Masha		+	+	+
12.	Kulatha		+		
13.	Ikshu Vikara		+		+
14.	Mulaka				+
15.	Madhya	+			+
16.	Lavana			+	+
17.	Vidahi Anna		+		+
18.	Abhishyandi Anna		+		
19.	Vishtambhi Anna				+
20.	Maithuna		+		+
21.	Navana				+

#### Table 3. Apathyas

References: CS-Charak Samhita, SS-Sushruta Samhita, AH-Astanga Hridaya, BR-Bhaisajya Ratnavali

## 13. Discussion

According to all Acharyas, kustha is tridoshaja and Rakta pradoshaja vikara. In all kustharoga, the vitiation of Rakta and pitta mentioned. , hence it is called Raktapradoshaja vikara. Vicharchika is one of the chronic skin diseases that has been mentioned



in all Ayurvedic texts under Kshudra kustha. It has also been considered as Sadhya Kustha by Acharya Kashyapa. Acharya Charaka considered Vicharchika as Kapha dominant disease because Kandu, Shyava, Pidika, and Bahusrava its acute stage whereas Raji, Arti and Saruksha its Chronic or later stage. Mithya ahara, Ahita ahara & Viruddha ahara are the main important causative factors of the disease. They cause vitiation of Jatharagni results in formation of Ama & Amavisha. Among the disorders affecting the Rasavaha, Raktavaha, Mamsavaha & Swedvaha Srotas, Vicharchika is an important disease due to its higher and widespread incidence, chronicity and progression to grave condition in acute phase. In this disease, two types of Srotodusti are observed i.e. 'Sanga' & 'Vimarga-gamana' of Dosha from Kostha to Shakha. Amavisha accumulates with Doshas & Dhatus & create the 'Sanga' where the Kha-vaigunya is present. Vicharchika is the nearest term for Eczema, which is one of the Skin disorders described by Charaka. (Cha.Chi. 7/26 & Su.Ni 5/8).

## 14. Conclusion

On the basis of the present study, the following conclusions can be drawn. 1) *Vicharchika* is stated as a *Kshudra-Kushtha & Sadhya Kushtha* by all *acharya*, also Rakta pradoshaja vikara being of three dosha with dominance of kapha. But *Kushtha* is one among *Ashta Mahagada*. So, it is difficult to cure. 2) *Vicharchika* can be seen at any age but frequently seen at a young age due to exposure to occupational, environmental factors and mental stress. 3) Now a days fast food, irregularity in food taking, suppression of natural urges, uses of cosmetics and other chemicals, polluted environment, stressful life and Emotional disturbances definitely play a major role in progression of *Vicharchika*. 4) *Mithya Ahara – Vihara, Ahita ahara vihara* especially *Navanna, Viruddhahara* and *Vegavidharana* are the main causative factors of agnimandya. 5) Excessive intakes of *Santarpaka Nidana* cause *Amautpatti* and play an important role in manifestation of *Vicharchika*.

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