



AYURVEDIC MANAGEMENT OF SPIDER BITE (LOOTHA VISHA) – A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

The Anthropoids includes spiders, with approximately 40,000 species worldwide, 600 of which are found in India. In certain regions, spider bites are common, although most species are not lethal. However, all spiders possess venom, which is classified into two types: cytotoxic and neurotoxic. In some cases, infections rather than the venom itself may lead to fatal outcomes. In Ayurveda, *Lootha Visha* refers to venomous conditions caused by spider bites, characterized by distinct skin manifestations such as eruptions of various shapes, large patches, soft swelling that is red or blue and movable, mild pain, itching, and soft, elevated rashes that are not deeply seated. A case study involved a 26-year-old male who presented to the Agada Tantra outpatient department with complaints of pain and a reddish, hard lesion over the shoulder region for one day. He was diagnosed with *Lootha Visha* and treated with *Agada Yogas* for five days, resulting in a significant improvement in symptoms.

Keywords: Ayurveda management, *Bilwadi Agada*, , *Lootha Visha*, spider bite.

INTRODUCTION:

Lootha Visha is one among the Jangama Visha, which requires proper management at the appropriate time. regional languages.[1]

Bites of *Lootha* (spider) are difficult to understand and treat. *Lootha Visha* refers to spider bites. Spiders are arthropods, and there are more than 40,000 species worldwide. In India, 600 different spider species are found. Spider bites are common in some parts of the world but uncommon in India, where fatalities are rare. Although spiders are invariably venomous, the majority of species do not pose a risk of death. Spider venom is of two types: neurotoxic and cytotoxic. The black widow or hourglass spider (neurotoxic) and the violin spider or brown recluse (cytotoxic) produce severe toxicity. Their venom acts on the myoneural junction or peripheral nerve endings, causing ascending motor paralysis or damage to peripheral nerve endings. Death may occur due to infection rather than venom.[2]

Lootha Visha is characterized by skin manifestations with symptoms such as eruptions of different shapes, large patches, soft edema that is red or blue in color and movable, pain, elevated rashes that are not deep-seated, mild pain, itching, and softness to touch.[3]

CASE REPORT:

Patient Details:

A 26-year-old male patient visited our *Agada Tantra* OPD with chief complaints of pain and a reddish hard lesion over the shoulder region for one day.

History of Present Illness:

The patient was apparently healthy before one day. Suddenly, he developed pain and a reddish hard lesion over the shoulder region following a spider bite. Initially, he neglected the symptoms, but as they aggravated, he approached our hospital for treatment.

Various traditional practices have been followed by Visha Vaidyas, and many of them are documented in

Past History:

- No history of diabetes or hypertension.

Personal History:

- Bowel Habit: Regular
- Appetite: Good
- Marital Status: Unmarried
- Occupation: Student
- Menstrual History: N/A
- Addiction: None

Clinical Findings

General examination revealed the patient to be of normal build with no pathological presentations.

- Pulse: 78 bpm
- Blood Pressure: 120/80 mmHg
- Respiratory Rate: 16 cpm

Asta Vidha Pareeksha:

- Nadi: 78/min
- Mala: Prakruta (1 time/day)
- Mutra: Prakruta (4–5 times/day)
- Jihva: Alipa
- Shabda: Prakruta
- Sparsha: Anushna Sheetha
- Drik: Prakruta
- Akriti: Madhyama

Dashavidha Pareeksha:

- Prakriti: Kapha-Pitta
- Aharaja Hetu: *Anupa Mamsa, Madhura Ahara*
- Viharaja Hetu: Student
- Dosha: Kapha-Pitta
- Dushya: Rasa, Rakta, and Mamsa
- Desha: Anupa
- Sattva: Madhyama
- Sara: Mamsasara

- Samhanana: Madhyama
- Pramana: Madhyama
- Satmya: Madhyama
- Ahara Shakti:
 - Abhyavaharana Shakti: Uttama
 - Jarana Shakti: Uttama
- Vyayama Shakti: Madhyama
- Vaya: Madhyama
- Bala: Madhyama
- Associated Symptoms: Pain
- Location: Shoulder
- Distribution: Symmetric
- Shape: Regular
- Appearance: Small bump-like blister

Intervention

Management

The patient was treated with oral *Agada Yoga* for five days. There was marked improvement in the signs and symptoms of the spider bite (*Lootha Visha*).

Treatment Period: 22/4/2024 – 28/4/2024

Local Examination

- Lesion: Hard lesion over the left shoulder.
- Color: Red

Table 1 Intervention

Sl. No	Medicine	Dose	Frequency	Mode of Administration
1.	Bilwadi Gutika	500mg	1 BD, A/F	PO
2.	Bilwadi Gutika + Tulsi swarasa	2g	once Daily	E/A
3.	Patolakaturohinyadi Kashaya	15ml	TID, B/F	PO
4.	Avipattikara Choorna	5g	Once at night with warm water, A/F	PO

OBSERVATION AND RESULT:

Before treatment the patient complaints of pain and reddish lesions over left shoulder.

After 5 days of treatment there was 90% reduction in the complaints.



Fig 1: BEFORE TREATMENT



Fig.2: AFTER TREATMENT

DISCUSSION:

Herbal formulations such as Bilwa, Triphala, Haridra, Daruharidra, Karanja, Shunti, Amalaki, and Trikatu possess anti-inflammatory (Shotha), de-pigmentation (Vivarnatha), and analgesic (Bahurvedana) properties. The efficacy of Bilwadi Agada lies in its unique

combination (*Samyoga Visheshata*), which provides special therapeutic actions.

- Majority of the drugs are Tikta (bitter) and Katu (pungent), which pacify Kapha and Vata.
- Most drugs are Ushna Veerya (hot potency) and Katu Vipaka, enabling them to act quickly as antidotes.

This formulation is effective in treating conditions like gastroenteritis, allergic reactions, and inflammation. *Bilwadi Agada* is specifically indicated in *Lootha Visha*.^[4]

Another remedy, *Patolakaturohinyadi Kashaya*, comprises *Patola* (*Trichosanthes dioica*), *Katurohini* (*Picrohiza kurroa*), *Chandana* (*Santalum album*), *Madhusrava* (*Leptadenia reticulata*), *Guduchi* (*Tinospora cordifolia*), and *Patha* (*Cissampelos pareira*). These herbs, as described in Ashtanga Hridaya's *Patoladi Gana*, possess *Tikta* and *Katu* properties and are effective against *Kapha-Pitta doshas*.^[5]

CONCLUSION:

Lootha Visha, explained in the context of Jangama Visha, closely resembles spider bites. Such conditions can be effectively managed through *Shamana* therapy. In this case, significant improvement was observed in symptoms like pain and redness after treatment. The study concludes that *Lootha Visha* can be successfully managed through Ayurvedic treatments without adverse effects. Patients are advised to follow proper Ahara (diet) and Vihara (lifestyle) to prevent recurrence of the condition.

DECLARATION OF PATIENT CONSENT:

The authors confirm that they have acquired a patient consent form, in which the patient or caregiver has granted permission for the publication of the case,

including accompanying images and other clinical details, in the journal. The patient or caregiver acknowledges that their name and initials will not be disclosed, and sincere attempts will be undertaken to safeguard their identity. However, complete anonymity cannot be assured.

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