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# CLINICAL APPROACH TO CEREBROVASCULAR ACCIDENT IN AYURVEDA

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#### **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Cerebrovascular accident (CVA) is the medical term for a stroke. A stroke is a medical condition in which poor blood flow to the brain results in death. There are two main types of stroke; ischemic, due to lack of blood flow and hemorrhagic, due to bleeding. They result in part of the brain not functioning properly. The most common symptom of a stroke is sudden weakness or numbness of the face, arm or leg, most often on one side of the body. Other symptoms include: confusion, difficulty in speaking or understanding speech; difficulty in seeing with one or both eyes; difficulty in walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; severe headache with no known cause; fainting or unconsciousness. The main risk factor for stroke is high blood pressure. Other risk factors include tobacco smoking, obesity, high blood cholesterol, diabetes mellitus, a previous TIA and atrial fibrillation. Objective: Here an attempt is made to understand and apply the treatment principles of Pakshaghata based on the avarana concept and adopting suitable treatment modalities. Material & Method: The authentic subject material has been reviewed from Ayurveda & modern medical literature. Different research & review article were searched on internet. Discussion and conclusion: The management in contemporary science varies with that of the cause. CVA is broadly understood under the term Pakshaghata which is considered to be a Vata Vyadhi in Ayurveda, which can manifest due to Dhatu Kshaya leading to Kevala Vata Vyadhi or due to Avarana. The line of treatment varies according to the cause; Kevala Vata Janita Pakshagata Vatasya Upakrama can be employed and in case of Avarana; Avruta i.e., kapha or meda or pitta to be relived first then it to be treated in lines of Kevala Vata Vyadhi Chikitsa. Thus the clinical approach to CVA varies accordingly with the dosha and Avastha of the vyadhi.

Keywords: CVA, Pakshaghata, Vata Vyadhi, Dhatu Kshaya, Kevala VataVyadhi Chikitsa.

**INTRODUCTION:** WHO (World Health Organization) defined Stroke as "Rapidly developing clinical signs of focal (or global) disturbance of cerebral function, with symptoms lasting 24 hours or longer or leading to death, with no apparent cause other than of vascular origin".

Stroke is said to be one of the leading causes of death and disability in India. The estimated adjusted prevalence rate of stroke range, 84-262 / 1,00,000 in rural and 334-424 / 1,00,000 in urban areas. The

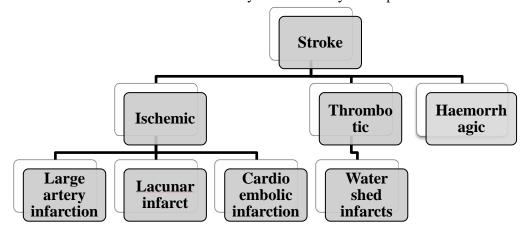
incidence rate is **119-145** / **100,000** based on the recent population based studies<sup>2</sup>.

The term CVA embraces of<sup>3</sup>–

Diseases of cerebral arteries, Diseases of heart (In which it may adversely affect the blood supply to the brain by changes in blood pressure or as a source of emboli). Disorders of the blood (which may lead to impaired clotting, causing haemorrhage, hyper viscosity or hypercoagulable states which increase the tendency for cerebral thrombosis).

There main are two types of cerebrovascular accident. stroke: stroke is an ischemic caused by

blockage, it may be due to embolus or thrombus; a haemorrhagic stroke is caused by the rupture of a blood vessel.



Symptoms typically start suddenly, over seconds to minutes, and in most cases do

not progress further. The symptoms depend on the area of the brain affected.

Current approach to stroke in contemporary science<sup>4</sup>-

Aim of the treatment	Major drugs used
Thrombolytic-alteplase(rt-PA)	Thrombolytics
Reperfusion- recanalization	Diuretics to reduce cerebral edema
Antiplatelets	Aspirin, clopidrogrel
Anticoagulants	Warfarin ,LMWH
Neuroprotective	Citicoline, vitamins
Symptomatic treatment	Management of HTN
Improving ADL	Physiotherapy

#### **Analysis of CVA (Stroke) in Ayurveda-:**

CVA is broadly understood under the term Pakshaghata which is considered to be a Vata Vyadhi in Ayurveda, which can manifest due to Dhatu Kshaya leading to Kevala Vata Vyadhi or due to Avarana<sup>5</sup>.

# Other conditions under which CVA can be understood are-

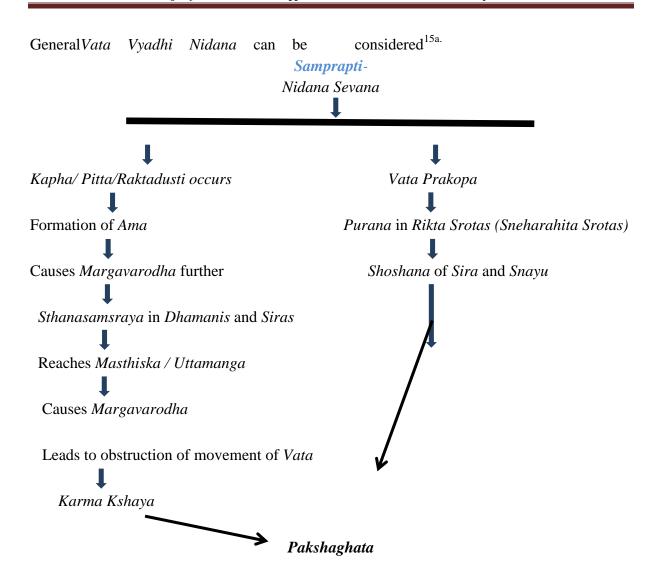
- Prana Avritha Vyana<sup>6</sup> / Pranavruta Samana<sup>7</sup>
- Various etiological factors which in turn produce Srotorodha or Srotorodha in Murdhini cause this condition.
- Vata<sup>8</sup>, Snayu Gata Vata<sup>9</sup>, • Siragata Madhyama Vyadhi<sup>10</sup>, Roga Marga Marmasta Vyadhi<sup>11</sup>, Karma Hani at Uttamanga.

• Srotorodha Avarana or Rakta to Sanchara, Dhatu Kshaya- Mastulunga Kshaya<sup>12</sup>, Vata Pratilomata.

The word *Pakshaghata* includes 2 words Paksha and Agata. Acharya Dalhana Paksha comments Paksham as Shareerardham<sup>13</sup>: *Aghata*has several meanings it can be considered blow or injury, so we can consider *Pakshaghata* as one side reduced activity or complete loss of function<sup>14</sup>.

#### Nidana-

Particular Nidana (Etiology) for Pakshaghata is not mentioned in classics, Ati Vyayama (Excessive exertion), Nitya Katu Rasa Sevana (Consuming pungent things), Ati Dhumapana (excessive smoking), Ati Madyapana (Excessive Alcohol intake), Chintha (worries) and



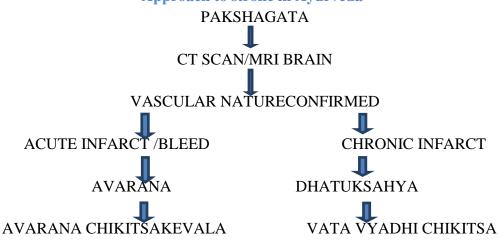
Samprapti	Ghataka	Udhbhava Sthana - Pakwashaya (Adho
Dosha	- Vata Pradhana Tridosha	Amashaya and Urdhwa Pakwashaya)
Dushya	- Rasa, Rakta, Mansa, Meda	Sanchara Sthana - Rasayani, Vatavaha
Agni	- Jataragni, Dhatwagni	Sira <sup>15b</sup> , Urdhwa-Adha-Tiryak Dhamani
Ama	- Jataragni and	Vyakta Sthana - Sarva Shareera
Dhatwagn	i Janya Ama	Adhisthana - Shariardha Bhaga
Srotas	- Rasavah, Raktavaha,	Vyadhi Swabhava - Chirakari, Ashukari
Mansavah	a, Pranvaha	Sadhya/Asadhyata - Krucchasadhya,
Srotodush	ti Prakara- Sanga	Asadhya

# Clinical Features / Lakshanas -

Clinical Features Seen in Stroke	Probable Co-Relation with <i>Lakshanas</i> Mentioned in Ayurveda Classics
Sudden numbness or weakness in the face,	
arm, or leg, especially on one side of the	Ardha Kayasya Achetana, Vichetana <sup>16</sup>
body	

Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes,	Stabdha Netrata, Akshi Ruk <sup>17</sup> , Indriya
Visual field defect	Bramsha <sup>18</sup>
Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of	Gati/ Sarva Kriyasu Asamarthaha i.e.,
balance, or lack of co-ordination, Apraxia	hamper in functions of Vyana Vayu <sup>19</sup>
Sudden severe headache with no known cause	Shanka Ruk <sup>20</sup>
Aphasia, trouble speaking, Dysarthria	Vak Sanga <sup>21</sup> / Mukatva/ Gadgadatva <sup>22</sup>

Approach to stroke in Ayurveda-



# Atyayika Chikitsa -

Vacha Churna or Brihat Vata Chintamani rasa or Sameera pannaga rasa Pradhaman Nasya for Sajna Prabhodana

# • Agnilepa Chikitsa for Rukshana and

- Avaranahara Kevala vatahara upakrama.
- Treatment-

# Kevala Vata Chikitsa<sup>23</sup>

Snehana	In Kevala Vata Vyadhi +	Snehapana, Snehana Nasya,
	Dhatukshaya	Abhyanga, Pizichil , Anuvasana
		Basti
Snehapoorvaka	In Hastha-Pada Sankocha, Ruk ,	Nadi Sweda, Prastara, Sankara,
Svedanam	Sthambha, Vakrata, Shoshsa	Patra Pinda Sweda, Shastika
		Shali Pinda Sweda
Samshodhana	Mrudu samshodhana	Snigdha Virechana
	Niruha basti	Rajayapana Basti

# Avarana Chikitsa

Avarana	Treatment
Pittavruta Vata <sup>24</sup>	Virechana, Jevaneeya Ghritha Pana , Yapana Basti
T iliavrula vala	,Ksheera Basti
Kaphavruta Vata <sup>25</sup>	Snehapana with Purana Ghritha , Sarshapa Taila,
Kapnavruta vata	Swedana Niruha Basti , Vamana, Virechana
Pranavruta Vyana <sup>26</sup>	Snehana, Swedana, Pradhamana Nasya, Virechana

## Shamana Oushadis-

ACUTE CHRONIC
---------------

Tapyadi  $\overline{Loha}$ 

Swarnamakshika Bhasma

Trailokiyachintamni Rasa

Manjishta Kwatha

Shilajithu Rasayana

Yogendara Rasa

Kamadugha Rasa

Rasaraj Rasa

Sameerapannag Rasa Ekangaveera Rasa Vata Vidhwamsa Rasa Brihat Vata Chintamani Rasa Smriti Sagara Rasa Brahmi Vati Bhadradarvyadhi Kashaya Ashtavarga Kashaya

**DISCUSSION:** The neurological disorders can be manifested due to Upahata Maruta (Improper functioning of Vata), Upahata Dhatu Ushma (Agni Mandya leading formation of Ama) and Upahata Srotas<sup>27</sup> (obstruction in the pathway) hence forth the main aim of the treatment lies in correcting this pathology. In all Vata Vyadhi Snehana is the first line of treatment mentioned in Ayurveda when it is a Kevala Vata Janita Vyadhi and

Case 1-

46 years Old Male Diagnosed Left MCA Infarct with Right Sided Hemiplegia was admitted to our IPD After 15days Of ICU management.

#### O/E-

**Bowels** Constipated; Bladder Catheterised.

No other Co-morbids

CRANIAL NERVES **FUNCTION INTACT** 

Hemiplegic Gait

Muscle Power- UL- 3/5; LL- 3/5;

DTR - +++, Babinski – upwards fanning. **UMN** Lesion

Diagnosis – DHATU KSHAYA JANYA PAKSHGATHA / Right Sided Hemiplegia Approach -

In this case initial Agni Lepa - Rukshana Chikitsa was carried out for 3 days; for Shesha Dosha Pachana later Snehana line of treatment was employed with Mustadi Rajayapana Basti- Kala Basti, Mastiskya. For a Period of 14 days.

#### Shamana oushadi - 30 days

- Cap. Palsineuron 1 TID
- Tab. Tapyadi loha 2 BD
- Bhadradarvyadhi Kashaya

Pakshaghata; in case of Avarana the relieving of Avarana becomes the first line of treatment followed by Snehana. As per Acharya Kashyapa Shiras is Moola for the Snayus; the main pathology involved in case of Pakshaghata is Sira and Snayu Shoshana(Mastulunga Kshaya-Snehamsha Kshaya) thus Snehana in terms Snehapana, Murdhnini Taila or any other modes will do Samprapthi Vighatana.

#### CASE EXAMPLES-

Gandharvahasthyadi taila 20 ml HS after food

#### Post Treatment-

Gait Improved

Muscle Power -5/5 in Both Limbs,

There was no traces of patient had an Episode of stroke.

#### Case 2-

A 55year old female who was a k/c/o hypertensive was brought to our OPD with sudden onset of weakness in left half of the body with tingling sensation in left half of the body.

**O/E- K**/C/O – Hypertension on OAH (Tab.Telma 20mg 1OD) since 20 years irregularly.

Altered sensorium, muscle weakness- left UL: 4/5; LL: 4/5, DTR - +++, Babinski upwards fanning.

**Diagnosis-** AVARANA JANYA PAKSHAGATHA / LEFT SIDED **HEMIPLEGIA** 

? Haemorrhagic.

# CT scan Brain (plain) - LACUNAR INFARCT DUE TO HYPERTENSIVE **BLEED**

# Approach-

Here the patient was treated to clear the Upahata Srotas the obstruction

relieved by giving Pradhamana Nasya with Brihat Vata Chintamani 6tab thrice per day.

Talam- Vacha, Amalaki for 7 days Arjuna Ksheera Paka as Pana FOR 14

## Shamana oushadi - 7 days

- Cap. Palsineuron 1 TID
- Tab. Sagarlic 2 BD
- Gandharvahasthyadi taila 20 ml HS after food

#### **Post Treatment**

Patient has no signs and symptoms of weakness post 7 days further he was advised rehabilitation and physiotherapy.

#### **CONCLUSION**;

The treatment in neurological diseases poses a great challenge in modern medicine as they follow a chronic pattern with very insignificant improvement in treatment outcome. Understanding the disease with careful analysis of Avastha of Vyadhi, giving prime importance to the Dooshya Samoorchana Doshaunderlying Avarana, an eminent physician should adopt the necessary modalities of treatment. Virechana is benefical Pakshaghata in Margavarana Samprapti. In treatment Ksayaja of Dhatu Pakshaghata Brimhana & Basti Karma are beneficial.Early management rehabilitation is the need of the hour for the better prognosis and to minimize the residual effects of CVA.

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