

# International Research Journal of Ayurveda & Yoga

Vol. 6 (7),21-26, July,2023

ISSN: 2581-785X: <https://irjay.com/>

DOI: [10.47223/IRJAY.2023.6703](https://doi.org/10.47223/IRJAY.2023.6703)



## Management of *Lutha Visha* (Spider Poison) -A Case Report.

Salwa<sup>1</sup>, Arun B<sup>2</sup>

1-House Surgeon, Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda College Ollur, Thrissur.

2-Assistant Professor, Department of Koumarbhritya, Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda College Ollur, Thrissur.

### Article Info

#### Article history:

Received on: 03-06-2023

Accepted on: 12-07-2023

Available online: 31-07-2023

#### Corresponding author-

Salwa, House Surgeon, Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda College Ollur, Thrissur.

Email: [salwausmanpu@gmail.com](mailto:salwausmanpu@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT:

As per modern view, more than 20000 species of Spiders are identified and classified into 60 families. Most of them are not dangerous. In Ayurveda *Visha* mainly classified as *Sthavaram* and *Jangamam*. *Sthavaram* includes plant origin whereas *Jangamam* includes animal origin like snake, spider, scorpion and insects etc. The detailed explanation of *Luthavisha* origin, symptoms, mode of poisoning and treatment is available in our classical texts. Acharya Susrutha describes 16 species of *Lutha* and Vagbhata describes about 28 varieties. *Luthavisha* (spider poisoning) is very common in Kerala especially in lower socio-economic groups. Here is a case of 6 months old girl child who presented with reddish blue, soft, raised, spreading lesions with pustules, which produce severe irritation to the child and was diagnosed as *Luthavisha*. Generally, the poison of all spiders has properties of all 3 dosas with predominance of *Pita* and *Kapha*. So, the line of treatment includes *Pitakaphahara* treatment along with *Srothoshodana* and *Rakthaprasadana*. A remarkable change has been observed as the lesion stops spreading and pustules get dried up.

**Keywords:** *Luthavisha*, Spider poisoning, *Luthavishachikitsa*, *Neelithulasyadi kashayam*

### INTRODUCTION

This study aims at management of *Luthavisha* using *Kaphavataharachikitsa* without *Pitaprapakopa*. As per Ashtanga samgraha *Luthas* are classified based on dreadfulness as *Thikshna* (highly poisonous), *Madhya* (moderately poisonous), *Avara* (mildly poisonous). According to symptoms seen in man *Luthavisha* classified as *Vatika*, *Paitika*, *Kaphaja* and *Sannipathika*<sup>1</sup>. Also classified as *Krchrasadya* and *Asadya* by Susruthasambhitha<sup>3</sup>. Acharya Charaka classified as *Dushivishalutha* and *Pranaharalutha* based on signs and symptom<sup>4</sup>. It is believed that *Luthas* do bite the body parts

above the umbilicus whereas *Keetas* have affinity towards both above and below the umbilicus<sup>1</sup>. General symptoms of *Luthavisha* affected area are appearance of a round rash, white black, mild red, yellow or blue in colour, soft, raised up, its centre is either black or blue and resembling as a net at its edges, spreading, swollen, has burning sensation and severe pain, fever, undergoes quick ripening (ulceration or suppuration) exudation, sloughing, muscles falling out, other parts touched by this slough (exudation) also develop ulcers<sup>1</sup>.

Spider emits poison from their *Swasa* (breath), *Damsha*



(teeth), *Shakrth* (excreta), Moothra (urine), *Shukra* (semen), Lala (saliva), *Nakha* (nails), *Arthava* (menstrual blood). Venomicity and clinical manifestations of *Luthas* varies in accordance with modes of poisoning. When in contact with breath, the person quickly develops swelling associated with fever and burning sensation, bitten by teeth the site has profound swelling associated with pricking pain and burning sensation. In contact with excreta there is swelling with foul smell, burning sensation, itching, feeling of pins and needles, it ripens quickly and when ripe it is yellowish, white and resembles the fruit of *Pilu*. In contact with urine, the swelling has red colored edges and black colored center, resembles a whirl, emits foul smell, spreads outwards and has a burning sensation. In contact with semen the swelling resembles a tumor, which is hard and very painful. When in contact with saliva there appears pain, elevated rash which is not deep seated, itching and soft to touch. If scratched by nails, eruptions develop which have burning sensation, hot smoke is coming out. In contact with menstrual blood eruptions appear having the color of *Kimshuka* flower (red) and resembling a garland<sup>1</sup>. The lesion at the site of bite by spiders does not manifest for half a day (from the time of bite). Next on the first day, it appears as though pricked by needle, with no manifest colour, moveable slightly having itching and pain; on the second day the edges are raised surrounded by eruptions with well manifest colour, depressed in the centre, has Itching and resembles a tumor; on the third day there is red patch in the shape of a saucer associated with fever, horripilation, severe pricking pain and bleeding from the hair follicles; on the fourth day there is profound swelling, producing temp, dyspnoea and giddiness; on the fifth day it give rise to symptoms of poisoning concerned to the doshas; on the sixth day the poison invades all vital organs, and on the seventh day poison destroys life. These are the symptoms produced by spiders of strong poison, signs and symptoms also manifest as per the dosha predominance of spider. Thirst, burning sensation, fever, vesicles, for *Pita* predominant spider bite. Swelling, white in color, itching with mild pain for *Kapha* predominant. Rough swelling, blue colour, pain in joint for *Vata* predominant spider bite<sup>2</sup>. The general treatment of spider poisoning depends upon the *Doshas* involved and intensity of the poisoning. The treatment procedures among 24 *Upakramas* are chosen accordingly. Susrutha gives *Dashavidachikitsa* for *Luthavisha*, which includes; *Nasya, Anjana, Abhyanga, Pana, Dhuma, Avapeeda, Kavala, Vamana, Virechana, Siramoksha*<sup>3</sup>. It is difficult to cure skin diseases in pediatric cases, especially in *Ksheerada*. As it is more difficult to

deal with *Luthavisha* in children, suitable interventions are necessary for the management of such conditions.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A 6 month old girl child was brought to OPD with symptoms of bluish red, soft, elevated circular patches with pustules started a day before, of size 1 ×0.5 CM diameter over forehead and right cheek(2Num), and 1.5 CM diameter over left groin. Lesion spread to the sites where discharge from pustule leaks. Child showed fever and irritation with a duration of one day. Since the patient is a breastfeeding child, internal medication is administered to mother only. Condition was managed merely under OPD.

### Personal history:

**Ahara:** *Ksheerada, Alpam*

**Koshtha:** *Mridhu*

**Agni:** *Mandam*

**Sleep:** disturbed due to irritation

### Physical examination:

**Pulse:** 150 bpm

**Bp:** not taken

**Weight:** 5.6 kg

**Temperature:** 99.7°F

**Resp rate:** 22 bpm

### Details of lesion:

**Site:** forehead, right cheek, left groin

**Size:** 1×0.5 CM -forehead, right cheek(2Num)

1.5 CM dia – left groin

**Colour:** bluish red

**Oozing:** pus discharge

**Swelling:** elevated and soft

### Rogipareeksha:

**Drk:** *Vyaktham*

**Moothram:** *Anavilam*

**Akrthi:** *Hrsam*

**Malam:** *Sadaranam*

**Sparsham:** *Ushnam*

**Jihva:** *Upalepam*

**Shabdham:** *Sadaranam*

**Dasavidapareeksha:**

**Prakrthi:** *Pitakapha*

**Vikruthi:** *Kaphavata, Raktha*

**Balam:** *Rogibala-Alpabala*

*Rogabala-Madyamam*

**Sara:** *Alpam*

**Samhananam:** *Asamhata*

**Desham:** *Sadaranam*

**Pramana:** *Heenashareera*

**Satmya:** *Eekarasasathmya(Sthanyasatmyam)*

**Satva:** *Heenam*

**Aharashakthi-Abhyavaharanam-Madyamam**  
*Jaranashakthi-Madyamam*

### **Treatment:**

Internal medication was administered to mother only since the child was breastfeeding. External medication was administered to child after subsiding the initial symptoms during the follow up after 5 days.

Table 2, First course of treatment on 16/2/23

Table 3, Follow up after 5 days on 21/2/23

**Diet:** Avoid *Katu Amla Lavana Rasa Ahara* by mother including spicy food, citrus fruits, sour food items, pickle, garlic, horse gram, bakery, pappad, foods with masala, raw food, curd, fish, meat, biscuit, bread, egg, tubers, refrigerated food etc.

### **Assessment:**

No complications, new symptoms, or adverse events were observed during the entire treatment. Patient’s consent was taken and assessment of the disease condition was made before and after treatment. Based on the assessment of signs and symptoms, *Dadrumanadala* has been reduced to Grade I from Grade II ie size of circular raised patches reduced from larger than a coin to smaller than a coin. *Jwara* has been reduced to Grade 0 from Grade I ie 98.6<sup>0</sup> F-100<sup>0</sup> F to 98.6<sup>0</sup> F, *Vivarna* has been reduced to Grade II from Grade III i.e. only slight colour change persisted, *Pitika* has been reduced to Grade I from Grade II ie *Pitika* disappears but discolouration persists. Symptoms like *Ruja* and *Daha* cannot be elicited since the child is just 6 months old.

Assessment of disease condition before and after treatment- Table 1

## **DISCUSSION**

In this case, the lesion is bluish red in colour, soft and elevated which may indicate *Vatakapha* predominant nature in spider bite. Since the child is 6 months old, the symptoms like burning sensation or pain cannot be elicited even though the child shows irritation. The presence of leaking pustules indicates the involvement of *Pita*. So the treatment we adopted here is *Vishaharachikitsa* and *Kaphavatahara chikitsa* without *Pitaprakopa*. Patient took treatment for 12 days in total. After the first 6 days, the

patient was brought to OPD with the symptoms reduced by 50 %. Irritation, redness, leakage of pustules had subsided. *Neelithulasyadiyoga*<sup>5,6</sup> is one of the practically used medicines in the treatment of *Luthavisha* by keraleeya visha vaidyas. *Neelithulasyadi yoga* administered as *Kasaya* in this case for mother. This formulation has 14 ingredients, out of which *Neelini, Nirgundi, Lashuna, Maricha, Shunthi, Ashwagandha, Natha, Kusht, Eeshwaramooli* are having *Kaphavatahara* action. *Neelini, Surasa, Nirgundi, Rakthachandhana, Yashtimadhu, Nata, Eeshwaramooli* contribute to the *vishagna* action of the medicine. *Neelini* and *Nirgundi* are *Vranashodhana, Vranaropana,* and *Kushtangana* in action. *Shunthi, Ashwagandha, Yashtimadhu and Nata* are *Shophaghna* in action<sup>2</sup>. Other actions include *Varnya, Jwaragna, Lekhaniya, Krimigna, Vrushyam, Brumhana, Rasayanam* and *Grahi*<sup>2</sup>. *Neelithulasyadikashaya* is predominantly *Thikta* and *Katu* in *Rasa, Sheeta* (cold) *Veerya* and *Madhuravipaka*<sup>2</sup>. Along with *Neelithulasyadi kashayam, Vilwadigulika* is administered(to mother). *Vilwadigulikayoga*<sup>7</sup> is mentioned in *Ashtanga Hrdaya Uttarasthana Sarpavishapratisheda adhyaya .Vilwadigulika* composed of 16 drugs which are processed with goat’s urine. Among this *Devadharu, Pippali, Maricha, Shunthi, Haridra* and *Daruharidra* are *kaphavatahara* in action. *Haridra* and *Nata* are *Vishagna* in action. *Daruharidra, Shunthi and Nata* are having *Shophagna* action<sup>2</sup>. Other actions include *Deepana, Pachana, Vranagna, Kandugna, Tridoshagna, Varnya, Twakdoshahara, Vranagna, Kandugna* and *Srothoshodhana*<sup>2</sup>. *Vilwadigulika* is predominantly *Thiktha* and *Katu* in *Rasa, Lagu* and *Rooksha* in *Guna, Ushna* in *Veerya*<sup>2</sup>. *Neelithulasyadikashaya* and *Vilwadigulika* was the first line of medicine. After subsiding the drastic symptoms *Doorvadikeram* is advised for external application for child. *Doorvadikeram*<sup>8</sup> mentioned in *Sahasrayoga* contains *Durva, Nimba* and *Yashti* as *Kalkadravyas*. *Doorvadikeram* is predominantly *Seethaveerya*. *Yashti* is *Vatapitahara, Varnya, Vishahara, Vranashodhana, Vranaropana* and *Shophahara* in action. *Nimba* is *Tridoshagna, Grahi, Jwaragna* and *Varnya* in action. *Durva* act as *Kandugna* and *Tridoshagna*. *Doorvadikeram* is beneficial in *Vrana* conditions<sup>2</sup>.

## **CONCLUSION**

Venomicity and clinical manifestation of *Luthas* varies in accordance with mode of poisoning. Symptoms like fever, bluish red, soft, elevated patches along with pustules

indicate the *Vikrthaawastha* of *Pita* and *Kapha*. Line of treatment adopted here is for balancing *Pita* and *Kapha*. This study demonstrates that ayurvedic management at the proper stage of disease is very beneficial in the management of *Luthavisha*.

### Acknowledgment

I wholeheartedly thank Dr. Arun B, Assistant Professor, Department of Koumarbhritya, Vaidyarathnam Ayurveda College Ollur, Thrissur for inspiring me to execute this objective. My sincere thanks to the Department of Koumarbhritya and all the staff of VAC Hospital for all the support. I remember and thank all our colleagues at this moment for their valuable suggestions and comments.

### Conflicts Of Interest- Nil

### Source of finance & support – Nil

### ORCID

Salwa , <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-2650-1153>

### REFERENCES

1. Murthy S, Ashtangasangraham of vagbhata vol. iiiutharasthana, Chaukambha Viswabharati Oriental publishers and editors 2005 P.415,P.417,P.418 ,P.490
2. Sudam P.V, A Clinical Trial To Evaluate The Efficacy Of Madhukadi Yoga In Luta Visha,By, Department of

Agadatantra Govt. Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram. 2009.

3. Murthy S, Susrutha samhitha sutrasthana Vol 1; Chaukambha Viswabharati Oriental publishers and editors 2009 P.490
4. Sharma P. V Caraka samhitha, Text with English Translation, Chaukambha Orientalia; Varanasi; P.490
5. Kochunni Thampuram Prayoga Samucchayam Thritheeya Parichedam, Sulabha Books; Thrissur-4. Kerala, P.82; Pp. 342
6. Kuttikrishnamenon V.M: Kriyakoumudhi; Keetadhi VishaPrakaranum: National Books Kottayam P.634
7. Murthy S, Ashtanga Hridayam of vagbhata vol. iii uttarasthana, Chaukambha Krishnadas Academy, varanasi and editors 2008 P.357
8. Velayudakurup, Sahasrayogamvaidya priyavyakyanam, Tailaparakaranam; Vidyarambam Publishers, 26 th edition and editors 2006 P.285
9. Atheena V.K et al: Review Article- Neelitulusyadi Yoga In Lootavisha Chikitsa. International Ayurvedic Medical Journal (online) 2018 (cited July.2018) [http://www.iumi.in/post/img/uplo/1438\\_1432.pdf](http://www.iumi.in/post/img/uplo/1438_1432.pdf)

**How to cite this article:** Salwa, Arun B “Management Of *Lutha Visha* (Spider Poison) -A Case Report.” IRJAY. [online] 2023;6(7);21-26. Available from: <https://irjay.com>. DOI link- <https://doi.org/10.47223/IRJAY.2023.6703>

**Table 1. ASSESSMENT OF DISEASE CONDITION BEFORE AND AFTER TREATMENT**

BEFORE TREATMENT	AFTER TREATMENT
1.DADRUMANDALA(Circular raised patches)-GRADE II(Few mandalas are bigger /larger than coin)	1.DADRUMANDALA(Circular raised patches)-GRADE I (Few mandala and smaller than coin)
2.JWARA(Fever)-GRADE I(98.6-100 <sup>0</sup> F)	2.JWARA(Fever)-GRADE 0(96.6 <sup>0</sup> F)
3.VIVARNA(Colour change)-GRADE III(Marked colour change involving surrounding area upto 3 cm)	3.VIVARNA(Colour change)-GRADE II (Slight colour change involving surrounding area upto 3 cm)
4.RUJA(Pain)-NOT APPLICABLE	4.RUJA(Pain)-NOT APPLICABLE
5.PITIKA(Vesicles)-GRADE II(Paitika) in less than 5 sq cm	5.PITIKA(Vesicles)-GRADE I (Pitika disappears but discoloration persists)
6.DAHA(Burning sensation)-NOT APPLICABLE	6.DAHA(Burning sensation)-NOT APPLICABLE

**Table 2 First course of treatment on 16/2/23**

Sl. No	Medicine	Method of administration	Kala/time	Anupana	Action
1	<i>NEELITHULASYADI KASHAYA CHOORNAM</i> <sup>6]</sup>	½ tsp <i>Choorna</i> added to 1 ½ glass of boiling water from this <i>Kashaya</i> 80ml for mother	Twice daily half hour before food	Nil	<i>Kaphavatahara, no Pithaprakopam, Pachanam, Rakthashodanam, Vishaharam</i>
2	<i>VILWADI TAB</i> <sup>7]</sup>	With <i>Kashaya</i> for mother	1 BD	<i>Kashaya</i>	<i>Kaphavatahara, Vishaharam, Pachanam</i>

**Table 3 Follow up after 5 days on 21/2/23**

Sl no	Medicine	Method of administration	Kala/time	Anupana	Action
1	<i>NEELITHULASYADI KASHAYA CHOORNAM</i>	½ tsp <i>Choorna</i> added to 1 ½ glass of boiling water from this <i>Kashaya</i> 80 ml for mother	Twice daily half hour before food	Nil	<i>Kaphavatahara, no Pithaprakopam, Pachanam, Rakthashodanam, Vishaharam</i>
2	<i>VILWADI TAB</i>	With <i>Kashaya</i> for mother	1 BD	<i>Kashaya</i>	<i>Kaphavatahara, Vishaharam, Pachanam</i>
3	<i>DOORVADI KERAM</i> <sup>8]</sup>	External application	Twice daily	-	<i>Vranaharam Kandugnam</i>



**IMAGES BEFORE AND AFTER TREATMENT**

Before treatment On 16/02/2023	After treatment On 21/02/2023
	
	
	