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EXPLORING AYURVEDIC INSIGHTS OF PRAMEHA VYADHI

Sagar S. Darekar^{1*}, Pramod A. Hase² and Indraject S. Gadge³

¹Associate Professor, Department of Swasthavritta, Pharate Patil Ayurvedic Medical College, Dist. Pune.

²Associate Professor, Department of Kaumarbhritya Tantra, Siddhakala Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Sangamner, Maharashtra.

³Assistant Professor, Department of Kaumarbhritya Tantra, Siddhakala Ayurved Mahavidyalaya, Sangamner, Maharashtra.

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*Corresponding Author Dr. Sagar S. Darekar Associate Professor, Department of Swasthavritta, Pharate Patil Ayurvedic Medical College,

Dist. Pune.

ABSTRACT

Madhumeha or Prameha is the term used by the ancient Acharyas of Ayurveda to describe diabetes. Various forms of Prameha were mentioned in Ayurveda, based on the imbalance of Vata, Pitta, and Kapha Doshas. Prameha is associated with the incurable vitiation of Vata dosha. While vitiation of the Kapha dosha which is related with Prameha, is thought to be treatable, Prameha associated with vitiation of the Pitta dosha is difficult to cure. In addition to using Ayurvedic formulations and herbs, Ayurveda describes a number of therapy techniques for the management of Prameha, including pathya conduction, yoga, and sodhana karma. Detailed aetiology, symptoms, and management of Prameha from an Ayurvedic perspective is discussed in this article.

KEYWORDS: Ayurveda, Prameha, Diabetes, Madhumeha.

INTRODUCTION

Mythological origin of madhumeha

हविष्प्राशात् प्रमेहकुष्ठानां ॥ च. नि. ८/११[1]

Utpatti of Prameha is given by Charakacharya in Nidansthana. He described that Prameha and *Kushtha* are produced by the intake of *Havish*. (One type of *ghee*).

Vyutpatti

The word 'Prameha' consists of two sub words. i.e., 'pra' and 'meha'.

प्रमेह= प्र + मिह

The word *Meha* is derived from the root "mih Sechane" by adding 'Lue' Pratyaya to it mehit is

मेहति सिन्चति मूत्ररेतांसि । (हलायुधकोष)

It means to excrete in Sanskrut literature. [2]

मेहित मूत्रयति इत्यर्थः । डल्हन, सु.नि.६/१०

Madhumeha

मूत्र इव मेहति ।

The word Madhumeha can be subdivided into "Madhu" and "Meha"

Prameha is a medical condition that is characterized by the excretion of significant amounts of cloudy urine. Alternatively, it can be described as a condition where urine is excessively excreted, in large quantities and with high frequency. *Prameha* refers to the excretion of substantial amounts of one or more metabolic byproducts in the urine, which may or may not be the usual components of urine. This condition encompasses various metabolic disorders that are distinguished by specific abnormalities in the urine. In the *Shabdakalpadrum*, *meha* or *Prameha* is defined as follows:

प्रकर्षेण मेहति क्षरति वीर्यदिराने नेति प्रमेह:।

Madhumeha is a medical condition characterized by the passage of urine that is sweet like honey and possesses astringent qualities. The urine is also pale and dry in nature. In addition, the entire body of the individual affected by Madhumeha acquires a sweet taste. Sushruta, an ancient Indian physician, referred to this condition as "Kshaudrameha" before it was renamed as "Madhumeha". Kshaudra is a specific type of Madhu, or honey. Both Charaka and Sushruta have described the colour of the urine in Madhumeha patients as "pandu varna" and "kshaudra rasa varna" respectively. Sushruta and Vagbhata have stated that all forms of Prameha, a group of urinary disorders, can be classified as Madhumeha if left untreated or improperly treated for an extended period of time. [3]

सर्व एव प्रमेहा मूत्रादिमाधुर्ये मधुगन्धसामान्यात् पारिभाषिकीं मधुमेहाख्यां लभन्ते ॥ सु.चि.१२/६

Synonyms of madhumeha

Following are the few synonyms mentioned in the ancient treatise.

1. Ojomeha

Ojomeha is one of four types of Vataja variety of Prameha. In this type, depletion of Oja through urine takes place by vitiated Vata dosha along with the changes in taste and appearance. (Ch.chi.6/11).^[4]

2. Kshaudrameha

In sushruta nidan sthana.

3. Paushpameha

In Anjan Nidana Vagbhatta asserted that these types result due to because of the nexus between Dosha, Dushya and their specific combination according to concordance. Thats why in each subtype specific type of urine is voided, (A.H.Ni 10/8). Above classification helps to know the Dosha predominance, Dushya involvement, nature of urine voiding, etiological factors. And the state of the disease and progression.^[5]

Nidana (Aetiology)

In Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga Sangraha, Ashtanga Hridaya, Madhava Nidana, and Harita Samhita only Samanya Nidana of Prameha have been described. The specific etiological factors of Madhumeha have been described by Charaka only. (Ch. Su. 17/78-79)^[6] Charaka has described the general aetiology of Prameha^[7] (Ch. Chi. 6/4) and Nidana of Vatika Prameha^[8] (Ch. Ni. 4/35). In Sutra (17/78-81) also described etiological factors for Avranajanya madhumeha specifically. In all types of Pramehas Kapha is main Dosha. In Madhumeha, Kapha as well as Vata are together hence the disease is kept under the subtitle of Vatika Prameha.

आस्यासुखं स्वप्नसुखं दिधनी ग्रम्योदकानुपरसाः पयांसि ।

नवान्नपानं गुडवैकृतं च प्रमेहहेतुः कफकृच्च सर्वम ॥ च.चि.६/४

दिवास्वप्नाव्यायामालस्यप्रसक्तं शीतस्निग्धमधुरमेद्यद्रवान्नपानसेविनं पुरुषं जानियात् प्रमेहि भविष्यतीति ॥

Sushruta has classified Prameha in two types – Sahaja and Apathyanimittaja (Su. Chi. 11/3). The Etiological factors described by Sushruta emphasized the role of hereditary and dietetic factors.[9]

Sahaja (Hereditary): The word Sahaja indicates genetic predisposition. Sushruta narrated two causative factors i.e., patient eats less and dry food and always wants to wonder (Unstable). Charaka listed noted Madhumeha under Kulaja Vikara resulting due to defect in Beeia (Ch. Chi 6/57). [10] Chakrapani commented that it could be caused by Father, Mother, grandparents which means that diseases may be inherited from generation to generation. (Ch. Chi. 6/57) Chakrapani commented that indulgence of faulty foods at the time of pregnancy cause this defect. Charaka narrated that indulgence in excessive use of Madhura Rasa by mother during at the time of pregnancy causes *Madhumeha* and *Sthaulya*. (Ch. Sha. 8/21)^[11] As per Charaka, defect in Beeja, Beejabhaga or Beejabhagavayava can cause Sahaja disease (Ch. Sha. 4/30). Beeja can be correlated with ovum and sperm, Beejabhaga with chromosome and *Beejabhagavayava* with genetic coding.

Apathya nimittaja (Acquired): All etiological factors according to Dosha predominance and common for Prameha having qualities like Snigdha, Sheeta, Guru, Pichchhila, Madhura and Shlakshna. All these Nidanas causes excessive burden on digestion (Agni power) and form Aparipakva Dhatus and excessive Mala. i.e., Mutra & Sweda.

General etiological factors (Samanya nidana)

All these *Nidanas* are of *Santarpanjanya* or *Aavaranjanya Prameha*, as all of these *Nidanas* are productive of Kapha mainly and Kapha is the most important Dosha involved in the pathogenesis of Santarpanjanya or Aavaranajanya Prameha. All these Nidanas are divided into Aharaja, Viharaja and Manasa Nidana as follows:

	Charaka	Sushruta	Ashtanga sangraha	Ashtanga Hridaya
Aharaja				
Dadhi	+	-	-	+
Gramya, Anupa, Audaka	+	-	-	+
Mamsa				
Payaha	+	-	-	+
Navapana	+	-	-	+
Navanna	+	-	-	+
Guda Vikrita	+	-	-	+
Shleshmajanaka Ahara	+	-	+	+
Sheeta Dravya	-	+	-	+
Madhura Dravya	-	+	-	+
Amla Lavana	+	-	-	-

Rasa					
Snigdha Dravya	-	+	-	+	
Drava					
Annapana	ı	+	•	+	
Guru Dravya	ı	-	•	+	
Picchila Dravya	ı	-	•	+	
Mutrajanaka				1	
Dravya	_	-	-	+	
Tikta, Katu,				1	
Kashaya Rasa	-	-	-	+	
Viharaja					
Asya Sukham	+	-	•	+	
Swapna	_				
Sukham	+	-	-	<u>-</u>	
Diwaswapna	ı	+	•	-	
Avyayama	ı	+	1	-	
Alasya	ı	+	ı	-	
Manasa					
Vishada	+	+	+	+	
Tyakta Chinta	+	-	+	+	
Beeja Dosha	+	+	+	+	

Specific etiology of madhumeha

Vagbhata divided Madhumeha into two etiological subtypes (i) Dhatukshayajanya caused by Nidanas which leads to excessive tissue depletion. and (ii) Avaranajana Madhumeha caused by Nidanas which increase Kapha, Pitta, Meda and Mamsa which in turn leads to obstruction of vata.

Specific etiology of madhumeha^[12] (Ch. Su. 17/78-79)

Ahara	Vihara		
Excessive intake of -	Excessive indulgence in -		
Guru	Nidra		
Snigdha	Asyasukha		
Amla	Tyakta		
Lavana	Vyayama Chinta		
Navannapana	Sanshodhana Akurvatam		

Purvarupa^[13]

Special premonitory symptoms of Madhumeha are not described in Ayurvedic treatises. Common premonitory symptoms of prameha can be taken as Purvarupa of Madhumeha because it is classified under the *vatika* type of *Prameha*.

Sushruta said that a man with slight increase in urine output along with the premonitory symptoms should be considered as patient of *Madhumeha*. (Su. Ni. 6/22-23).

Roopa

Roopa is nothing but sign and symptoms of the disease. In *Ayurvedic* classics "*Rupa*" of *Prameha* are mentioned as follows.

Rupa manifests in Vyakti Avastha of Shatakriyakala, when the pathology of the disease manifests in full context. Symptomatology of Mahdumeha is described as follows:

- 1) Prodromal symptoms of *Prameha*.
- 2) General features of *Prameha*.
- 3) Specific symptomatology of *Madhumeha*.

General features of prameha

Characteristics of urine

Prabhutamutrata: Acharyas mentioned this as cardinal symptom of *Prameha*. In *Nidana sthana* (9/40) *Vagbhata* mentioned that *Prameha* is *Mutratipravritija* disease.^[14] *Gayadasa* on (Su. Ni. 6/6) comments that excessive urination because of amalgamation and liquification of the *Dushyas*.^[15]

Avilamutrata: Avila mutrata means turbidity in urine.

Picchila mutrata: At the time of diagnosis of *Anilatmaka* or *Kaphasambhav Prameha*, *Charaka* mentioned this characteristic of Urine.

Kashyapa mentioned few symptoms of pediatric patients (Ka. Su. 25/22). [16]

- *Mamsa Akrant*: Flies get attracted towards the urine.
- *Sweta* and *Ghana Mutra*: Child excretes urine having *Shweta* colour and solid consistency i.e., turbidity.

Associated Signs and Symptoms

Sushruta in Chikitsasthana mentioned two types of Prameha and their symptoms before propounding the treatment of Prameha. As follows;

Apathyanimittaja

- Sthula (Obese)
- Bahuashi (Consumes excessive food)

- *Snigdha* (Unctuous body fixture)
- Shayyasanswapnasheela (Like to sit down and sleep always)

 Kashyapa has narrated symptoms like Gaurava (Heaviness in the body), Baddhata (tightness) and jadata (Steadiness, Laziness).

Specific symptomatology of madhumeha

All the varieties of *Prameha* if not treated properly can may contribute into *Mahdumeha* in due course of time. (Su.Ni. 6/30)^[17]

Urine characteristics

As per *Charaka* Urine of *Madhumeha* patient is *Kashaya* and *Madhura* taste, *Pandu* in color and *Ruksha* in quality *Chakrapani* opines on assertion (Ch. Ni. 4/37) that *vayu* because of its *prabhava* converts *madhura Oja* into *Kashaya rasa*.

Resemblance of urine with honey is described by *Sushruta* (Su. Ni. 6/12), *Ashtanga Sangraha* (AS. Ni. 10/9) *Ashtanga Hridaya* (A.H. Ni. 10/18) And *Madhava Nidana* (M. N. 33/16)

Associated symptomatology

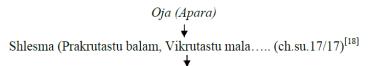
- Sharira madhurya: Vagbhata narrated that the body of Madhumeha patient become Madhura i.e., Sweet, (A.S.Ni. 10/9, AH Ni.20/21) This symptom is described by Vagbhata only.
- **Psycho-physiological feature** (**Characteristic**): This special character related to behavioral pattern is mentioned by *Sushruta* that, person suffering from *madhumeha* will like to stand than walking, like to sit than standing, likes to lie down than sitting and like to sleep than lying down.

Samprapti

Samanya Samprapti of Prameha is described by Charaka. According to Charaka due to Nidanasevan all the three Doshas are vitiated. Then especially the vitiated Kapha spreads all over the body due to it laxity. (Sharirashaithilya) While spreading, Kapha get mixed up with the Meda because the it is Bahu (abundant), Abaddha (non compact) and similar with the properties of the Kapha. (due to Samanaguna bhuistitavat). While mixing with Meda, Kapha affects its compactness. Thus, affecting the Mamsadhatu (muscle) to produce Putimamsapidaka (boils), Sharavika, Kachhapika etc. (Aprakritibhutatvata).

By affecting the body fluid, vitiated *Kapha* transforms it into the urine and blocks the openings of the urinary tubules coming out of the *Vankshana* and *Basti* (bladder). When they are excreted through urine, they cause the disease *Prameha* (*Prakritivikritibhutatvat*).

According to *Sushruta*, bodily principles *Vata*, *Pitta* and *Kapha* (*Aparipakwa* in nature) get mixed with *Meda*, deranged, and are carried down through urinary ducts. The deranged fat etc. of the body is present in urine, find its lodgment at the mouth of urinary bladder (*Bastimukha*). When they are excreted through urine, they cause the disease *Prameha*.



In Dhatukshyajanya Madhumeha & Krusha Madhumehi, Kshaya of prakrit shlesma & Prakopa of vikruta Shlesma takes place.

In case of Madumehi Shlesmakshaya is more in quantity.

Rasa adinam sukrantaka dhatunam -Oja-Bala

Due to *Dhatavaaganimandya*, *dhatu* cannot utilized *Ahararasa* for energy& further production of *Dhatu*

This excess quantity of unutilized *Ahara rasa* can be considered as *Mala* & excrete out of body through *Mutramarga*.

Srotasa involvement

Rupas are related with findings in Mutra and Purvarupas indicate the physical signs.

Srotasa	Dushti- lakshana
Mutravaha	Aavilmutarata, Prabhutmutrata
Udakavaha	Mukha-talu-kanthashosha, Pipasa, Pindikodweshtana.
	Most of Purvarupa are due to Medovaha Srotasa Dushti e.g.,
	Dantadinam maladhyatva, Snigdha- pichchhila-guru gatrata,
	Daurgandhya, Medoshosha, Angabheda, Dehe chikkanata.
Mamsavaha	Putimamsa pidaka, Kaye Malam.
Swedavaha	Atisweda, Atishlakshnata, Romaharsha, Sparshavaigunya,
	Paridaha.
	Gaurav, Aalasya, Aruchi, Mandagni, Aasyamadhurya, Shrama,
	Arasadnyata, Krushangata, Klaibya, Sthaulya.

Sadhyasadhyata

Charaka in Agryasangraha has described Prameha as-^[19] प्रमेहोऽन्षङ्गिणां । च.स्.२५/४०

This indicates that disease is "Yapya" in nature and Yapana must be carried out over a long duration of treatment. Charaka has mentioned Sadhya Asadhyatva of all types of Prameha. [20] साध्या: कफोत्था दश, पित्तजा: षट् याप्या, न साध्य: पवनाच्चतुष्क: ।

समिक्रयत्वाद्विषमिक्रयत्वान्महात्ययत्वाच्च यथाक्रमं ते ॥ च.चि.६/७

Sadhya

ते दश प्रमेहाः साध्याः समानगुणमेदःस्थानकत्वात्, कफस्य प्राधान्यात्, समक्रियत्वच्च ॥ च.नि.४/११

Kaphaja Premeha are Sadhya because line of treatments for dosha (Kapha) and dushya [Meda, Kleda, Rasa] are compatible with each other. Kapha and Meda are having similar characteristics and are vitiated in same place [sthana of Kapha is "Amashaya" and that of Meda is "Vapavahana". [21]

According to *Arunadatta*, in *Kaphaja Prameha*, body elements are in vitiated form and there is not the condition of *Dhatukshaya*. Therefore, they are comparatively easy to cure.

Chikitsa sutra

Charaka described the treatment of *Prameha* primarily in 2 groups i.e., *Sthoola Pramehi* and *Krusha Pramehi*.

The *Sthoola* (obese) patients should be treated by *Sanshodhana* (purificatory therapies), as they have excess vitiated *Dosha* in the body. They also can tolerate the purification process. And *Krusha Pramehi* (lean and thin) should be treated by *Samshamana* and *Brumhana* (promotive or pacificatory therapies), as they have less *Bala* to cope up with the *Shodhana chikitsa*.

Thus, after *Shodhana* therapy *Santarpana chikits*a should be administered in *Pramehi*, otherwise occurrence of *Apatarpanaja Vyadhi* like *Gulma* are possible. The treatment and formulations described in *Sutrasthana* should be applied in *Prameha* occurred due to overnutrition.

Shodhan chikitsa in sthoola pramehi

According to the type of *dosha* elevated, *Vamana* is the best choice for *Kaphaja Meha* while *Pittaja Meha* can be best treated with *Virechana Chikitsa*. *Sushruta* has put forth a general concept of *Shodhana* according to *Balwana Pramehi*. First, "*Snehana*" of patient must be carried out by *sadhita taila* or *ghrita* as per dominance of *dosha*. Then there is indication of

"Vamana". After Vamana, "Virechana" is indicated. Virechana dravyas must be strong enough to eliminate sufficient doshas because generally Pramehi patients have excess of Meda accumulated in their body where mild Virechana is ineffective to eliminate doshas properly. Seven days after Virechana, there is indication of "Asthapana Basti."

Shaman chikitsa in krusha pramehi

For Krusha Pramehi, medicinal drugs and diet which is Laghu and Santarpana should be administered e.g., Mantha, Yava, Jangalmamsa, Mudgayusha etc. Sushruta explained that in Krusha Pramehi Santarpan food and drinks should be given. Vagbahata stated same treatment as *Charaka*, but added that *Krusha Pramehi* should be given *Pachana* therapy.

This is common principle to treat Prameha and it is also applicable to Madhumeha. Madhumeha can be treated on the same line of treatment. It is sub type of Vataja Prameha and is said to be under the Asadhya disease. Even though it is uncurable it can be managed by management. Treatment can be discussed under two headings.

- 1. Nidana Parivarjana
- 2. Treatment according to *Dosha*.

Nidan parivarjana

This is primary principle to be followed in every disease. *Charaka* described that etiological factor i.e., Nidana Sevana of Prameha should be avoided. It is one of the treatments of disease.[22]

यैहें तुभिर्ये प्रभवन्ति मेहस्तेषु प्रमेहेषु न ते निषेव्याः ।

हेतोरसेवा विहिता यथैव जातस्य रोगस्य भवेत् चिकित्सा ॥ च.चि.६/५३

Chakrapani quotes that avoidance of etiological factors in Prameha is very important to control further progress of disease. Only Nidana Parivarjana is not sufficient but along with this proper diet management is necessary, various Acharyas mentioned various types of diet.

Treatment according to dosha

1. Kaphaja prameha

Shodhana- Vaman should be given to the well oleated patient after proper examination. Sushruta advised to give Teekshna Vamana.

Shamana- Especially for Kaphaja Prameha 10 Yogas are described in Ch.Chi.6. Sushruta described specific treatment for each subtype of *Prameha*.

Other chikitsa

Vyayam- Various types of exercise are useful to reduce excessive (fat) Meda and Kapha. Jalavaseka (Swimming) is also one type of exercise. It also increases peripheral utilization of glucose. Sushruta mentioned the following type of exercise. [23]

प्रवृध्दमेहास्तु व्यायामनियुद्धऋीडागजतुरगरथपदातिचर्यापरिऋमणान्यस्त्रोपास्त्रे वा सेवरेन ॥ सु.चि.११/११

Udwartana

It is *Kaphamedahara*. It reduces *Shaithilya* of body.

Vilepana

Vilepana is useful to reduce excessive sweating and *Daurgandhya*.

2. Pittaja prameha shodhana

The line of treatment of Pittaja Prameha is Virechana and shaman chikitsa.

3. Vataja prameha

Shodhana- Virechana and Vamana both procedures can be conducted in Vatika Prameha. No Shodhana is advisable in Vataja Meha according to Charaka. In Madhumeha involvement of Vata is seen and Basti is main treatment for Vata Dosha. Hence Acharya Sushruta and Vagbhata have mentioned Basti in Vatika Prameha.

Shamana- Acharya Sushruta described 4 specific Kwatha for Vataja Prameha in Chikitsasthana, 11. All Acharyas have been mentioned Tarpana Chikitsa in this type of Prameha.

Specific treatment of *madhumeha*

Charakacharya has not given any specific treatment of Madhumeha. Therefore, the general treatment of *Prameha* should be applied to the *Madhumeha*. Sushruta has written a separate chapter of Madhumeha Chikitsa (Su. chi.13). The treatment should be differed according to type of Madhumeha. [24]

Shodhana

This treatment should be given in Aavaranjanya Madhumeha. Vaman and Virechana can be given according to predominance of Dosha. In Madhumehi Teekshna Virechana (drastic purgatives) should be given because due to layer of Meda all over the body, patient of Madhumeha cannot be easily purgated. [25] दुर्विरेच्या हि मधुमेहिनो भवन्ति मेदोऽभिव्याप्तशरीरत्वात्, तस्मात्तीक्ष्णमेतेषां शोधनं कुर्वीत ॥ सु.चि.१२/६

Shamana -Tarpana Yoga should be given in *Dhatukshayajanya Madhumeha* and the treatment which mainly controls the aggravated *Vata* should be done. For that *Vataja Prameha Chikitsa* is useful.

Rasayana chikitsa – Madhumeha is a disease in which due to Ojakshaya, the quality and functions of all Dhatu are disturbed. Therefore, Rasayana therapy is very useful in both types of Madhumeha. But Rasayana should be given after Shodhana only as it acts excellent in the well purified body. Sushruta and Vagbhata have described "Shilajeet Prayoga" for Madhumeha as a Rasayana Chikitsa. He mentioned Salsaradi Gana Bhavit "Shilajita" in Madhumeha after Shodhana Chikitsa. (Su.Chi. 13/10-11.) According to Vagbhata, it is very potent drug and is having rejuvenating power which gives better results even in those Madhumehi patients which are labeled as incurable. Use of "Suvarna-makshika, Rajatamakshika and Tuvaraka taila" should be done Madhumeha. [26]

Pathyapathya

The substance which is not harmful for *Sharira & Manasa* are called *Pathya*. In *Prameha*, *Pathya Ahara* is:

- Shooka dhanya (Grains): Yava, Godhuma, Kodrava, Uddalaka, shashtikashali
- Shami dhanya (Pulses): Kulattha, Mudga, Chanaka, Adhaki.
- Shaka (Vegetables): Fresh herbs described under Tikta-varga and Kashayavarga
- *Mamsa* (Non-veg); *Vishkira, Pratuda Mamsa, Jangala.* These *mamsa* must be *shulya* i.e., roasted with the help of *shulya* [tandoor].
- Taila (Oils): Sarshapa, Atasi, Nikumbha, Ingudi.
- Pana (Drinks): Kushodaka, Madhudaka, Triphala rasa, Sidhu,
- ➤ Pathya vihara- Different types of stressful exercises like, Udwartan, Snana, Avasechana, Chankramana, Vilepana by Sevya [Ushira], Twak, Ela, Agaru, Chandana etc. All these maneuvers help to reduce Meda and Kapha which are the main dushya in Prameha.
- ➤ Apathya ahara- Jala, Dugdha, Dugdhavikruti, Ghruta, Sugar, Rice preparations, Navannapana, Pishtanna, Ikshuvikruti, Aanoopa, Audaka & Gramya Mamsa.
- ➤ Apathya vihara- Diwaswap, Avyayama, Atinidra, Dhumapana, Ekasthana-asana, Mutravegadharana, Raktamokshana.

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