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Critical analysis of Application of Jyotishiya Panchanga Concept in Ayurveda

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Abstract: Ayurveda and Jyotish science are complimentary to each other. Ayurveda had incorporated in itself lot of Jyotishiya concepts. *Panchanga* (five divisions of time) is one of them. It is applied during auspicious timings of various *sanskaras* to auspicious timings of drug administration, collection and storage and surgical intervention. Panchanga is an astrological concept used to determine the favourable and auspicious timings required for doing the particular things based upon the five factors such as – 1. *Tithi*, 2. *War*, 3. *Nakshatra*, 4. *Yoga* and 5. *Karana*. At some place whole *Panchanga* concept is applied while at some places its constituent element such as *Nakshatra* etc have been applied. Similarly, there auspicious *Tithis* and *Waras* (dates), *Karan* and *Yogas* which are indicated for performing particular functions. The Jyotishiya concept of Panchanga is very well applied in Ayurvedic science to perform surgical procedures as well as to administer medicines and collect raw drugs.

Keywords: *Panchanga, Tithi, Wara, Nakshatra, Yoga, Karana*

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INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda and Jyotish science are complimentary to each other. Ayurveda had incorporated in itself lot of Jyotishiya concepts. *Panchanga* (five divisions of time) is one of them. It is applied during auspicious timings of various *sanskaras* to auspicious timings of drug administration, collection and storage and surgical intervention. *Panchanga* is an astrological concept used to determine the favourable and auspicious timings required for doing the particular things based upon the five factors such as – 1. *Tithi*, 2. *Wara*, 3. *Nakshatra*, 4. *Yoga* and 5. *Karana*. The review of Jyotish literature showed that at ancient Jyotish acharyas have divided the *Nakshatras* on the basis of their nature and given the detail account of functions to be done under that category of *Nakshatras*. Similarly, there auspicious *Tithis* and *Waras* (dates), *Karan* and *Yogas* which are indicated for performing particular functions. The Jyotishiya concept of *Panchanga* is very well applied in Ayurvedic science to perform surgical procedures as well as to administer medicines, collect raw drugs, messenger related omens, and *sanskaras*.

MATERIAL & METHOD

Literary method of research was adopted in the present study. Critical and comparative study of Ayurvedic literature

and Jyotish science literature was done to come to logical conclusion.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Application of Panchanga Concept In Ayurveda

In auspicious day, *Tithi*, *Karana*, *Nakshatra* and *Muhurta*, the surgeon should worship Agni and Brahmana and do swastivachana and then carry out the surgical procedure by avoiding the cut on vital parts, blood vessels, nerves and bones.^[1] After administering *snehana* and *swedana*, the patient should be given the Madanfala decoction mixed with honey, salt and yashtimadhu for vama (emesis) on auspicious day, *Nakshatra*, *Tithi*, *Karan* and *Muhurta* after worshiping the Gods, brahmanas, teachers and senior physicians.^[2] After administering *snehana* and *swedana*, the patient should be given the Trivrutta paste in 1 Karsha quantity (12 g) mixed with water for virechana (purgation) on auspicious day, *Nakshatra*, *Tithi*, *Karan* and *Muhurta* after worshiping the Gods, brahmanas, teachers and senior physicians.^[3] Take the dravyas used for 'Kalyanaka Ghrita' and Gandhagana dravyas and medicate the ghee of cow. Give this ghrita in auspicious *Tithi* and *Nakshatra* to the patient.^[4]

Application of Panchanga In Administration of Drugs

On diagnosing the lady as pregnant as early as possible (before completion of one month), one may carry out the 'Pusanwahan Sanskara' before the development of sex determining features to get the male child. For this purpose, the pregnant lady should consume the buds of banyan tree grown in cow house along with curd in 'Pushya' Nakshatra. Alternatively she can consume white mustard seeds grinded in curd in 'Pushya' Nakshatra. Or she can take oral 'Ksheerpaka' made from drugs like Jivaka, Rishabhaka, Apamarga and Sahachara. Or she should boil the white rice and take its water after allowing to cool as nasal drop in right nostril in 'Pushya' Nakshatra.^[5] Patient should enter the *Rasayan Kuti* along with servicemen in *Pushya* or *Punarwasu Nakshatra* and auspicious *Tithi* after paying the oblation with *Shatavari Ghrita*.^[6] Chitrak Rasayan should be given in *Aashadh* or *Kartik* or in *Margashirsha* month and in *Pushya Nakshatra*.^[7] On auspicious day, *Tithi* and *Nakshatra* one should give the medicine and *dhoopana*.^[8]

Application of Panchanga In Drug Collection

One should collect the emetic 'Madanfala' drug in *Vasant* or *Greeshma Ritu* (summer) in *Pushya*, *Ashwini* or *Mrigshira Nakshatra* and *Mitra Muhurta*.^[9] One should collect the antidiarrheal 'Kutaja' drug in *Pushya Nakshatra*.^[10] As per acharya Vagbhata,

on auspicious day of white half and when moon is in *Pushya*, *Punarwasu*, *Hasta*, *Chitra*, *Mrigashira*, *Revati* or *Shatabhisha Nakshatra*, and in auspicious *muhurta*, one should bring the 'Anjana' formed in the *Sindhu* river.^[11] Before the *Nakshatras* (stars/constellations), *Graha ganas* (Planets), *Chandra* (Moon), *Surya* (Sun), *Anila* (Wind), *Anala* (Fire) gets abnormal and the natural seasonal environment gets changed, and the herbal drugs give up their medicinal properties, one should collect the drugs.^[12] One should uproot the drugs for making 'Prasarni Taila' in auspicious day and *Nakshatra* with prior *swastivachana* and prayer.^[12] One should prepare the *pratisarniya Vanhi Kshara* for treating the Piles on auspicious day and *Nakshatra*.^{[13][14][15]}

Application of Nakshatra In History Taking of The Patient

As per acharya Arundutta, examiner should interrogate about the *Nakshatra* in which the diseases had took place while noting the history of the patient as there are constellation derived fevers which are easy or difficult to treat as per the *Nakshatra* in which they are developed.^[16]

Application of Panchanga In Upanayan samskara Upanayan *sanskara* is performed for the deserving student on auspicious day, *karana*, *muhurta* and *nakshatra*.^[17 & 18]

Application of Panchanga In Karnavedhan**Sanskara** Ear piercing ceremony

(*Karnavedhan Sanskara*) should be performed in the sixth or seventh month, in the bright half and on an auspicious day, Tithi, Karana, Nakshatra and Muhurta.^[19]

Application of Panchanga In**Vedarambha/Vidy-aarambha Sanskara**

On auspicious day, in pushya, hasta or shrawan constellation, auspicious Karana, Yoga, Muhurta and auspicious position of Moon of uttarayan kala, the student should observe the fast on previous day and on next day, the student desirous of undergoing the educational training should get ready with hairs cut and bath.^[20]

Application of Panchanga In Annaprashan

Sanskara In the sixth month, Annaprashan Sanskar should be done. Paediatrician should ask the parents to feed the baby with various fruits in the sixth month. After eruption of teeth, in the 10th month, on auspicious day when there is Prajapatya Nakshatra is ruling, after offering the prayer to the God and Brahmins and recitation of 'swastivachana' by the brahmanas, the fried meat preparation made from the flesh of partridge, sparrow or hen should be offered to the fire along with the mantras. Out of the remained food, little quantity should be fed to the baby 3 to 5

times. After 12 months, the baby should be given the light food like rice.^[21]

Application of Panchanga In Prasawagar

Prawesh On entering the 9th month of pregnancy, the pregnant lady should enter the obstetric room on auspicious day, Nakshatra, Yoga, Karana and Maitra Muhurta and wait for labor pain to start.^[22]

Application of Panchanga During Bath of The

Child The baby afflicted from grahas should be bathed in *Rewati, Shrawan, Swati, Prajapati, Uttar Bhadrapada, Uttar Ashadha, Uttara Falguni, Pushya and Moola Nakshatas*.^[23]

Application of Panchanga In Assessing The

Messenger Related Omen The messenger coming when physician is busy in Pitrukarya or Devakarya, or when there is earthquake, thundering, eclipse or afternoon, in midnight and evening or when there are inauspicious planets like *Rahu* or *Ketu* in ascendant (*ashubha graha in lagna*), and in *Nakshatras* like *Krutika, Ardra, Ashlesha, Magha, Moola, Purvaashadha, Purvaphadrapada, Purvafalguni* or *Bharani* is inauspicious. And messenger coming in *Tithis* like *Chaturthi, Navami, Shashthi* is also inauspicious.^{[24] [25]}

The messenger coming when there is no evening, no afternoon, no inauspicious planet in ascendant (*ashubha graha in lagna*), who have not come in *Ugra* or *Dhruva* *Nakshatras* and who have not come in *Tithis* like *Chaturthi,*

Navami,, Chaturdashi or Rikta and who have not come in events like eclipse is auspicious.^[26] Acharya Chakrapni had mentioned Jyotishacharya Varahmihir in his commentary here to give the details of Ugra Nakshatras. Ugra Nakshatras are All 3 Purva (Aashadha falguni, Bhadrapada), Bharani and Magha are Ugra Nakshatras. One can perform

terrible work like uprooting, killing, capturing , poisoning, burning, attack in these Nakshatras. Dhruva Nakshatras are – All 3 Uttara and Rohini are Dhruva Nakshatras and in the ruling of these Nakshatras. One can perform shantipuja, Abhisheka, plantation, city development, religious work and other such works which requires stability.^[27]

OBSERVATIONS

Panchang & Medical Application		
Procedure	Panchanga	Reference
Shalya Kriya (Surgery)	Tithi, War, Nakshatra, Yoga, Karan	S.S. 5/7
Aushadhi Karya (Drug Administration)	Tithi and Nakshatra	S.Sha.8/20, SUT 39/234-238
Aushadhi Sangraha (Drug Collection)	Nakshatra	B.S.K. 5/1-4 C.K. 1/13
Aushadhi Nirman (Drug Manufacturing)	Tithi and Nakshatra	R.P.-Chakra 21/184
Karna Wedhan (Ear Piercing)	Tithi, War, Nakshatra, Yoga, Karan	S.Su.16/3
Doota (Messenger)	Tithi and Nakshatra	S.Su. 29/18-20, C.I. 12/68-70
Shakuna (Omen)	Tithi and Nakshatra	S.Su. 29/18-20, C.I. 12/68-70
Teaching (Upanayan Sanskara)	Tithi, War, Nakshatra, Yoga, Karan	S.Su. 2/4
Naming (Namakaran Sanskara)	Tithi and Nakshatra	C.Sha. 8/50
Annaprashan Sanskara (First feed)	Wara, Nakshatra	K.S.Khi. 12/15-18
Praswagar Prawesha (Entering the Obstetric Room)	Tithi, War, Nakshatra, Yoga, Karan	C.Sha. 8/35
Rasayan Kuti Prawesha	Wara	A.H.U. 49/9

DISCUSSION

The review of Ayurvedic literature shows that jyotishiya concept of Panchanga

has been utilized in Ayurveda during various procedures like while performing surgery, drug administration, drug collection, drug storage,

the rituals like ear piercing, naming feeding and starting of education, (Karnavedhan, Namkaran, *Annaprashan*, *upnayan sansakara*) , during arrival of messenger, to ensure the beneficial outcome of the various procedures. During patient interrogation, it is used to decide the prognosis of the disease as per the *Nakshatra* in which the disease is produced. It is considered that the procedures done under auspicious and favourable timings brings the positive and favourable outcome. The Various tasks to be performed under particular *tithi*, *war*, *nakshatra*, *yoga* and *karana* have also been mentioned in *Jyotish granthas*. Ayurvedic acharyas like Charaka, Sushruta, Vagbhata, Harita and Chakrapani have extensively used this concept in their respective texts. It seems that during ancient time physician were also well versed in astrological science. The review of literature showed that ancient Ayurvedic acharyas have used the concept of 'Panchanga' for deciding the auspicious timing to carry out the particular task depending upon the suitability of five factors like *tithi*, *war*, *nakshatra*, *yoga* and *karana*. Jyotish acharyas have divided the *Nakshatras* on the basis of their nature and given the detail account of functions to be done under that category of *Nakshatras*. It is observed and concluded that during the ruling of *Dhruva* (stable) *nakshatra*, the procedure that require stability and

durability should be performed like putting various implants in the body. The medicine given or surgery done, during the ruling of *Kshipra* (fast) *nakshatra*, yield fast results. Hence they are suitable for all types of medical conditions. The medicine given or surgery done during ruling of *Chara* (moving) *nakshatra*, removes the various obstructive conditions from calculi, thrombus, intestinal obstruction etc. promptly. Though the most of the medical procedures are prohibited under the ruling of *Ugra* and *Tikshna* (sharp and aggressive) *Nakshatras*, the procedures like *Agnikarma*, Laser and radition therapy, chemotherapy, sclerotherapy, oncosurgery etc could be done in these *Nakshatras*. Any procedure done during the ruling of *Mrudu* (soft) *Nakshatras*, gets easily accomplished.

RESULTS

1. The surgery done and medicine administered during Sunday and Thursday , *Bhadra* and *Purna tithis*, *Kshipra Nakshatras*, *Shobhan Yoga*, *Chatuspada Karana* should yield the maximum beneficial effects.
2. *Bhadra* and *Purna tithis* are usually favourable for doing surgeries and administering medicines. Sunday and Thursday waras are usually favourable for doing surgeries and administering medicines.

3. *Shobhan and Siddha Yogas* are usually favourable for doing surgeries and administering medicines. *Shakuni, Chatuspad and Bawa Karanas* are usually favourable for doing surgeries and administering medicines.
4. During the ruling of *Dhruva* (Stable) *Nakshatras* like *Uttara bhadrapada, Uttara falguni, Uttara Ashadha and Rohini*, the medical procedures which requires stability and durability like, intraocular Implant, fracture correction, Organ transplantation , in vitro fertilization etc could be carried out.
5. During the ruling of *Mrudu Sadharan* (soft) *Nakshatra* like *Anuradha, Vishakha, Krutika , Mrugashira, Chitra and Revati* , all the general Medical therapy and surgery could be done.
6. The medicine given or surgery done during ruling of *Kshipra* (fast) *nakshatra* like *Ashwini, Pushya and Hasta*, yields fast results. Hence they are suitable for all types of medical conditions.
7. During the ruling of *Chara* (moving) *Nakshatras* like *Shatabhisha, Dhanishtha , Punarwasu, Shrawan, Nakshatra*, generally all the medicines could be administered in this muhurta.
8. The delicate and curative medical procedures may not be done during *Ardra* ,

Ashlesha, Jyeshtha, Purva Bhadrapada, Purva Falguni , Purva Aashadha, Magha, Moola and Bharani Nakshatra but the aggressive therapeutic measures like cancer chemotherapy, radiotherapy, cancer surgery, cauterization, laser therapy could be done in these *Nakshatras*. But prognosis is usually bad.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Surgery should be done and medicine should be administered during *tithis* like *Bhadra and Purna*.
2. Surgery should be done and medicine should be administered during *waras* like *Sunday and Thursday*.
3. Surgery should be done and medicine should be administered during *Kshipra Nakshatras* like *Ashwini, Pushya and Hasta*.
4. Surgery should be done and medicine should be administered during *Yogas* like, *Shobhan Yoga*.
5. Surgery should be done and medicine should be administered during *Karanas* like *Chatuspada and Bawa* .
6. The astrological concept of '*Panchanga*' is well applied in Ayurvedic science.

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