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A case study on the management of *Kitibha kushta* (Psoriasis) with *virechana, dhanyamla dhara and takra dhara*

Research Article

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Abstract

All the skin diseases in Ayurveda have been discussed under the broad heading of "Kushta". Kushta Roga a dermatological disorders including psoriasis described as one of the most chronic disorders which is recurrent and immune mediated skin condition. It can have negative impact on physical, emotional and psychosocial status of affected person. Prevalence rate shows that it affects 1-2% of worldwide population in both the genders. This disease characterised by scaling, thickened-rough skin lesions, itching, in severe cases covers entire body. Kitibha Kushta is included in Kshudra Kushta commonly found today, having sign and symptoms similar to Plaque psoriasis. In this case study, a 49 years old male with chief complaint of Kandu (Itching), Powdery discharge and dry blackish brown patches over the anterior and posterior side of both legs, abdomen and upper back treated with Shodhana Chikitsa using Virechana Karma, along with Sarvanga Dhara (Dhanyamala Dhara), Shirodhara (Takra dhara) and Samshamana Aushadhis (Oral medicines) for 24 days. Patient recovered from the symptoms by undergoing above said treatment and there is improvement in the quality of life of the patient.

Key Words: Kushta Roga, Psoriasis, Kitibha Kushta, Virechana, Sarvanga Dhanyamala Dhara, Takra Dhara, Samshamana Aushadi.

Introduction

Skin is an important organ of communication with the external world. It is one of the five Gyanendriyas which responsible for Sparsha Gyana or touch sensation. Majority of the dermatological disorders have been described under the umbrella of Kushta. Skin is an organ of complex physiology and any manifestation in skin should be explored in terms of general physical and mental health and also on the basis of the status of Rasa and Raktha dhatus, the physical and functional state of which is more often reflected through the skin (1). Kushta is a Tridoshaja vvadhi mentioned in Ayurveda that undergoes manifestation in the Bahya rogamarga (2). Kushta is considered a Mahagada due to its durvijneya, sudustara and daruna swabhava (3). Kushta Roga is also considered as a Papakarmaja Vyadhi (a disease due to sinful activities) and a Kulaja Vikara (a hereditary disorder). According to Sushruta Acharya if the person suffered from Kushta in his previous life and if he takes rebirth then he develops Kushta in his present life also so called Poorva Janmakrata vyadhi (4). Kushta is considered as Samsargaja Vvadhi, can spread from one person to the other (communicable or infective disease)

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Reader, HOD & PhD Scholar, PG & PhD Department of Roga Nidana Evum Vikriti Vigyan, Parul Institute of Ayurveda, Parul University, Limda, Vadodara - 391760, Gujarat. India. Email Id: <u>sachin.deva@paruluniversity.ac.in</u> (5). Also, *Kushta* is one among the *Raktha Pradoshaja Vikara* (6) and *Santarpana janya vikara* (7).

The word Kushta means "Kushnati sarvam vapuhu iti Kushta" - The one which disfigures the body or makes one's skin look disgraceful or ugly or which destroys twak is Kushta (8). The disease in which there is discolouration of skin, putrific changes (Kushnati) happens in skin after a long period of time, such disease is Kushta (9). Depending on the Amshamsavikalpa of dosha- dushya, kushta has been classified into 7 Maha kushta and 11 Kshudra kushta (10). Kitibha kushta is one of the type of the Kshudra kushta, which is having Lakshanas like Shvava, Kina, Khara sparsha, Parusha, Ruksha pidika and Kandu. Kitibha kushta is developed by vitiated Vata & Kapha doshas dominance, which are having lakshanas of the individual doshas. Kitibha kushta manifests due to vitiation of Sapta dhatus, they are Tridosha, Twak, Rakta, Mamsa and Lasika (11). The samprapti of kushta begins with the multitude of interactions of tridosa with twak, rakta, mamsa and lasika and gradually may afflict other dhatus, depending upon the strength of samprapti ghataka (12).

Psoriasis is one of the common skin diseases characterised by scaly papules and plaques. Onset of psoriasis is most common in the second to fourth decades of life though it can appear just after birth or in old age. A high familial occurrence of psoriasis (7% to 36%) suggests that genetic factors play a role in its aetiology. Psoriasis occurs in equal frequency in males and females. Psoriasis is a chronic disease marked by periods of remissions and exacerbations. Remissions may last for a few weeks to many years. Psoriasis is characterised by the development of erythematous, well-defined, dry,



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scaly papules and plaques of sizes ranging from a pinhead to palm-sized or larger. The scales are abundant, loose, dry and slivery white or micaceous (13).

Case Report

A patient of 49 years aged, married male from Old Sama, Gujarat was brought to *Kayachikista* Outpatient department of Parul institute of Ayurveda on 07/04/2021 with complaints like *Kandu* (Itching), Powdery discharge and dry Blackish brown patches over the anterior and posterior side of both legs, abdomen and upper back for 2 years.

History

Patient was healthy before two years, after that he started complaining of slight skin discoloration over the anterior aspect of calf region just below the knee joint of left leg and itching over it, gradually it increased and spread all over the abdomen, back region and both lower limbs along with itching. The patient took allopathy medications for above complaints, but he did not get satisfactory relief. So, he got admitted in our hospital. From 07/04/2021 to 30/04/2021 he underwent Ayurvedic treatment for the same and was discharged after remarkable improvement. No any family history was present regarding psoriasis or any dermatological disorders. Sleep is disturbed due to the itching and there is loss of appetite. On Examination, all vitals of the patient were within normal limit. His blood pressure was 130/90mm of Hg, Temperature 98.6 Degree Fahrenheit. No past history of Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus or Dyslipidaemia could be elicited. All the blood investigations reports were within normal limits.

Physical Examination

Blood pressure - 130/90mmhg. Pulse rate – 76 beats/min. Respiratory rate – 17/min. Temperature – 98.6° F Bowel – Irregular (Once in two days) Appetite – Decreased (Less intake of food) Micturition – 2-3 times/ day Sleep – Disturbed

Ashtasthana Pariksha

Nadi(Pulse) – Vata Pradhana kapha Mala(Stool) - Asamyak Mutra(Urine) - Samyak Jivha(Tongue) - Lipta Shabda(Speech) - Prakrita Sparsha(Tactilation) - Ushna Druk(Eyes) - Prakruta Akriti(Anthropometry) – Madhyama

Systemic Examination

- Respiratory system on auscultation, normal sounds heard and no abnormality detected.
- Cardiovascular system S1 S2 heard and no abnormality detected.
- Gastrointestinal system Soft, non-tender, no organomegaly detected.

Examination of Skin Inspection

- Size & shape Large and Irregular.
- Nature of skin Dry Blackish brown patches over the anterior and posterior side both legs, abdomen and upper back.
- Colour Blackish brown
- Thickness 1 mm to 1.4 mm thick
- Nature of Lesion Blackish brown elevated lesions
- Discharge Powdery discharge.
- Colour of Discharge Silvery colour.

Palpation

- Moisture- Dryness
- Temperature Warmth to touch
- Texture Rough

Table 1: Clinical findings of Kitibha Kushta (11)

Shyavam/ Snigdha	Blackish / dark discolouration due to vitiated <i>Vata Dosha</i> .	
Kharatwam	Roughness to touch due to Vata vitiation.	
Parushatwam	Hardness to touch is because of Vata Dosha.	
Rukshatwam	Dryness of the skin is because of vitiation of <i>Vata Dosha</i> .	
Ugra Kandu	<i>Kandu</i> is produced by the vitiated <i>Kapha Dosha</i> .	

Materials and methods

Centre of study: Parul Institute of Ayurveda Hospital IPD, Vadodara

Simple random single case study

Treatment Underwent

 Table 2 : Internal Medication

Sl.No	Name of Medicine	Dose	Time	Anupana
1	Patolakaturohiny adi kashyam	15ml	Morning Before Food	45 ml Luke warm water
2	Maha Manjishtadi Kashayam	15 ml	Evening Before Food	45ml Luke warm water
3	Vilwadi Gulika	2 tab	2 times After Food	Luke warm water

Table 3: Showing details of Panchakarma Proceduresgiven to patient

Sl.No	Procedure	Date	No of Days
1	Hinguvastaka Choorna 1 Tspn – twice daily before food with luke warm water	07/04/2021 - 11/04/2021	5
2	Virechana with Gandharvahastadi Eranda Taila (20 ml with Luke warm water at 6 AM)	12/04/2021	5
3	Dhanya Amla Dhara (Sarvanga) After application of Nalpamaradi taila Externally (30 Minutes)	17/04/2021 23/04/2021	7

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	Takra Dhara (Siras)	24/04/2021	
4	(30 Minutes)	- 30/04/2021	7

Sl.No	Name of Medicine	Dose	Time	Anupana
1	Patola katurohinyadi kashyam	15ml	Morning Before Food	45 ml Luke warm water
2	Maha Manjishtadi Kashayam	15 ml	Evening Before Food	45ml Luke warm water
3	Vilwadi Gulika	2 tab	2 times After Food Morning & Evening	Luke warm water
4	Hinguvashtaka Choorna	1 Tspn	12 PM Before Food	Luke warm water
4	Nalpamaradi taila		2 Times/day Ez	xternally

Assessment of Clinical Features Based on Gradation System

Table 5: *Shyava* – Discolouration of skin

1	Normal Skin Tone	0
2	Mild Brownish Discoloration	1
3	Moderate Brownish discoloration	2
4	Severe Brownish Discoloration	3

Table 6: Twak rookshata – Dryness of skin

1	No line on scrubbing with nail	0
2	Faint line on scrubbing by nail	1
3	Tingling and even words can be written by nail	2
4	Excessive <i>Rukshata</i> leading to <i>Kandu</i> and crack formation	3

Table 7: Parushatwam – Hardness of skin

1	No Bahalatva (Hardness)	0
2	Mild hardness of the lesion	1
3	Moderate hardness of the lesion	2
4	Very thick lesions with scaling	3

Table 8: Kinakara Sparsha – Roughness of skin

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Normal Skin texture	0
Mild rough lesions on touch	1
Moderate rough lesions on touch	2
Severe rough lesions on touch with scaling	3
	Mild rough lesions on touch Moderate rough lesions on touch

Table 9: Kandu - Itching

1	No itching	0
2	Mild / occasional localized itching which is tolerable	1
3	Moderate generalised itching	2
4	Very severe itching disturbing sleep and other activity	3

*Gradation of symptoms based on 'Developing guidelines for clinical research methodology in Ayurveda' textbook of Prof. M.S BAGHEL.

Symptoms	Before Treatment	After Treatment
Shyavata	3	1
Kharatwa	2	1
Parushatwa	3	1
Rukshatwa	3	0
Kandu	3	0

Note – In this case study only subjective parameters were taken for assessment of treatment. Objective parameters were considered for integumentary system Examination.

Discussion

In this case report a patient with Kandu (Itching), Powderly discharge and dry blackish brown patches over the anterior and posterior side of both legs, abdomen and upper back with a history of 2 years. Patient's Agni was in Avara avstha and had irregular diet pattern, excessive use of alcohol, smoking, frequent and excessive intake of non-vegetarian food resulted into Kitiba kushta (Psoriasis). After proper examination and diagnosis, the patient was successfully treated with classical Ayurvedic principles i.e. Shodhana (detoxification) and Shamana chikitsa (palliative treatment). Acharva Charaka gave the precise Chikista Sutra for Kushta. The Shodhana and Shamana chikitsa are described in Samhitas for the management of Kushta (14). The first and foremost important part of Ayurvedic management is to correct Agni. So Deepanais to be done as the Poorva karma Pachana (preliminary measures) of Shodhana Chikista (15). For that Hinguvastaka Choorna was used, it was given for 3 days. After Virechana, Sarvangadhara with Dhanya amla and Takra dhara was done.

Deepana – Pachana

The medicine will act in the body like *Amrita* (nector) when there is *Niramavastha*. Thus, it is necessary to attain such a state before administration of *Virechana* drugs to get maximum benefit. *Deepana* and *Pachana* drugs help to achieve such state. The outcome of the medicine which has administered in *Ama* state is compared to the extraction of juice from *Amla Phala* (Unriped fruit) (16).

Hinguvastaka Choorna was given as Deepana -Pachana dravya to enhance digestive fire and to digest the Ama. Hingvastaka choorna is a very common Ayurvedic medicine for the management of digestive disorder and metabolic disorders. It is mentioned under the treatment of Gulma roga, Ajeerna, Agnimandya etc. Hingvastaka choorna contains Shunthi, Pippali, Maricha, Jeeraka, Shudha hingu having Deepana properties so it can be used in Agnimandya. By the virtue of its Ushna guna, it is a Deepana, Pachana and Vata Anulomana in action .Due to its Ushna guna it also acts as a Sothahara drug (17).

Maricha regulates the secretion of juices in the digestive system and helps in curing indigestion and gastrointestinal ulcers (18). Hingu is Vedanaasthapana dravya Deepana, Pachana and Mootrajanana. As it



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contains Sulphur it is very useful in reducing *Kandu*. It also acts as *krimighna* (19).

Virechana

Virechana is the procedure which expelled out the *Doshas* through *Adhomarga* i.e., *Guda*. This *Karma* mainly aims to eliminate *Pitta doshas*. After *Virechana* Therapy, the person gets purity of channels of circulation, clarity of the sense organs, lightness of the body, increase in energy, promoting power of digestion and metabolism, freedom from diseases and expulsion of faeces (20).

Most of the Kushta comes under the heading of Raktapradoshaja vyadhis. Pitta is the mala of Rakta. So, there is Avinabhava Sambandha between Rakta and pitta. When excessive amount of Pitta is expelled out from the body it helps to purify the Rakta also, and cures the Raktapradoshaja vikaras like Kushta. Virechana karma has got specific action on Sapthadravyas (Rasa, Rakta, Lasika, Udaka, Kapha, Pitta etc) and on Vata also, which are prime factors in causation of skin disorders. Hence Virechana is the best Shodhana karma in Kushta and to prevent reoccurrences (21). The medicine used for Virechana is Gandharvahastadi Eranda Tailam.

Gandharvahastadi Eranda taila has Gandharvahastadi kashaya as Drava dravya, ingredients of Gandharvahastadi kashaya as Kalka dravya and Eranda taila as the Taila base. Eranda is the chief ingredient of Gandharvahastadi Eranda taila. Eranda has Snigdha, Sukhsma and Teekshna properties does Srotoshodhana. The preparation contains seven more ingredients of which most of them possess Ushna veerya, Madhura rasa and Madhura vipaka, with which it becomes more potent for pacifying Vata dosha. Most of the drugs in this Taila are Vata Kaphahara in action. In brief the Dosha karma are Vata Kaphahara and Vatanulomana, Deepana as Agnikarma, Mala shodhana as Malakarma and Sookshma Srotogami as Srotokarma (22).

Dhanyamla Sarvanga dhara

Dhara (flow) is pouring of fluids like decoction, medicated oil, medicated milk, Medicated butter milk, water etc over the body/head continuously in rhythm from a specific height for specific period (23). *Sarvanga dhara* is done with *Dhanya Amla* for 7 days after the application of *Nalpamaradi taila* over the whole body.

Dhanyamla dhara means stream pouring of liquids obtained by fermenting cereals and other herbal medicines over the body of patient. It is a type of *Drava sweda*. *Dhanyamla sarvanga dhara* contains properties like *Laghu* (light), *Snigda* (slimy), *Teekshana* (pungent), *Sheetasparsha* and *Ushna veerya*. The therapy is very effective in *Kapha-vata* predominant conditions. Therefore, *Dhanyamla* is effectively used for *Vataja*, *Kaphaja* or *Vata Kapha Samsarjana Janya* diseases. As *Dhanyamla* is having attributes similar to *Pitta Dosha* it may not good for the conditions of vitiated *Pitta Dosha* or *Rakta Dhatu*. Due to these properties its actions like analgesic, Anti-inflammatory and digestive properties at cellular level of ingredients are beneficial in the management of inflammatory conditions (24).

Nalpamaradi Taila is a classical formula to lighten complexion as well as soften, nourish, and repair skin. Nalpamara means four Vriksha Twak viz Nyagrodha, Udumbara, Asvatha and Plasksa. It is indicated in Pama, Kandu, Pidaka, Kushta and Visarpa. Application of Nalpamaradi taila followed by Dhara would take care of Shotha (inflammation) and Daha (burning sensation) as it contains Ksheerivriksha Drayva which are Kashaya rasa pradhana, Pitta and Kaphahara (25). It contains tannins as their main chemical constituents which inhibit bacterial growth. The oil given for local application act as physical barrier (emollients type) also (26).

Method of preparation of *Dhanyamla*

Several recipes of preparing *Dhanyamla* have been found in authentic texts. *Sahasra Yoga* describes the formula of *Dhanyamla* (27). Although recent authors and researches have been followed the formula of *Sahasra Yoga* there are some variations in the quantity. It is advised to prepare *Dhanyamla* on an auspicious day after determining ideal time and stellar constellation.

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Sl. No	Dravya	Botanical name	Quantity
1	Tandula	<i>Oryza sativa</i> Linn	10 <i>Prastha</i> (7,680g appr. 7kg)
2	Pruthuka	Pressed form of Oryza sativa	10 <i>Prastha</i> (7,680g appr. 7kg)
3	Kulattha	Macrotyloma uniflorum	40 <i>Pala</i> (1920 g)
4	Laja	Puffed form of Oryza sativa	40 <i>Pala</i> (1920 g)
5	Kangubeeja	Panicum sumatrense	1 <i>Adhaka</i> (appr. 3000g)
6	Kodrava	Paspalum scrobiculatum Linn	4 Prastha (appr. 3000g)
7	Nagara	Zingiber officinale Roscoe	2 Prastha (appr. 1500g)
8	Danthasatha	Citrus aurantifolia swingle	4 Prastha (appr. 3000g)
9	Deepyaka	Trachyspermum involucratum	8 Kudava (appr. 1500g)

Table no. 10: Showing Ingredients of Dhanyamla and quantities

All these assorted ingredients should be placed in a large earthen vessel and to this 150 litres of hot water is added. In some references it is found that these grains are tied in a clean cloth and added in to the vessel. The vessel is close with an earthen lid and sealed by wrapping clay and heated gently in moderate fire for a period of seven consequent days. On the 8th day the required quantity of the liquid should be taken out and add hot water to it. Before *Dhara* the patient is anointed with Taila (28).



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Takra Dhara

Shirodhara as the name suggests is formed by two different terms Shira (head) and Dhara (flow) is pouring of fluids over the head continuously in rhythm from a specific height for specific period (23). Shirodhara is done with medicated Takra for 7 days after the application of Nalpamaradi taila over the whole body. Takra Dhara is a special Ayurvedic therapy in which buttermilk is medicated. It is processed with medicinal herbs. Takra Dhara is useful for psoriasis, hypertension, insomnia, etc (29).

Probable mode of action

Takra has Pancha Rasa except Lavana Rasa, Amla Vipaka, Ushna Virya & Vata Kaphaghna property. Takra has Vata- Kaphaghna properties & can be used locally and also internally to treat kushta which are Vata Kapha dominant. Buttermilk contains large amount of lactic acid. It is scientifically proved that lactic acid is used to moisten & lessen the appearance of thickened psoriatic scales. In Kushta, Dhatus are involved and Dhatu Shaithilyata takes place due to vitiated Doshas. It is clear from Ayurvedic classics, that the Dhatukshaya will lead to Ojo Kshaya and also the Ojas is getting Kshava due to Kopa, Shoka, etc which are the triggering factors of Psoriasis. Reduction in Chittvega, Kopa, Shoka are taking place due to Takradhara, which in turn overcomes the Oja Kshava. It is stated in the benefits of Takradhara that it is best therapy for Ojo kshava. Kushta chikitsa gives equal importance to the mental status of the patient, as it is very clearly indicating procedures and activities to enable the patient to have a calm mind. As *shirodhara* with *Takra* is said to have the aforesaid qualities to soothe the mind, this treatment was also applied (30).

Method of preparation of Takra for Dhara

One and quarter Prastha (20 Palas or 960g) of a year old Amalaki dried under sun and also in cold night, should be taken after removing seed. This is boiled in eighteen Kudava (3456ml) of water and reduced to 1/6th part (576ml). Equal quantity of sour butter milk, prepared from freshly boiled cow's milk is fermented by the addition of a little sour buttermilk overnight, is added to this. This mixture is used for Sirodhara after anointing the head and body of the patient with Nalpamaradi taila. The process should be done daily for a period of 7 days. The duration of treatment as well as the time period is according to the nature of the disease and the physical condition of the patient. It is done usually for a fixed time (45 minutes to 1 hour). After the Dhara, the head is washed with Luke warm water. Then head should be wiped with towel and Rasnadi choorna is applied. Patient is advised to take rest for a period same as the period of the procedure, then to take bath (31).

Manjishtadi Kashayam

Manjishtadi Kashayam is a very famous Ayurvedic medicine used in Kushta. This medicine is mainly indicated in Kapala kushta, Vakaraktha, Pama and Raktha mandala. It is effective blood purifier used

in skin diseases, itching, abscess, gout arthritis, varicose ulcer. Manjishta also possess of antiinflammatory, anti-microbial, antiulcer, anti-viral and wound healing properties. Manjishtadi kashayam which is potent enough for Kushta and also has Rakta shodhana properties was given for the Sheshadosha Shamana. All the drugs are of Laghu and Ruksha Guna except Guduchi which is Guru and Snigdha therefore, *Kledashosha* is done effectively by the *Kwatha*. All the drugs are of Tikta and Kashaya rasa. So, Ama pachana, Agnidipana, kleda Shoshana, pitta and Kapha Shamana was expected so that Rakta Prasadana action is effectively carried out. All the drugs have their actions targeted mainly on Rasa, Rakta and Mamsa dhatu. These three are the main components of Kushta Samprapti (32).

Patola Katurohinyadi Kashayam

Patola Katurohinyadi Kashayam is used commonly in the treatment of skin diseases. This medicine is prepared from the herbs in Patoladi gana of Ashtanga Hrudaya. The main ingredients are Patola (Trichosanthes dioica), Katurohini (Picroohiza kurroa), Chandana - Sandal wood (Santalum album), Madhusrava (Leptadenia reticulate), Guduchi (Tinospora cordiafolia) and Patha (Cissampelo spariera). It is one of the very potent Ayurvedic medicine indicated in Kamala, Kushta, Visha, Chardi, Jwara etc. It is widely used in the treatment of skin diseases involving itching, pigmentation and burning sensation (33).

Vilwadi Gulika

Vilwadi Gulika is an ayurvedic antiviral and antibacterial tablet indicated to treat poisonous infections, insect, and rodent bites. This combination makes it a powerful Vata and Kapha balancer. It is also very effective in Vishuchika, Ajeerna, Garavisha and Jwara. Vilwadi gulika contains Bilwa, Surasa, Karanja, Natam, Surahwam, Harithaki, Vibeethaki, Amalaki, Shunti, Maricha, Pippali, Haridra, Daruharidra which are processed in goat's urine. It is Tiktha and Katu in Rasa, Laghu and Ruksha in Guna and Ushna in virya with Kaphavathahara and Vishaghna property. On the basis of the above facts it was presumed that this drug will be effective to cure Dushivishajanya kushta. Dushivisha is a transformed stage of Sthavara, jangama and Garavisha which becomes less potent, slow acting and has tendency to stay in the body for a longer period. It is given to remove toxic materials from the body due to the antimicrobial immunomodulatory and ant inflammatory activity (34).

Conclusion

Psoriasis can be correlated with *Kitibha Kushta*, type of *Kshudra Kushta* which is developed by vitiated *Vata & Kapha doshas* dominance. This case study demonstrates the successful management of *Kitibha Kushta* treated with the *Shodhana (Virechana)*, *Shamana* (Internal medications) and *Bahirparimarjana Chikitsa* (External application). *Dhanyamla dhara* and



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Takra dhara were used here which gave excellent results to the patient from symptoms like Itching, Powdery discharge and Discolouration of skin. Viruddha ahara and vihara is one of the major causes of kushta roga. It means, prevention from diseases can be done at nidana level, i.e. Nidana parivarjana. Pathyapathya seems to play an important role in curing of this disease. So, along with treatment it should be given proper weightage. This is one among the relapsing type of skin disease, so patient is advised to follow Pathya apathya like Ahara, Vihara, Achara and Vichara. On the basis of this case study it can be concluded that Virechana and Shamana treatment along with Dhanyamla dhara and Takra dhara was effective in the management of Kitibha Kushta.

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