**INTRODUCTION**

In a present era, the human being is prone to numerous degenerative issues, because of modern lifestyle, professional stress, food habits etc. \(^1\)\(^2\) Lifestyle related disorders like hypertension and diabetes, reported especially in young adults are a prior concern. \(^3\)\(^-\)\(^7\) Association between different diseases like cardiac dysfunction and chronic liver diseases have also been reported. \(^6\)\(^8\) In such disorders Ayurveda management is very useful and satisfactory because of its long-lasting effects and multisystemic regenerative actions without any harm. \(^6\) Panchakarma is a comprehensive system of knowledge and practice to purify the body from the degenerative influence of toxins and restore it to balance with natural laws.

In Ayurveda, there are two types of Karmas Shaman Karma and Shodhana Karma. In Shodhana Karma there are five types of Karma such as Vaman, Virechana, Basti, Nasya and Raktamoshana. Among the Shodhana Karma, Bastikarma is considered as prime as it can provide relief in Koshtagata, Dhatugata, Marmagata and Sarvashareergatavikara. \(^9\) Basti is one of the major treatment modality that comes under Yuktiyaprasraya Chikitsa. As Vata is responsible for disjunction and conjunction of faeces, urine, bile etc. with their receptacles, there is no remedy other than Basti for the pacification of Vata when it is aggravated severely. Hence Basti is said as half medicine or even whole medicine by Acharyas. The rectal absorption can prove the good alternative route of drug administration as it provides partial avoidance of first portal pass metabolism. It has been demonstrated that the rectal route is more efficient than even the intravenous route. \(^6\)\(^10\) Ayurveda aims mainly at maintaining the health of healthy persons and recovering the deceased persons. \(^6\) As per this
view, **Basti** is used not only for the diseased person but it used in a healthy person. It seems to be very effective concerning immunity. **Basti** provides equilibrium of Dosha, Dhatu, Malas, provided person should follow Dinacharya and Ritucharya. Shodhana in the form of **Basti** possesses benefits like disease preventive, curative and health promotive. Thus, this is the relevance of **Basti** in healthy person for its immunity. Keeping this in view, this article has highlighted the relevance of **Basti Karma in** diseased person as well as healthy persons to cures the disease and maintains health respectively.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVE**

- To discuss, evaluate and elaboration of Bastichikitsa in a healthy person.
- To discuss, evaluate and elaboration of Bastichikitsa in diseased persons.

**Material and Methods:** Ayurvedic classical text such as Charak Samhita, Sushrut Samhita, Ashtanghrudaya etc. and other literature were reviewed critically and scientifically to compile the concept of **Basti**. Modern scientific literature describing the mechanism of absorption was reviewed critically. Further, data available data on web-based sources and article published on the internet were compiled.

**Literary review of Basti**

Basti karma means enema which is medicated. In this process, medicated decoctions and oils are administered via anus in the body with the aid of instruments specially designed for the process of Basti. Basti karma’s place of action is Pakwashaya which is Vata Dosha’s main site. Hence it is the major treatment modality for Vata Dosha. It is the major treatment modality for Vata Dosha. Vāta is considered as the cause of all type of movements of the body and is the main etiological factor in the pathogenesis of various diseases. Apan Vāyu is responsible for the elimination and retention of faeces, urine and other excreta. Vata is mainly located in the large intestine. Basti sustains the age, improves strength, digestive fire, intellect, voice, and complexion and provides a happy life. The body performs all its functions smoothly. It is very beneficial for all age groups. The bioavailability of the drug i.e. the part of the drug increases when given as Basti. According to Acharya Sushrut, Basti works as plant watered at its root and then root circulate it in all branches. It has also been described as Ardha Chikitsa i.e. half treatment for the management of diseases. The age of administration of Basti starts from one year.

**Classification of Basti**

According to the consistency of the drugs, Basti is broadly divided into two types

**Niruha Basti (Aasthaapana) and Anuvasan Basti**

Niruha Basti/ Aasthaapana Basti.- Decoction of medicinal plants is the major content of this Basti, other ingredients like honey, Saindhava, Sneha, Kalka, Prakahsepa Dravya are also included to form a suspension. Niruha means to eliminate. This Basti eliminates morbid Doshas from the body. It is also known as Asthapan which means to establish life span and sustains age. Prasuta i.e. approximately 1200ml is the quantity of Niruha Basti for administration. The quantity of Sneha to be added depends upon the dominance of Dosha.

Vata dominance- 6 Pala i.e. 1/4th of Niruha Bastidravya
Pitta dominance- 4 Pala i.e. 1/6th of Niruha Bastidravya
Kapha dominance- 3 Pala i.e. 1/8th of Niruha Bastidravya

**Sneha Basti/Anuvasan** – In this type medicated Sneha in the form of Oil/ Ghee, lipids are administered. Anuvasan means to stay, the administrated medicines stay inside for a longer period, without causing any harm. It can be given daily.

Sneha Basti again subdivided according to the quantity of Sneha(oil) into two types.

Anuvasana Basti- 1/4th of the quantity of Niruhabasti
Matra Basti- 1/2th of the quantity of Anuvasanabasti

The number of Basti to be given according to the need of the patient, Basti is divided into

Karma -30 Basti
Kala -16 Basti
Yog -8 Basti

Anuvasana and Niruha Basti are given alternately. Rasayana and Burhan Basti can be given to the geriatric person. Dosha shaman Basti is preferred for the young person as metabolic activities are at its peak level. Varnya Basti is preferred for the people who are more beauty conscious. Lekhan Basti can be given to the obese person or who want to loose their extra fats. Vrshhya Basti can be given in infertility. Burhan Basti can be given to the children for their normal growth and development. The person who is habituated with heavy work or heavy exercise can undergo Matra Basti. Matra Basti has an advantage as the person does not need to follow any special Pathya.

**Bastikala (Time factor for Basti)**- According to various authors, Basti in a healthy person can be given in Varsharitu. Varsharutu is the best time for Basti because in this season Vataprakopa is present in the body as well as in the environment. Usually, Niruhabasti is given in the morning because evening time is the period of Vataprakopaka and Niruha Basti causes Vataprakopa. This is the reason why snehadravya is added to Niruhabasti. AnuvasanaBasti can be given in the evening. Basti can also be given according to age, Rutu, Kala, etc.
Indications - Vatajvikara (hemiplegia, muscular dystrophy, sciatica, Parkinsonism, cerebral palsy), diseases related to muscles and bone, Rheumatic diseases, Vibandha (constipation), abdominal distension, delayed mild stone in children, Ashmari (kidney stone, bladder stone), Jeerna Jwara (chronic fever), Niramaatisar (chronic diarrhoea).

Contraindication - Krusha (very emaciated), Amatisara (Acute diarrhea), Chhardi (vomiting), Kasa (cough), Shwas (asthma), Madhumeha (Diabetes), Shoonapayu (inflamed anus), Kritahara (immediately after taking food).

Table 1: Shows Basti according to diseases

| Sr. No. | Basti Prakar          | Ingredients                                                                 | Diseases                                      |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Vaitrana Basti        | Amlika (Emali), Guda, Saindhava, Gomutra and Til taila in the proportion of 4:2:3:16 | Amavata                                       |
| 2      | Kal Basti             | Dashmula, Triphala                                                           | Amavata                                       |
| 3      | PicchaBastiMocharas   | Mocharasa -50 gm, 2. Dugdha (Milk) -2 litres 3. Ghrita -80 ml 4. TilTaila -20 ml 5. Mulethi Kalka -40 gm | Atisaar, Pravahiaka                           |
| 4      | Lekhana Basti         | Triphala Tail –160ml, Putayavanadikalka – 96gms, Tiphalad iQauth - 480ml, Shuddha Shilaajiti, Kasis, Hingu, Tuttha-, Yavkshaar, Saindhava 12gm each, Madhu- 210ml, Gomutra-120ml | Sthoulya                                       |
| 5      | PanchatiktaSheerabast | Tiktavargadravya, milk, ghruta                                               | Idiopathic pradoshaja Vikara                  |
| 6      | Ksheerbasti           | Drug -1 Parts, Ksheera - 8 Parts, Water-32 Parts.                           | Amlapitta, Parinamshool                       |
| 7      | PanchaprarsrutikBasti | Ksheer- 200ml, Madhu- 100ml, Taila- 100ml , Ghruta- 100ml, Saindhava         | Ashthidhatu pradoshaja Vikar (Disease-related bones) |
| 8      | Yapanbasti            | Madhu, Snea, Saindhava Lavana, Kalka- Specific kalkadravya like Shatpushaha, Madhuyasti, Kutaja, Rasanjana, Saindhava and Priyangu Kwatha- Musta, Bala, Rasana, Katuropini, Panarnava, Gudhuchi, Prushnaparni, Kantakari, Ushira, Aragvadha, Bibhitaka, Trayama, Manjishth, Shaliparni, Gokshur, Bruhati, MadanphalaKshira | Saptadhatu vrdhaka                              |
| 9      | Madhutailika Basti    | Erandamula Quath, Shatpushachurna, Saindhava, Madanphala and Madhu and taila | Kritahara, Klaibya, Ksheerata                 |
| 10     | Yuktaratha Basti      | Vacha, Saindhav, Pimpali, Madanphala, Madhu, Taila, Erandumulaquath, Mamsarasa | Katishula, PravaasGrasit, Pashwashula         |
| 11     | Siddha Basti          | Yava, Kola, Kulattha, Pippali, Yashtimadhu, Saindhava, Madhu, Taila           | Upachyaya, Ksheen                              |
| 12     | Dhanwanter Basti      | Dhanvanti tail made up of BalaMoolaa, Yava, kola, Kulatha, Dashmula, jivaniyagan, Daruwaridra, Manjishtha, Chandan, Sariva, Tagara, Triphala, Til oil, Cow milk | Vataroga                                       |
| 13     | Manjishtadikwath Basti | SaindhavaLavanas 5 gm, Manjishtadh Kalka 40 gm, MurchitaTila-Taila 60 ml, Madhu 80 ml ManjishtadhKwath 100 ml [Manjishtha, Triphala, Guduchi, NimbaTwak, Shatpushpa] Gomutra 100 ml, Kanji 100 ml Total 480 ml | Peripheral arterial disease                    |
| 14     | Sahacharadi           | Kalka, Snea and Kwatha should be taken in 1:4:16 ratio. 1 part of Kalka of Sahachara (Barleriaprinonis), Nagar (Zingiberofficinalis), Devadaru (Cedrusdeodara), 4 parts TilaTaila and 16 part Kwatha of Sahachara, Devadaru and Nagara | Neurological                                   |
| 15     | Madhuyashtyadi        | Madhu, Saindhavalavana, Yashtimidhu tail, Shatpushpakalka and ErandaMulQuath | Amlapitta                                     |
| 16     | Pip plyadi            | Pipali, Madhuka, Bilva, Shatahva, Madan, Vacha,Kustha, Shati, Pushakaramula, Chitraka, Deavdaru, Tilataila, Cow milk | Parikartika                                    |
| 17     | Kheerbala             | Bala 10 gms, Milk 160 ml, tila oil 40ml                                       | Infertility                                    |
Table 1: (Continued)

| Sr. No. | Basti Prakar       | Ingredients                                                                                      | Diseases         |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 19     | Murivenna          | Karanja Bark, Kumari Leaves, Tambul, Shigru, Murivenna Taila, Vastasthith, Kinshuka Leaves, Vasukam Whole plant, Palanu Bulb, Shatavari. | Astibhagna       |
| 20     | ChandanaBalaLakshadi tail Basti | Chandana, Bala, Laksha Sesame oil(Til Oil), Bala (Bheda), Ashwagandha, Bala, Darvi, Murva, Musta, Twaka, Tamalptra, Naggkeshara, Raasas, Laksha, Shati, Pittsara, Sariva, SovarchalaLavana, Rock salt | Katigatvat       |
| 21     | Erandmooladi      | Kwatha (decoction) Dravya: 480 ml Erandamula 10 g, Rasna Root 10 g, Bala Whole plant 10 g, Devadara Heartwood 10 g, Sahachara Whole plant 10 g, Kalka (herbal paste) Dravya: 40 gm Madana Phala Fruit 7.0 g, Musta Rhizome 6.6 g, Vacha Bark 6.6 g, Purna nava Whole plant 6.6 g, Pippali Fruit 6.6 g, Sarshapa Fruit 6.6 g, Murchita Tila Taila Sesame oil - 80 ml Saindava Rock salt - 5 g Madhu Honey - 80 ml Godugdha Milk - 200 ml | Osteoporosis     |
| 22     | Madhutailik        | Erandmool roots, Shatapushpa fruits, Madanphaal seeds, Honey, Sesame Oil, and Rock Salt. | Diabetes         |
| 23     | Dwipanchmooladi   | Dashmula, Til oil, Madhu                                                              | Vataroga         |
| 24     | Balaguduchyadi    | Bala, Guduchi, Daruhardra, Paste of 16 gms each Jatamansi, Chandan, Kundra, Ashwagandha, Saral, Rasna, Til Oil | Bruna            |
| 25     | Saindhavadi       | SaindhavaLavana, Sryashi, Rasana, Shatapushpa, Yavani, Sarjika, Marich, Sunthi, Kushtha, Sovarchlavan, Vida lavan, Vacha, Ajmoda, Madhuka, Jereka, PushakrMool, Kana (Pippali), ErandaTaila, Shtupashka, Kanji, Mastu (TakraPrakar) | Amavata          |

**Bastikarmukata (Stepwise Mode of Action of Basti)**—

Before starting Basti Chikitsa some Purvakarmas(pre-treatment) are to be carried out to achieve better results.

**Amapachana**— It clears the obstruction in Srotas caused by Ama. Amapachana is done with the Deepana, Pachana Drayvas such as Trikatu Churna or Panchkola Churna. When Amapachana is achieved, the Srotomukh becomes clear and Srotas become ready to carry vitiated Doshas from Shakha back to Koshtha.

**Snehana** (oleation of the body)— Snehha enters the body through tiny pores of the skin by its Anupravayana Prabhava. After entering the Srotas, it causes Vishyandana and softness in the body and destroys obstruction in srotas. It also pacifies Vata as Snehha is Vatashamaka.

**Swedana**— After proper Snehana, Swedana is done to liquefy the Doshas which obstruct the minute channels.

Thus with the help of these three procedures, Amapachana, Snehana and Swedana Dosha move from Shakha towards Koshtha.

**Basti**— Any substance present in the body which is not conducive to health is considered as mala. Vagbhata said that if one ignores to evacuate this Mala properly, it may lead to various diseases such as Prameha, Arsha, Grahani, Medoroga etc. In healthy and empty rectum the absorption is more and in diseased condition and the presence of stool delays absorption. Hence proper excretion of Mala is very essential which is done by Basti.

Bastidravya given through rectal route reaches Pakwashaya which is considered as the main site Vata. As Vata is pacified the disease itself get cured because it is a major causative factor in the disease. Other two Doshas do not have existed without Vata.

**VataSthana and so it can alleviate the Vataat.**

According to Ayurveda, water given at the root of the plant gives nutrition to the whole plant similarly the Basti functions. Guda (rectum) is considered as the Moola of Sharira. It has rich blood and lymph supply. The Bastidravya cross the rectal mucosa and absorption of unionized and lipid-soluble substances from the rectum takes place through the rectal venous plexus. The absorption of the drug from the rectum is according to the laws of transfer of molecules across the biological membrane. It is known as diffusion. Diffusion is
The transport of molecules from a region of higher concentration to a region of lower concentration. The concentration of Bastidravya is more in the lumen of the rectum and lower in the cells adjacent to the rectum. Thus the molecules of Basti move from the rectum to surrounding cells. Many factors such as physical status of Bastidravya, ingredients of Basti and their solubility, temperature, size of molecules, pH of gastrointestinal fluid, ionization, the surface area of absorption, vascularity influence the rate of diffusion and absorption.

The constituents of Basti reach up to the small intestine and get absorbed through the gut wall, dispersed in the body and thus exert systemic effects. The intestine is enclosed by 4 layers viz. Muscular, Submucosal, Serosa land mucosal layer. When Basti is administered, initially Bastidravya comes in contact with the mucosal layer which is most superficial. The layers of the intestine and the villi get the nutrition thereby improving the absorption of micronutrients. These micronutrients enter the circulation and finally reach up to the target organ. These all things would be possible only when the intestine gets purified regularly. The mucous membrane of the intestine can easily absorb the lipid-soluble content and finally thrusts into circulation. Thus drug may deliver to the target tissues and Basti proves effective in curing many diseases.

Furthermore, in Niruhabasti the contents of Basti are Makshika, Saindhava, Sneha, Kalka. Saindhaya by its Sukshma. Teekshna and Vyavayiguna spread in the minute channel of the body. The other Dravyas used to prepare Basti different properties, some are water-soluble and some are fat-soluble and get absorbed accordingly. Sushrut explained how the Basti eliminate the Doshas from the body, Virya of Bastidravya extracts the morbid Doshas from all parts of the body to the Pakvashaya just like the sun which resides in the sky and evaporates the water from the earth surface. Similarly, by its Ushna, Tikshnaguna, Basti not only eliminate the Mala and Apana Vayu but also vitiated Doshas present inside the body along with Bastidravya.

**DISCUSSION**

Vāta is considered to be the cause of all type of movements of the body and plays a major role in the pathogenesis of many diseases. It aggravates due to Dhātukṣaya (diminution of Dhātu) or by Margavaranā (occlusion of its channel by other tissues). Most of the neurodegenerative disorders occurring in present scenario show Vata dominant symptoms where Vata primarily gets aggravated due to Margavaranā (occlusion), which in turn leads to Dhātukṣaya (diminution of Dhātu) leading to the increased provocation of Vāta. Due to this critical mechanism, neurodegenerative diseases become almost incurable, if they are treated late.

Basti administered in the Pakvashaya affects the whole body by its Virya. According to modern science, its action of active principles of drug act on receptors in the gastrointestinal tract which is similar to the enteric nervous system. ENS (Enteric Nervous System) is a considerable group of neurons, it is accomplished with Autonomous reflex without the influence of the central nervous system. More than 500 million neurons are present in the ENS (Enteric Nervous System). Hence it’s also called “the second brain”. There are several similarities between CNS -ENS concerning cellular structure, neuropptide secretion and specific functions and recent studies have shown that there is a great impact of CNS and ENS on each other. Basti may act on the receptors of the ENS to stimulate the CNS causing secretion of obligatory hormones or other chemicals. It is recognized that the enteric nervous system has a unique capability to arbitrate reflex activity independently of input from the brain or spinal cord. This suggests that the ENS comprises sensory receptors, primary afferent neurons, interneurons and neurons of the motor. The events regulated, at least in part, by the ENS are numerous, involving motor activity, secretion, absorption, blood flow and interaction with other organs, such as the gall bladder or pancreas. ENS produces several hormones and around 40 neurotransmitters of the same classes as found in the brain. Moreover, neurons in the gut are supposed to generate as much dopamine as those in the head. Serotonin produced in the gut comes into the blood, it is involved in mending damaged cells in the liver and lungs there.

Basti administered through Guda (rectal route) normalizes Apana Vayu leading to Vatanulomana and improves physiological functioning of Vata. Moreover, Bastidravya spreads all over the body, pacifies the aggravated Doshas along with Vyana Vayu leads to Samyaka Rasa Rakta Dhatu Nirmana. Samyak Rasa Dhatu leads to the formation of Samyak Rakta, Mamsa and Uttarottar Dhatu. It strengthens the muscle power of the body and promotes tissue regeneration. It improves the function of the bladder, uterus, fallopian tube, and ovary.

Basti is effective on Asthivaha and Majjavaha Srotas also. Purishadhara Kala, the colon membrane, is considered as Asthidhara Kala, the membrane of the bone tissue. Asthi is important sites of Vata Dosha. Hence, medications are given rectally affect all the tissues up to bone tissue. A significant increase in serum calcium was seen after the course of Basti. Though serum calcium decreased after 90 days, it was still higher than the baseline level. Basti Chikitsa exerts a modifying influence on immune responses by regulating pro-inflammatory cytokines, immunoglobulins and functional properties of T-cells.

In Rickets, there is decreased absorption of calcium and phosphorus from the intestine, leading to bending and softening of the long bones. The large intestine contains a large
number of Ca-Na ion channels, which take up calcium from the extracellular fluid.  

**Basti** in pregnancy- Nowadays the ratio of normal labour is decreasing rapidly because of lifestyle changes. Administration of *Matrabasti* during the ending of 8th month and in 9th month of pregnancy helps in the induction of normal labour.

In children- **Basti** is like nectar in child patient. It is very effective in the development of the baby as it develops paraneuron which stimulates the nervous system. Significant improvement occurs in the case of cerebral palsy.

*Agnimandya, Dhatudarbalata and Strotovaigunya* are the main pathological conditions for manifestations of any disease. Thus, **Basti** acts on these factors and improves health. Different types of *Basti* like *Snehabasti, Chakshushyabasti, Madhutailikbasti, Yuktharathbasti, Siddhabasti, Bruhanbasti, Utkleshanbasti, Doskharabasti, Yapanabasti, Vrishabasti, Rasayanabasti*, can be considered as health promotive. Most of the *Dravyas* used in these types of *Basti* like *Tail, Ksheer, Madhu, Saindhav, Triphala, Mamsa Rasa* etc are significant sources of protein, vitamins and minerals. Different clinical studies have shown that there is a considerable increase in serum proteins, essential fatty acids, vitamin- k, and vitamin B-complex levels after the course of *Basti* treatment.

When the channels of the body are cleaned by *Niruha Basti* it provides complexion and strength. *Anuvasana Basti* destroys roughness, lightness and coldness of *Vata*. *Basti* provides clarity of mind, energy, and strength to the body.  

All the *Dhatus* gets nourished by *Basti* enhancing the body’s *Dhatvagni* to maintain *Dhatusamya* (homeostasis) and increase the immunity of the body towards the invasion of the disease.

**CONCLUSION**

**Basti** is one of the most important and useful treatments for a diseased and healthy person. There are so many types of *Basti* according to diseases, *Rutu, Bala, Kala*. So we can consider these factors while adopting the *Basti* in any person. *Basti* is not only curative but also disease preventive and health promotive. *Basti* helps to maintain the equilibrium of *Vata dosha* in our body. It increases *Shukra*(potency), *Oja* (vital energy) and *Agni* (digestive fire). In this modern era, as per our daily routine, health management is very difficult. So, by the use of *Basti Karma*, we can manage our hectic lifestyle and make it a healthy life.

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