VATAHATA VARTMA (PTOSIS) AYURVEDIC MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT
Vatahata vartma is a vataja vartmagata roga where there is drooping of the eyelids. Ptosis is an abnormal low position of the upper lid; it may be congenital or acquired. The condition can be either uniocular or binocular. The present article discusses a case of Vatahata vartma (uniocular involutional ptosis) where a male patient of 59 years visited OPD with complaints of drooping of left upper eyelid associated with double vision of near objects since 1 month. Initially the patient was treated with amapachana chikitsa followed by bruhmana and vata shamanachikitsa along with eye exercise of ocular muscles. After 2 weeks of treatment there was improvement in the grade of ptosis. Even though acharya explained the disease as asadhya in nature; conservative management can be done using ayurvedic principles in particular types of ptosis. This case study helps in exploring the effective management of Vatahata vartma (involutional ptosis) by applying vatahara treatment principles.

KEYWORDS: vatahata vartma, involutional ptosis, vatahara chikitsa

INTRODUCTION
Eyes are the most important sense organs. Among the organs of the head, being the most vital sense organs, the eye attains the supreme significance. Eyelid is a thin fold of skin that covers and protects the eye. The lid which will be drooping down, detached from its joint, without movement and which is weak can be considered as vatahata vartma. Acharya has explained the disease as asadhya vyadhi. (1) The word ptosis is derived from Greek and it means falling downwards or drooping of any organ. (2) Abnormal drooping of the upper eyelid is called Ptosis ie, when upper eye lid covers more than 1/6th (more than 2mm) can be taken as ptosis. (3) Basically it is of 2 types: congenital and acquired. Acquired is again of 4 types:

- Neurogenic ptosis is caused by an innervational defect such as third nerve paresis and Horner syndrome.
- Myogenic ptosis is caused by a myopathy of the levator muscle itself, or by impairment of transmission of impulses at the neuromuscular junction (neuromyopathic). Acquired myogenic ptosis occurs in myasthenia gravis, myotonic dystrophy and progressive external ophthalmoplegia.
- Aponeurotic or involutional ptosis is caused by a defect in the levator aponeurosis.
- Mechanical ptosis is caused by the gravitational effect of a mass or by scarring. (4)

Involuntary (aponeurotic) ptosis is an age-related condition caused by dehiscence, desinsertion or stretching of the levator aponeurosis, limiting the transmission of force from a normal levator muscle to the upper lid. Treatment options include levator
resection, advancement with reinsertion or anterior levator repair.(5)  

CONSENT  
All authors declare that written consent was obtained from the patients for publication of this research work.

ETHICAL APPROVAL  
All authors hereby declare that all experiments have been examined and approved by the Institutional ethics committee and have therefore been performed in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki.

CASE REPORT  
A 59 year old male patient, native of Hassan visited the OPD of Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Ayurveda and Hospital Hassan on 29th January 2019. He presented with complaints of drooping of left upper eyelid since last 1 month. The complaints began with pain in b/l lower limbs, numbness of left hand when exposed to cold and mild drooping of left upper eyelid associated with double vision. He consulted at our Ayurveda Hospital for the same complaints and was advised to get admitted.

There was no history of diabetes mellitus and hypertension. Dietary history revealed more of dry food and irregular food habits which are a cause for vata vitiation. His vitals were within normal limits. On general examination there was no pallor, edema, clubbed nails, cyanosis, icterus and lymphadenopathy. On systemic examination all were under physiological parameters.

On local examination  
Head posture: was kept in straight, erect position without any tilt.
Facial symmetry: both eyebrows were at the same level. The deviation of the angle of mouth was normal.
Ocular posture: visual axes of two eyes were parallel to each other in primary position and were maintained in all position of gaze.

The visual acuity before treatments of both eyes were 6/9, of right eye was 6/12 before treatment which changed to 6/9 after treatment. In the left eye 6/12 was observed before and after treatment.

The eyebrows were placed on either side of the face above eyelids, curved with their convexity upwards.

On eyelid examination, unilateral ptosis was present in the left eyelid, of degree 3mm. Marginal reflex distance was 2mm and Marginal crease distance was High which is usually found in Aponeurotic ptosis. The levator function was observed as 10mm. The right eyelid covered 1/6th of the cornea and lower lid touched the limbus.

The upper eyelashes of the affected and non-affected eye were directed forwards, upwards and backwards. Similarly the lower eye lashes were directed forwards downwards and backwards. There were no visible trichiasis and poliosis.

On examination of the lacrimal apparatus, skin was visible over the lacrimal sac redness was present in the right eye and swelling was absent.

On eyeball examination proptosis and enophthalmos was absent. The uni ocular and binocular movements were possible in both the eyes.

On conjunctival examination, congestion, chemosis, discoloration, follicles, papillae, pterygium and pingueculae were absent in both eyes.

The sclera was white in colour and covered by bulbar conjunctiva in both eyes.

On corneal examination, the size, shape, surface and transparency was normal.

On anterior chamber examination by normal torch light method, the iris showed presence of crypts, ridges and collarates. The pupil was normal on examination in both the eyes with normal pupillary reflex.

The patient was admitted on 16th of February 2019. Treatment plan for 14 days was:
On first 2 days:-
1) sarvanga abhyanga with mahanarayana taila(6) + bashpa sweda
2) amapachana and sadyovirechana
On next 12 days:-
3) seka with triphala kashaya(7)
4) avagundana with chincha+haridra+dhanyaka
5) vidalaka with elaneer kuzhambu+bala chooma
6) Mukhabhyanga with Ashwagandha Balalakshadi taila(8)
7) Shashtikashali annalepa
8) pratimarsa nasya with bindu taila 2 drops each
9) sirothalam with rasna+bala in aswagandabalakshadi thaila

During the first day of treatment chitrakadi vati was given for the purpose of deepana pancha. Then abhyanga followed by bashpa sweda was administered to bring all aggravated doshas from sakha to koshta and sadyovirechana was administered for srotho sodhana and ama nirharana by which patient had informed a sense of lightness in the body.

From 3rd day netra kriyakalpas which can be administered in sama netralakshanas like seka,avagundana and vidalaka was done to get rid of the ama in netra which gradually reduced the complaint of double vision and drooping of lid in patient. From 6th day onwards mukha abhyanga with aswaganda balalakshadi thaila and sashtikasali annalepa was given along with pratimarsa nasya with bindu taila followed by sirothalam with rasna and bala in aswagandabala lakshadi thaila and lid exercises for 7 days. On 10th day of treatment the degree of ptosis was measured which was improved to 2mm. Patient was discharged with Dhanawantaram capsule and gandarvahastadi kashaya at morning and evening and bindu taila pratimarsa nasya in the morning along with lid exercises. Patient was asked to come for review after 15 days.
Before treatment:

Day 5:

Day 10:

After treatment: (after 20 days)
DISCUSSION

Vatahata vartma is a vataja netra roga which is explained under vartmagata rogas by Vagbhata acharya. The disease is explained as asadhyya in nature. Ptosis is drooping or falling of the upper eyelid. Even though asadhyya, conservative management was done in this particular case. First day amapachana was done with chitrakadi vati and panchakola phanta along with light food. Then snehana and swedana was done previous to sadyovirechana. Snehana was done in form of abhyanga with aswaganda bala lakshadi thaila and swedana in the form of bashpa sweda. This was in aim to bring the prakupita doshas in sakha to kosht. Then sadyovirechana was done with nimbamrutadi eranda taila on the next day by which the amanirhana was achieved. As vata is in heena avastha in vatahata vartma, it indicates amalakshana in the eye. Hence first kriyakalpas that can be done in sama netra lakshanas were carried out like seka with triphala kashaya; avagundana with chincha and haridra and vidalaka with elaneer kuzhambu along with bala choorna was adopted. By this treatment the degree of ptosis was reduced significantly. Then vatahara line of treatment was done with mukha abhyanga with aswagandabalaalakshadi taila and pratimarsha nasya with bindu taila. By this procedure all the nerves get stimulated in the head and thereby allowing improved function of all the corresponding structures. Shashtikasali pinda sweda was administered which helps in strengthening of the muscles, aponeurosis surrounding the eye in a nourishing way and also being a different form of sudation it also acted as vata shamana.

CONCLUSION

Vatahata vartma is a vataja vartmaga roga. It is a disease in which vata is in heena avastha and chalatva guna of vata is affected. It can be compared to Ptosis where there will be drooping of the upper eye lid. Most of the types of ptosis are explained as surgically treated. Though explained as asadhyya in our science; when amapachana was done followed by vata samana chikitsa along with bruhmana chikitsa the drooping was reduced and patient got improvement.

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