



Review Article

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW ON VARTI KALPANA

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda holds a prominent and exceptional place in Indian scientific heritage. Ayurveda places a strong emphasis on prevention and aids in promoting and extending a happy, healthy life. Chikitsa in Ayurveda is the result of diligent effort and judicious use of Chatushpada (Four pillars of treatment). Bhaishajya kalpana is an important branch of Ayurveda which mainly deals with the development of diverse Ayurvedic formulations. Panchavidha Kashaya Kalpana is the basic five therapeutic preparations. Varti Kalpana is a unique Ayurvedic dosage form and it is an Upakalpana of Kalka Kalpana mentioned in Panchavidha kashava kalpana. Its mode of action and administration is different from Vati Kalpana even though it has similar physical structure and method of preparation. Bruhatrayees were extensively explains about different types of Varti like Netra Varti, Guda Varti, Yoni Varti etc. Siras, Basthi and Hrudayam are collectively called as Trimarma and Guda is one among the Maha marma. Diseases of these vital parts can be safely managed with Varti prayoga without causing any complications. Varti prayoga is included in Stanika chikitsa (local treatment) but it can impart local as well as systemic effect. Manasiladi Dhumayarti indicated in Kasa, Kayastyadi Varti and Yashtyadi Varti in Apasmara, Sallakadi dhumavarti in Unmada are the examples of Varti prayoga which exert systemic effect. The convenience of Varti is enhanced by its simple administration, quick response, and user-friendliness.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is the enduring and sacred science of life which consisting of three principles (Trisutra) for the sake of healthy and diseased ones. Disease etiology, symptomatology and knowledge of therapeutics are collectively called as *Trisutra*^[1]. *Bhaishajya Kalpana* had exhaustively and explicitly detailing about various Ayurvedic formulations. *Panchavidha Kashaya Kalpana* known as the primary *Kalpana* (*Swarasa, Kalka, Srutha, Phanda, Hima*) and *Varti Kalpana* is the *Uupakalpana* of *Kalka Kalpana*. *Varti* is a very convenient dosage form. Diseases related to the vital parts can be safely corrected with *Varti* preparations. Eg. *Gudavarti* is indicated in *Basti vyapath*.

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Different types of Varti are named on the basis of its site of administration. Varti kalpana is similar with Vati kalpana in its method of preparation but variant in its action and structure. Varti is administered into the body orifices other than oral cavity, there by produce local and systemic effect. Samshodhana varti, Anaha varti, Dhuma varti produce systemic effect. Bruhathrayee had mentioned about different kinds of Varti in Netra roga, Nadivrana, Yoni vyapath etc. Other Ayurvedic treatise like Gadanigraha, Vangasena Samhita. Sharngadhara Samhita. Yogaratnakara, Bhava prakasha, Bhaishajya ratnavali, Rasa tarangini Chakradutta and Basavarajeeya had mentioned about various types of Vartis.

Nirukthi

Vartayati iti varti^[2]

Definition

Vartiriva swarupatvat varti namna prakirthitha [3]

Powdered medicaments are triturated and made into the shape of a wick of lamp; it is thicker at middle and thinner at its ends.

Synonyms

Modako vatika pindi gudo varti tadhochyate^[4] Synonyms of *Varti* and *Vataka* are same.

Method of Preparation

Method of preparation of *Varti* is similar with *Vati kalpana*. Generally *Varti* prepared in two methods.

- 1. Paka method
- 2. Bhavana method

Paka Method

Guda (jaggery)/Srakara (sugar) is boiled in water using a vessel over Mandhagni and cooking continued up to attaining 2-3 thread consistency. Later the vessel is removed from the fire and fine powders of medicinal drugs which are previously prepared were added little by little into it and stirred well to obtain a homogenous mixture. After attaining pill rolling consistency Varti prepared in appropriate size and shapes. Then it is dried under shade and stored in airtight containers at suitable room temperature.

Eg. *Pippalyadi varti* mentioned by *Charaka* in *Trimarmiyam adhyaya*.

Bhavana Method

Medicinal drugs are separately powdered well and sieved trough sieve number 125 to obtain fine powder. The drugs are mixed together and *Bhavana* (trituration) done with appropriate *Drava dravya* (liquid media). Honey, ghee, cow's milk, goat's milk, cow's urine are used as liquid media on accordance to the disease condition.

Eg. *Chandrodaya varti* mentioned in *Netra* roga, *Bhavana* was done with Goat's milk. [5]

Types of *Varti*

Varti preparations are intended to administer in body orifices other than oral cavity. On the base of site of administration and exerted action they are classified as below.

Netra varti- Administer in eyes

Nasa varti- Administer in nose

Dhuma varti- Medicated cigars

Guda varti/ Phala varti- Administer in rectum

Yoni varti- Administer in vagina

Sisa varti- Administer in urethra

Vrana varti- Administer in wounds

Netra Varti

Netra varti prepared in elongated form; these pills are grinded with appropriate liquid media and applied as Netra anjana (collyrium). Pinda, Rasakriya, Churna are the three types of Anjana mentioned by Vagbhata which is used to cure profound vitiation of Netra dosa and is administered after purifying the body^[5]. Pinda is the pill like solid type of Anjana

Time of application of Netra varti

According to season- Sharngadhara^[4]

Hemanta, Sisira- Afternoon

Grishma- Morning

Sharad- Evening

Vasantha- Any time

Varsha - No cloudy weather, not too cold / not too hot

According to type of Netra anjanam^[5]

Lekhana anjanam- Kaphaja vyadhi- Morning

Snehananjana- Vatika vyadhi- Evening

Prasaadana anjana- Pittaja vyadhi- Night

Table 1: Different Netra varti mentioned in Ayurvedic Samhitas

No	Name of Varti	Reference	Indications	
	Netra varti			
1	Jatimukuladi varti ^[7]	Ashtanga hrudayam	Netra sopha & Kandu	
2	Chandanadi varti ^[8]	Gadanigraham	Vrana sukra	
3	Ratnadi varti ^[8]	Gada nigraham	Vrana sukra	
4	Danta varti [8]	Gada nigraham	Kshata sukra	
5	Laghu chandrodaya varti [8]	Gada nigraham	Timira	
6	Vimala varti ^[8]	Gada nigraham	Timira	
7	Pushpa varti ^[8]	Gada nigraham	Linganasham	
8	Bruhatyadi varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Vatika netra roga	
9	Sumana korakadi varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Paitika netra roga	
10	Saindhavadi varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Kaphaja netra roga	
11	Amruthahwadi varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Sannipatika netra roga	
12	Shankhadi varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Sarvakshi roganuth	
13	Sukha varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Timira, Patala, Kacha	
14	Drushtiprada varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Andhyam, Bhinna chakshus	

15	Chandrodaya varti [6]	Sharngadhara Samhita	Timiram, Mamsavrudhhi, Kacham
16	Karanja Varti ^[6]	Sharngadhara Samhita	Lucoma in eye
17	Samudraphena Varti ^[6]	Sharngadhara Samhita	Sukraardi (Corneal opacity)
18	Nilotpala Varti ^[6]	Sharngadhara Samhita	Athi nidra
19	Rasanjana Varti ^[6]	Sharngadhara Samhita	Naktandhyam
20	Dhatryadi Varti ^[6]	Sharngadhara Samhita	Netra Sravam, Netra sula
21	Darvyadi Gudikanjanam ^[10]	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Unamada
22	Kayasthyadi Vartika ^[10]	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Apasmara
23	Yashtyadi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Apasmara
24	Manohva Tarksyadi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Apasmara, Unamada

Nasa Varti

Here the *Varti* preparations are inserted into the nasal cavity because nose is the major gateway of brain. Medicinal drugs like *Apamarga bija*, *Vidanga*, *Sirisha* along with *Tikshna*, *Krimighna dravya* are finely powdered and applied in cloth and *Varti* prepared to introduce into nostrils. It helps to cure *Pratisyaya*, *Pinasa* etc diseases.

Eg: Nikumbhadi nasa varti in Nasa arshas [7]

Dhumavarti

Dhumavartis are medicated cigars mainly indicated for Vata kaphaja diseases of Uthamanga (above shoulder joint) and Pranavaha Sroto vikara (respiratory tract infections). It is contra indicated in Pita and Rakta Vikara due to its Ushna Tikshna Guna. It is mentioned in Dinacharya after Nasya Karma and Kabala graham to remove the Doshas lodged in thought. It has an immense effect in chronic infections of head and neck like chronic suppurative otitis media, Sinusitis etc.

Charaka had described that the medicinal drugs are finely powdered, made to a paste and applied over a reed. Dhumavarti was prepared in a cigar like structure with barley shape (Yava sannibham). Varti is 8 Angula long and thickness of the thumb at its centre.[1] The reed should then be removed after it has dried up. One should frequently smoke such cigar using a Dhumanetra (pipe) after dipped in oil.

Acharya Vagbhata had some differences regarding with the preparation of *Dhumavarti*. A stalk of *Ishika* grass having 12 *Angula* length was dipped in water for 1 day (24 hours). Fine paste of medicinal drugs are applied over the stalk 5 times and made it into the form of a *Varti* with thickness of thumb and shape of *Yava dhanya* (Barley grain). After drying remove the stalk and the *Varti* dipped in *Sneha dravya* and ignited by placing at the tip of *Dhuma netra* (smoking pipe).

Table 2: Different Dhuma varti mentioned in Ayurvedic Samhitas

Dhuma varti			
1	Darvi ingudi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Pratisyaya
2	Manasiladi dhuma Varti ^[12]	Charaka	Kasa
3	Haridradi dhuma Varti ^[12]	Charaka	Swasa Hikka
4	Gandha dhuma Varti ^[12]	Charaka	Unmada
5	Sveta Hinguvadi Varti ¹²	Charaka	Unmada
6	Sallakadi Varti ^[12]	Charaka	Unmada
7	Eranda naladadi Varti ^[12]	Charaka	Siroroga
8	Kajjali Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Phiranga roga
9	Kanakadi/Svasaghna Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Svasa
10	Manasilalipta Badaripatra Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Kasa
11	Arkadi Dhumavarti[10]	Bhaishajya Ratnavali	Kasa
12	Marichadi Dhumavarti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Kasa
13	Satahwadi Varti ^[7]	Ashtanga hrdaya	Nasaroga
14	Vyosha urubukadi Varti ^[7]	Ashtanga hrdaya	Dushta pinasa

Guda varti /Phala varti

Gudavarti is intended to administer in rectum to correct Apanavayu vaigunya rogas like Udavarta, Arshas, Atisara, Gudda varchas and other gastro intestinal disorders. It is also called as Phalavarti. Gudavarti produce Vata Anulomana and evacuate Sanchita dosha at rectum and cure the disease. Charaka mentioned Gudavarti in Vastivyapath. It is prepared in the shape of barley grain (long oval shape) and thick as thumb size. But Kanakamooladi varti has Valla Pramana and Agaradhumadi Varti has Kanishta anguli pramana[6]. Varti should be administered in the rectum after anointing it with ghee.

Table 3: Different Guda varti mentioned in Ayurvedic Samhitas

	Guda varti			
1	Phala Varti ^[3]	Susruta Samhita	Udavarta	
2	Shodhanadi gana Varti ^[3]	Susruta Samhita	Basti vyapath	
3	Khoshaphala Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Arshas	
4	Katuthumbi bijadi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Arshas	
5	Arshogni Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Arshas	
6	Phala Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Udavartha	
7	Hinguvadi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Udavarta	
8	Agaradhumadi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Udavarta	
9	Nirgundi patra Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Udavarta	
10	Raddadi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Anaha sulanuth	
11	Trikatvadi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Anaha, Udavarta, Jadara, Gulma	
12	Kanakamuladi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Atisara	

Yoni varti

Yoni Varti can be used effectively in Yoni rogas and Garbhashaya rogas. It helps to clear the vaginal canal by removing the vitiated Sanchita dosha and also provides the opportunity to replenish the harmonized vaginal health. Yoni vartis are designed according to the vaginal size. Acharya Charaka has mentioned the size of Samshodhana yonivarti under Slaishmiki yonivyapat chikitsa as Pradeshinianguli pramanam. Bhaishajya ratnavali, Chakradutta, Yoga Ratnakara also mentioned the size of Pippalyadi varti in Slaishmiki yonivyapath chikitsa as Pradeshini anguli pramana.

Table 4: Different Yoni varti mentioned in Avurvedic Samhitas

Yoni Varti			
1	Varahapitta Varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Kaphaja yoni vyapath
2	Yoni vishodhini Varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Kaphaja yoni vyapath
3	Plaksha churna Varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Pradaram
4	Lodradi Varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Pradaram
5	Kashayadravya Varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Pradaram
6	Tilam+ Kshara Varti ^[9]	Charaka Samhita	Rakta gulma
7	Himsra kalka Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Vatika yoni vyapath
8	Panchavalkaladi Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Paittika yoni vyapath
9	Syamadi yoni Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Kaphaja yoni vyapath
10	Kushta pippalyadi Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Karnini yoni vyapath
11	Vacha nilotpaladi Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Yoni sankocha
12	Kusuma sanjanani Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta,Yogaratnakara	Artava pravarthakam
13	Guduchyadi Varti ^[13]	Basavarajeeyam	Yonikandha

Vrana varti

Vrana varti is prescribed in ulcers which advocating Vrana shodhana and Vrana ropana. Susruta has included Varti Prayoga under Shashtirupakrama of Vrana Shodha Chikitsa. Medicinal drugs are impregnated over

threads otherwise made into wick like structure and administer in *Vrana*. Different types of *Vrana vartis* are indicated in *Nadivrana*, *Bhagandhara* treatment.

Table 5: Different Vrana varti mentioned in Ayurvedic Samhitas

	Vrana varti			
1	Nimbapatradi Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Vrana soshana, Ropana	
2	Aragvadhadi sutra Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Nadivrana	
3	Gunavati Varti[11]	Chakradutta	Nadi vrana	
4	Ghondaphala Varti ^[11]	Chakradutta	Nadivrana	
5	Makshika lavanadi Varti ^[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Nadivrana, Dushta vrana	
6	Jatyadi Varti[10]	Bhaishajya ratnavali	Nadi vrana	
7	Trivruth Dantyadi Varti ^[10]	Ashtanga Hrdayam	Vrana ropana	
8	Samshodhani Varti ^[3]	Susruta Samhita	Varana shodhana	
9	Soma+Amrtha+Asvagandha Varti[3]	Susruta Samhita	Vrana ropana	
10	Kakolyadi gana Varti ^[3]	Susruta samhita	Vrana ropana	
11	Kshiri vrkshadi Varti ^[3]	Susruta Samhita	Vrana ropana	
12	Aragvadhadi Varti ^[13]	Basavarajeeyam	Nadivrana	
13	Darvika Varti ^[13]	Basavarajeeyam	Bhagantara	
14	Nishadi Varti ^[13]	Basavarajeeyam	Bhagantara	

Sisna varti

Sisna varti are administered in the penile introitus of males in Mutrakrichra, Asmari, Mutraghata, Puyameha conditions. 1-12 Angula long Sishna varti helps to void urine from the above said conditions.

Eg. Sishna Varti prepared with Varuna, Pashanabheda, Gokshura, Punarnavamula, Panchamula, Yavakshara, Navasara.

Size and Shape of Varti

Vartis are different in its size and shape on accordance to the orifice that which occupies. Guda Varti, Yoni Varti are designed in compatible to its anatomical structure of Rectum and Vagina respectively. Guda Varti prepared in Angushta Pramanam (size of thumb). According to Acharya Susruta Yoni resembles the shape of hollow conch shell (Shankhanabhi) and Bhaga (Vulva) is 12 Angula long[13]. Yoni varti had Pradeshini Anguli (Index finger) Pramanam.

In case of *Netra varti Acharya Sushruta* had pointed out that dose of *Netra anjana* depends on its types. *Harenu Matra* (around 40mg) is recommended for *Lekhana anjana*, one and half of *Harenu* (around 60mg) for *Prasadana anjana* and 2 *Harenu* (around 80mg) for *Ropana anjana*. *Acharya Vagbhata* opines that *Harenu matra* for *Pindi* type of *Anjana*^[5]. But in practical manner the tolerance level of the patient also is considered.

Vrana varti is advised to prepare in proportional to the depth of the ulcers, it can be either small or big. *Dhumavarti* is prepared in *Yavakaram* (barley shape) at its middle and thicker as thumb.

Suppositories

Suppositories are the solid dosage forms administered in body orifices other than oral cavity to impart specific local and systemic effect. They are named on accordance to the site of administration. Anal suppository, vaginal suppository (pharmaceutical pessary), ear cones, urethral gouge, ocular inserts (ocuserts) are the suppositories inserted in rectum, vagina, ear, urethra and eyes respectively. Suppositories can be considered as the modified dosage forms of Ayurvedic *Varti* preparations.

DISCUSSION

Varti preparations are acute in its action. Guda Varti, Yoni Varti, Shishna varti are absorbed from the site of administration and it helps to evacuate the Sanchita doshas and cause Srotoshodhana by producing Anulomana of Apana vata. Krimighna property of Yoni Varti, Dhuma Varti, Vrana Varti etc also helps to revitalize the diminished Vyadhikshamatva of the patient.

Peculiar size and shape of each *Varti* helps to facilitate the easy administration and sustained release of the medicine for a longer period at the site administration and thereby absorb to the systemic circulation. *Varti* is a very convenient, user friendly and effective dosage forms. Even though its structure and method of preparation is similar to *Vati kalpana* it is entirely different in mode of action and site of administration. *Varti* helps to normalizes the vitiated *Doshas* by evacuating the *Sanchita dosha* from the site of administration. *Guda Varti, Yoni Varti, Vrana Varti, Karna Varti* are retained in the site of administration for a longer period and absorbed into the circulation

which helps to amplify the bioavailability of the medicinal drugs.

CONCLUSION

The dose form *Varthi Kalpana* is very efficient and simple to use. *Varti* can be used as a delivery method for medications that cannot be applied orally. It treats illnesses by virtue of its *Shodhana*, *Ropana* property.

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