

Anatomical Structures Involved in Garbha Poshan- A Review

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Abstract: Ayurveda is a science of life. Basic principles of Ayurveda are “swathasya swatha rakshanamaturasya vikar prashamanam”. Swasthya i. e. well-being of individual dependent of prakruti which is been formed during garbhavastha (during gestation). Well-being of grabha can be achieved only through proper basic principles of garbhiniparichrya (regimen) from conformation of pregnancy till delivery. The foetus totally devoid of hunger and thirst, depends upon mother for nourishment. Before formation of placenta the nourishment of the embryo occurs through Upsneha (attracting moisture). During this time the embryo gets its nourishments through upsneha from the fluid moving all around it. But afterwards nourished by placental circulation. Ayurveda focus over dependency and nourishing structures in details. Here the comparative study is done regarding fetal nutrition providing structures.

Keywords: foetal nutrition, grabhaposhan, garbha, garbhiniparichrya, Upsneha

1. Introduction

Embryology in Ayurveda described in terms of garbhasharir. Various concepts regarding garbhotpatti upto nishkraman (conception to expulsion) quoted by Acharyas along with applied views.

Acharyasushruta has explained garbhaadhan (fertilization), garbhaavkranti -masnumasikvrudhi (fetal development), garbhaaposhan (nourishment), garbhadharanavdhi etc chapters in Ayurveda text. Acharya Charak has also explained masanumasikvrudhi¹ (monthwise development) according to Ayurveda. According to Ayurveda grabhaposhan is described in two stages. One is before formation of apara (placenta) and second after apara formation. Upsnehannyaya² has described by Sushruta for the grabhaposhan and also different structures are described here. Upsnehan -Nutrition by process of diffusion of water of full lake nourishes the plants on the bank. Rasa³ is responsible for proper growth of the Garbha.

According to Ayurveda, essence of food (rasa) taken by mother is divided into three parts.⁴ First nourishes her body, the other promotes her breast milk and third nourishes the foetus. Modern science also mentioned that nutrition to foetus from mother occurs through two circulations namely -placental circulation and foetal circulation⁵. Umbilical cord of foetus is attached rasa carrying nadi of mother which carries veerya of aahar rasa (nutritious parts) mother to the foetus by indirect nutrition (Upsneha) the foetus develops⁶. So in this article we will study the structures involved in grabhaposhan and its correlation with the modern anatomical structures.

2. Discussion

Embryology is the study of development from the fertilized egg through eighth week. From fertilization through eighth week of development, a stage called the embryonic period, the developing human is called an embryo⁷. Further

development i. e. beyond eighth week is considered as foetal development.

In Ayurveda related to Grabha, 'fertilization - foetal development - nutrition' all these aspects explained in sharir-sthan of Sushrut Samhita. Garbha related chapter explained by Acharyasushruta, Charaka, and Vagbhata in various treatises. The following Aadhyaya are described: shukrashonitshudhhishariradhyaya, Grabhavkranti, Grabhavyakransharir, Mhatigrabhavkrantisharir the foetus), apara, function of apara, grabhanabhinadi etc. these concepts of grabha are elaborated by Sushruta. Chapter of conception, care of product of conception and pregnant women, Month wise treatment of pregnant women, care of child just after delivery, instruction to pregnant women, cutting of umbilical cord are described by Acharya Charaka thoroughly.

Ayurveda gives importance to the quality of seed (beeja i.e. sperm and ovum) and concept of conception is compared with planting of tree as for proper growth of tree which needs healthy nourishment. "Garbha is union of shukra, shonit&aatma"⁹ after the union of these garbha started the vrudhi that is the masanumasikvrudhi which is from prathma mas to navam mas. In this duration of nine months, garbha require the essential nutrition that is as called the poshan.

In sharirsthana, Acharya Sushrut described the poshan of garbha. According to Ayurveda Maternal food with nutrients enters in maternal rasvahininadya through the nabhinadi of garbha. It circulates blood in garbhasharir and sarvashariravayav. This nutrient part provide through Tiryak gat and Rasvadahamnya to all over body of garbhait causes Angpratyangposhan¹⁰.

Acharya Charaka has mentioned Matrupalatanrata¹¹ that is maternal food (nutritional part) absorbed by foetus and foetus get nourished by Upsnehannyaya. Kedarkulyanyaya¹² also explained in Ayurveda for the grabhaposhan. According to modern science nutrients, oxygen and

antibodies are provided to the foetus from the maternal circulation.

As per modern science, foetus is union of human egg and sperm that is called as the fertilization. This fertilized ovum get implanted in the endometrium with formation of germ layer of foetal development. In modern science two stages are described in foetal nourishment before placenta formation and after placenta formation. Embryo gets nourished with uterine secretion and yolk sac. After placenta formation get nourished through the circulation from placenta to foetus –foetal circulation. Circulatory system of mother is not directly connected to that foetus, so the placenta function as the respiratory centre for the foetus as well as site of filtration for the plasma nutrients and waste through the umbilical cord which contain- Two umbilical arteries and one umbilical vein. Arteries are return de-oxygenated blood, foetal waste, CO₂ to placenta. Oxygenated blood and nutrients provide foetus by umbilical vein.¹³

Circulation after birth changes occurs in-

- 1) Pulmonary circulation –lungs functional and
- 2) Systemic circulation –placenta removed

Three shunts present in foetal life¹⁴

- 1) Ductus venosus-connect the umbilical vein to the inferior vena cava
- 2) Ductus arteriosus-connect the main pulmonary artery to the aorta
- 3) Foramen ovale -anatomical opening between the right and left atrium.

Development of healthy foetus and to prevent the nutritive anomalies of the foetus, Acharya mentioned *Garbhini Aharparichrya* and also importance of *Garbhini Aharrasa* in Ayurveda in terms of *masanumasik ahar*.¹⁵

If we compare the concept of *grabhaposhan* and foetal nourishment explained in Ayurveda and modern science, similarity related to dependency found. Foetus get nourished with maternal blood through placenta same as that of *grabha* acquires '*Poshan*' through *Matru- ahar –ras*. Maternal heart is connected to foetus via channels. Here in Ayurveda channels are mentioned as *Rasvahinidhamnya*.

Ayurveda	Modern
<i>Matruhrdaya</i>	Maternal blood from heart
<i>Rasvahininadya</i>	Vessels from mother heart
<i>Nabhi</i>	Foetal umbilicus
<i>Nabhinadi</i>	Umbilical cord
<i>Aapra</i>	Placenta
<i>Garbhaasharir</i>	Foetal circulation

These above anatomical structures involved in foetal circulation or *Garbhaposhan* according to Ayurveda.

3. Conclusion

Grabhaposhan is one of the important factors responsible for *grabhaparivruddhi*. *Matruhrydaya*, *Nabhinadi*, *Rasvahini* are the directly involved structures whereas *Aparaas* indirectly mentioned in process of *grabhaposhan*. Almost all structures found to be foetus this concept was elaborated

with keen observation in Ayurveda save as that of modern science.

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