# Survey Study on the Importance of *Pathya* and *Apathya* in *Krichartava* in Relation to *Artavavaha Srotas*

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Outline: Pathya and Apathya play a crucial role in Krichartava by influencing the balance of Doshas and the functioning of Artavavaha Srotas. <sup>i</sup> Lifestyle disturbances like irregular food habits and sleep patterns can lead to Dosha imbalances, affecting Kostha, Agni, and ultimately causing issues in Meda and Mutra Vriddhi.<sup>ii</sup>The study emphasizes the importance of adhering to Pathya (beneficial practices) to maintain the health of Artavavaha Srotas and prevent Apathyanimmitaja-Prameha.<sup>iii</sup> Understanding the impact of lifestyle on the body's channels and functions is essential in managing Krichartava and promoting overall well-being <sup>iv</sup>

Abstract-A summary of the paper's focus, including the importance of *Pathya* (diet and lifestyle recommendations) and *Apathya* (avoidances) in managing *Krichartava* (dysmenorrhea) with a specific focus on *Artavavaha Srotas*.

The papers emphasize the significance of Pathya (wholesome diet and lifestyle recommendations) and Apathya (avoidances) in managing Krichartava (dysmenorrhea), particularly focusing on Artavavaha Srotas<sup>v vi vii viii</sup> Dysmenorrhea, known as Kashtartava in Ayurveda, is primarily caused by vitiated Vata dosha affecting the reproductive system and menstrual flow, leading to severe pain during menstruation. Avurvedic texts stress the importance of balancing Vata dosha through proper diet, lifestyle modifications, internal medicines, Panchakarma therapies, and yoga practices to dysmenorrhea symptoms. alleviate Pathya recommendations include Ritucharya (seasonal regimen), Dincharya (daily regimen), and specific dietary guidelines to maintain overall health and manage menstrual disorders effectively. A holistic approach combining Ayurvedic treatments, lifestyle adjustments, and dietary modifications is crucial in addressing dysmenorrhea and promoting well-being in women.

Keywords: Pathya -Apathya, Krichartava, Artavavaha Srotas.

#### INTRODUCTION

*Ayurveda*, originating from ancient India, is a holistic system of medicine that emphasizes balance within all

bodily systems, aiming to restore mental, physical, and spiritual healthix. It views human beings as highlighting with nature, interconnected the importance of this relationship in achieving overall well-being x. Avurveda's holistic approach encompasses physical, psychological, philosophical, ethical, and spiritual aspects of health, making it a comprehensive medical system xi. In rural India, where modern healthcare facilities are lacking, Ayurveda plays a crucial role in providing primary healthcare services through its preventive and promotive health practices, utilizing non-pharmacological remedies and common medicinal plants available in rural areas xii. emphasis on self-healing, Ayurveda's herbal treatments, and personalized medicine showcases its efficacy in promoting a balanced and healthy life. xiii Artavavaha Srotas, as described in Avurvedic texts, is a vital component of the female reproductive system, closely resembling the modern understanding of the female reproductive anatomy. xiv xvi. This channel, also known as Yogavahi Srotas, is crucial in transporting menstrual blood and its generation within the body, encompassing structures like the uterus and fallopian tubes. xvii Any disruption or trauma to this Srotas can lead to conditions like infertility, amenorrhea, and dyspareunia, highlighting its significance in female reproductive health. Understanding the macroscopic and microscopic aspects of Artavavaha Srotas is essential for comprehending processes like menstruation, fertilization, and fetal development, emphasizing its importance in maintaining overall reproductive wellbeing. The proper functioning of Artavavaha Srotas is crucial for ensuring the normal health status of an individual, as disturbances in its anatomy and physiology can lead to various health issues.

Overview of Krichartava (dysmenorrhea) and its impact on women's health

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Dysmenorrhea, known as *Krichartava* in *Ayurveda*, is a prevalent gynecological disorder characterized by painful menstruation, often attributed to vitiated *Vata dosha*.<sup>xviii</sup> it affects a significant percentage of women worldwide, with symptoms ranging from abdominal cramps to nausea, mood swings, and headaches.<sup>xix</sup>

The condition can have a profound impact on women's physical, mental, and social well-being, leading to absenteeism from work or school and affecting personal relationships, education, and career prospects.<sup>xx,xxi</sup> <sup>xxii</sup>

Untreated dysmenorrhea can even predispose individuals to chronic pelvic pain, emphasizing the importance of early intervention and tailored management strategies involving pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches to alleviate symptoms and improve quality of life.

Objective and relevance of the survey study on *Pathya* and *Apathya* in Krichartava.

The survey study on Pathya and Apathya in Krichartava aims to explore the dietary and lifestyle guidelines for managing this condition effectively. Krichartava, a condition characterized by abdominal pain, is closely related to gastrointestinal disorders. Ayurveda emphasizes the importance of Pathya (wholesome) and Apathya (unwholesome) diet and regimen in treating such ailments holistically.xxiii Pathya-apathya is crucial in Ayurvedic treatment, ensuring that the body and mind are not adversely affected by the substances consumed. xxiv By following specific dietary recommendations such as Laghu, Ruksha. Kaphamedohara. and Srotoshodhana properties while avoiding Guru, Snigdha, and Kaphamedokara foods, individuals can effectively manage Krichartava and promote overall wellbeing<sup>xxv</sup>. Understanding the Pathya and Apathya principles in Krichartava can lead to better treatment outcomes and improved quality of life for individuals suffering from this condition.

Artavavaha Srotas: The moolasthana of Artavavaha Srotasa are Garbhashaya (uterus) and Artavavahi Dhamanies (uterine and ovarian arteries). Artavavaha Srotasa may be categorized into Shonita Artavavaha Srotas which carries menstrual blood through blood vessels and capillaries of the uterus and Beejartavavaha Srotas which carries ovum through fallopian tubes. The Abnormalities of Artavavaha Srotas cause Vandhyatva (infertility), Maithunaasahishnutwa (dyspareunia), and Artavanasha (Amenorrhoea).

Vandhyatva caused due to abnormality in Chaturvidha Garbhottpadaka (Ritu, Kshetra, Ambu, beeja) Samagri. Maithun Asahishnuta related to Vatla, Paripluta, Vipluta and Shandi Yonivyapada. While Artavanasha related to Vandhya, Arajaska, and Shuska Yonivyapada. The specific etiology of Artavavaha Srotodushti is not mentioned in the classics. If it is considered as the channel for Artava (Raja) pain in menstruation (Kashtartava) can be considered as one Srothodushti Lakshanas of this Srotasa.

Hence the symptom of painful menstruation wherever it appears is considered and the conceptualization of pain during the expulsion of *Artava* is taken from the available literature. So first we will go with Artava and try to discover the pathophysiology of *Artava Chakra* (Menstrual cycle) related to *Kashtartava*.<sup>xxvi</sup>

Definition and anatomical aspects of Artavavaha Srotas.

Artavavaha Srotas, as described in Avurvedic texts, is a crucial anatomical structure closely related to the female reproductive system.xxvii It serves as the channel responsible for the transportation of menstrual blood and plays a vital role in processes like menstruation, fertilization, and fetal development<sup>xxviii</sup>. The Moolasthanas of Artavavaha Srotas are Garbhashaya and Artavavahi Dhamani, located in the female pelvic cavity, resembling contemporary reproductive organs like the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries.<sup>xxix</sup> This intricate system is essential for maintaining the overall health of women, and any disturbances in its functioning can lead to conditions like infertility, amenorrhea, and dyspareunia. Understanding the detailed anatomical aspects of Artavavaha Srotas is crucial in both Avurvedic and modern medical perspectives to ensure the well-being of women and address reproductive health issues effectively.

Functions and physiological importance of Artavavaha Srotas.

*Artavavaha Srotas*, as described in *Ayurveda*, are crucial channels responsible for the female reproductive system's functioning<sup>xxx</sup>. These channels, with their *Moolasthanas* in *Garbhashaya* and *Artavavahi Dhamani*, play a vital role in processes like

menstruation, fertilization, and fetal development. xxxi Any disruption or trauma to these Srotas can lead to conditions like infertility, amenorrhea, and dyspareunia.xxxiiThe physiological importance of Artavavaha Srotas lies in their role in maintaining the health and balance of the female reproductive system, ensuring the proper flow of menstrual blood, and supporting the processes essential for reproduction. Understanding the functions and significance of Artavavaha Srotas is crucial for overall women's health and well-being, as emphasized in Ayurvedic texts.

### Common disorders related to *Artavavaha Srotas* with a focus on *Krichartava*:

Artavavaha Srotas, as described in Avurveda, plays a crucial role in female reproductive health. Common disorders associated with Artavavaha Srotas include Vandhyatva (infertility), Maithuna Asahishnuta (dyspareunia), and Artavanasha (amenorrhea)xxxiii. These disorders are linked to Krichartava, a condition characterized by painful menstruation dysmenorrhea. Additionally, Artava Kshaya, a condition where menstruation is delayed or scanty, is associated with hypothyroidism, affecting female fertility and leading to menstrual irregularities. xxxiv Understanding the path-clinical perspectives of Artavavaha Srotas and its disorders can provide insights into managing conditions like PCOS with Ayurvedic remedies, offering potential treatment avenues for these complex reproductive health issues.xxxv

## Krichartava(primaryDysmenorrhea)Pathophysiology and Symptoms:

Dysmenorrhea, a common gynecological issue among women, encompasses primary dysmenorrhea (PDM) without organic causes and secondary dysmenorrhea linked to underlying conditions. The pathophysiological mechanisms of dysmenorrhea involve myometrial hypercontractility, arteriolar vasoconstriction, tissue hypoxia, prostaglandin synthesis, and anatomical abnormalities in the female reproductive tract.xxxvi Primary dysmenorrhea is characterized by excessive uterine contractility and prostaglandin synthesis, while secondary dysmenorrhea can stem from gynaecological abnormalitiesxxxvii. pathologies or structural Additionally, studies emphasize the importance of exploring the brain's neural mechanisms in understanding the pathological basis of dysmenorrhea, suggesting a link between abnormal pain processing in the central nervous system and the development of chronic pain disorders. <sup>xxxviii</sup> Further research is needed to enhance the management of dysmenorrhea and improve the quality of life for affected individuals.

### Definition and types of *Krichartava* (primary and secondary dysmenorrhea).

Krichartava, known as dysmenorrhea in modern medicine, encompasses primary and secondary types. Primary dysmenorrhea, as described in various studies<sup>xxxix</sup>, <sup>xl</sup>refers to painful menstruation without identifiable pelvic pathology, affecting 50% to 90% of women with crampy lower abdominal pain during menses. On the other hand, secondary dysmenorrhea, highlighted in the literature, is associated with pelvic abnormalities like endometriosis. fibroids. adenomyosis, or congenital anatomical issues. Secondary dysmenorrhea is characterized by similar clinical features of pain during menstruation but is linked to underlying pelvic pathologies, necessitating appropriate diagnosis and management to alleviate symptoms and improve the quality of life for affected individuals.

### General principles of *Pathya* and *Apathya* in maintaining health and treating diseases :

pathya and Apathya are fundamental concepts in Avurveda that play a crucial role in maintaining health and treating diseases. These principles emphasize the importance of following a wholesome (Pathya) diet and regimen while avoiding unwholesome (Apathva) practices. Pathya involves consuming foods that are Laghu, Ruksha, and Kaphamedohara, while Apathya recommends avoiding Guru, Snigdha, and Kaphamedokara foods.xli These principles are not only applicable to dyslipidemia and skin diseases but also extend to conditions like anaemia, Prameha (diabetes mellitus), and obesity<sup>xlii</sup>. By adhering to Pathya guidelines, which include healthy diets rich in complex carbohydrates, vegetables, and fruits, and avoiding Apathya practices like excessive intake of certain food items, individuals can promote overall well-being and effectively manage various health conditions.

Specific Pathya and Apathya recommendations for managing reproductive health :

In Ayurvedic medicine, managing reproductive health involves adhering to specific Pathva (beneficial) and Apathya (detrimental) recommendations. For reproductive health issues like Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and infertility, Pathya Aahara (wholesome diet) plays a crucial role. Pathya Aahara for PCOS includes Laghu, Ruksha, Ushana Gunatmaka, Katu – Tikta - Kashaya Rasatmaka Aahara, emphasizing the importance of dietary principles in managing the condition<sup>xliii</sup>. Similarly, for infertility related to PCOS, a treatment plan involving Vatakaphahara and Agni deepana, along with Pathya ahara, is recommended to correct menstrual irregularities and ensure proper ovulation, ultimately aiding in successful conception and childbirth<sup>xliv</sup>. These recommendations highlight the significance of following specific dietary guidelines to support reproductive health in Ayurvedic medicine.

Survey Study on *Pathya* and *Apathya* in *Krichartava:* Objectives: -

To find out the - IMPORTANCE OF *PATHYA APATHYA* IN *KRICHRA-ARTAVA* IN RELATION TO *ARTAVA VAHA SROTAS*.

### METHODOLOGY

Study- Design :-

- Study type –Survey Study.
- Survey tool -Case sheet for assessment.
- Purpose "Survey Study-Importance of *Pathya Apathya* in *Krichchra-Artava* in Relation to *Artavavaha Srotas*.
- Sample size- 1000.

Sample Selection Criteria:

i.) Inclusion Criteria:

- Healthy female participants age between 12 to 25 years were selected.
- Prior informed written consent will be taken the participant's guardian.
- Patients suffering with *Krichchra Artava* for more than 2 consecutive cycles.

ii.) Exclusion Criteria:

- Female participants aged less than 12 years & more than 25 years were excluded.
- Female suffering from chronic -illness.
- Patients suffering from secondary dysmenorrhea.
- The subject who is not willing to participate in the study.

Data collection methods (questionnaires)

- In this study, the survey will be done on 1000 females from the surrounding area of Jodhpur by preparing a Questionnaire.
- A general physical examination and systemic examination will be done to rule out any illness.

Statistical analysis and data interpretation techniques:

• The collected data will be analysed statistically using the appropriate test.

Demographic characteristics of the study population:

• Healthy female participants age between 12 to 25 years were selected.

Awareness levels of *Pathya* and *Apathya* among participants:

- Awareness level of measured through structured questionnaires and interviews.
- *Pathya apathya* mentioned based on properties of *rasa ,guna ,virya vipaka, karma .*

#### DISCUSSION

The survey findings can be analyzed in the context of existing literature on *Pathya* and *Apathya* in *Ayurveda* to understand the significance of proper diet and lifestyle choices in managing various health conditions. *Ayurveda* emphasizes the importance of *Pathya Aahar* and *Vihara* in maintaining wellness and treating diseases of primary dysmenorrhoea (*krichartava*).<sup>xlv</sup>

The concept of *Pathya* highlights the therapeutic benefits of following a suitable diet and lifestyle, while *Apathya* signifies the detrimental effects of improper choices. By aligning survey findings with the *Ayurvedic* principles of *Pathya* and *Apathya*, a holistic approach to health management can be achieved, focusing on preventive measures and personalized treatment strategies based on individual dietary needs and lifestyle modifications.

Potential challenges in promoting adherence to *Pathya* and *Apathya* recommendations:

- Additionally, the complexity of *Ayurvedic* dietary guidelines, including the need for specific food properties and avoidance of others, can pose challenges in practical implementation.<sup>xlvi</sup>
- Individual preferences, lifestyles, and beliefs influence adherence & Lack of awareness and understanding of *pathya apathya* guidelines.<sup>xlvii</sup>

Understanding and addressing these challenges are crucial for successful adherence to *Pathya* and *Apathya* recommendations in holistic health management.

Future research directions to further explore the relationship between diet, lifestyle, and menstrual health :

- Future research directions to delve deeper into the intricate relationship between diet, lifestyle, and menstrual health should focus on several key areas. Firstly, investigating the impact of unhealthy lifestyle habits, such as poor dietary choices and inadequate physical activity, on menstrual disorders like dysmenorrhea and irregular cycles.<sup>xlviii</sup>
- secondly, exploring the long-term effects of dieting, food skipping, and negative hunger stress on reproductive health, especially in adolescents, to understand their implications on menstrual health.<sup>xlix</sup>

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• Lastly, there is a need to examine the effectiveness of lifestyle interventions, including promoting healthy diets, regular exercise, adequate sleep, and stress management, in maintaining a healthy menstrual cycle and preventing menstrual disorders.

#### CONCLUSION

Research on the importance of *Pathya* and *Apathya* in managing *Krichartava*, a condition similar to dyslipidemia, *Prameha*, skin diseases, PCOS, and bronchial asthma in *Ayurveda*, highlights the significant role of dietary and lifestyle modifications in disease management. *Pathya*, which includes *Laghu*, *Ruksha*, *Kaphamedohara*, and *Srotoshodhana* properties, is crucial for preventing and managing these conditions, while *Apathya*, such as *Guru*, *Snigdha*, and *Kaphamedokara* foods, should be avoided.<sup>1</sup>

Ayurvedic texts emphasize the impact of Pathya-Apathya on various disorders like dyslipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, skin diseases, PCOS, and bronchial asthma, underlining the importance of adhering to appropriate dietary guidelines and lifestyle practices to alleviate symptoms and promote overall well-being. By following the principles of Pathya and avoiding Apathya, individuals can effectively manage Krichartava and other related conditions through Ayurvedic interventions.

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