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Case Study

AYURVEDIC MANAGEMENT FOR PRIMARY INFERTILITY DUE TO TUBAL BLOCKAGE- A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Tubal factor infertility occurs when a blockage in the fallopian tubes will not allow the egg and sperm to meet. Tubal factor infertility accounts for about 25-30% of all cases of infertility. Case study: A 32-year-old female, reported at the OPD of Prasuti Tantra Evum Streeroga, NIA, Jaipur had complaints of failure to conceive since 5 years. She had an active married life of 5 years. Her menstrual history revealed scanty menstrual flow for 2 days with pain and clots with the interval of 28 days. Patient had past history of Hysterosalpingography (HSG) report dated 13.01.2018 showing left sided distal tubal blockage and right sided minimal free spillage. Her ultrasonography report was normal. She had undergone intra uterine insemination (IUI) once. Patient was treated with Uttaravasti with Shudha Bala Tail 5 ml on the 5th, 7th, and 9th days after menstruation for three cycles. Simultaneously Yonipichu (tampon) was advocated to apply daily from 5th day to 9th day of menstrual cycle for 2 months. Abhyantara Chikitsa included Triphala Guggulu 250 mg, BD, Ashwagandha Churna 10 ml with milk orally before meal for 30 days and Ashokaristha 10 ml BD orally with equal amount of water before meal for 30 days. Patient reported amenorrhoea after completing the course, UPT conducted was positive. Conclusion: It can be concluded that the in-situ treatment is giving encouraging

results in cases of tubal block and perhaps *Uttaravasti* and *Yonipichu* and trial drug *Shudha Bala Taila* along with oral medications might have worked in synergy in removing the block in fallopian tubes and achieve conception. However, to confirm this observation, further large-scale evaluation is required.

KEYWORDS: Bala Taila, Tubal block, Uttarabasti, Vandhyatva, Yoni Pichu.

INTRODUCTION

Tubal factor infertility occurs when a blockage in the fallopian tubes will not allow the egg and sperm to meet. Tubal factor infertility accounts for about 25-30% of all cases of infertility. Tubal block is one of the major causes of infertility. Tubal blockages or damage may be caused by pelvic inflammatory disease, endometriosis, previous surgeries, ectopic pregnancy or tubal ligation. Most women with damaged or blocked fallopian tubes do not experience any symptoms. Because of tubal block there is lack of ability of sperms for reaching up to ovum to fertilise it and also there is problem for fertilised egg to come in womb for implantation. ii

There is a possibility of conception when one tube is blocked and other is open. But in fully blocked tubes pregnancy without treatment cannot be possible. In case of partially blocked tubes, there are increased chances of an ectopic pregnancy because due hardness of tube fertilized egg cannot reach to uterus. In case unilateral blockage of fallopian tube, fertilised egg can move to uterus from open tube. The Patency of tubes and sufficient ciliary movements must be present for conception.

Tubal factor infertility can sometimes be treated surgically to repair the tubes, depending on the degree of damage. Women with tubal problems that cannot be surgically corrected or who do not want the surgery can undergo in vitro fertilization (IVF). This may include removing severely damaged tubes prior to IVF. Thus, it is the need of hour to find for alternative solutions for managing tubal blocks.ⁱⁱⁱ

Case study

A 32-year-old female with her husband aged 35 years residing at Jaipur reported at the OPD of *Prasuti Tantra Evum Streeroga*, NIA, Jaipur had complaints of failure to conceive since 5 years. She had an active married life of 5 years. She had no associated complains during her visit to the clinic. Her menstrual history revealed scanty menstrual flow for 2 days with pain and clots with the interval of 28 days.

The patient was examined thoroughly. Patient had her past Hysterosalpingography (HSG) report dated 13.01.2018 showing left sided distal tubal blockage and right sided minimal free spillage. Her ultrasonography report was normal. She had history of past treatment of allopathy medicine for 6 months, 2 years back. In that treatment she had also undergone An intrauterine insemination (IUI), but the attempt failed. The patient had undergone laproscopy once in 2017, which revealed patent tubes and all other factors normal. The hormonal assay report showed no significant abnormalities (S. TSH- 2.21, S.LH- 4.27, S.FSH-5.52 mIU/ml, estradiol-

29.30pg/ml, AMH- 6.67ng/ml, sperm antibody- 3.59u/ml, negative). Husband's semen analysis was also normal with total sperm count as 42mil/ml, 40% active motile, 40% abnormal heads, fructose present.

She had no past history of any major illness like DM, HTN, Asthma etc. Physical examination revealed Pulse, Blood pressure, the temperature within normal limits. CBS, ESR and Urine examination revealed no significant abnormality.

Plan of intervention:

Uttaravasti with *Shudha Bala Tail* 5 ml on the 5th, 7th, and 9th days after menstruation for three cycles. Simultaneously *Yonipichu* with *Shudha Bala Taila* (2cm* 2cm tampon soaked in 10 ml of oil) was advocated to apply daily from 5th day to 9th day of menstrual cycle for 2 months. *Abhyantara Chikitsa* included *Triphala Guggulu* 250 mg, BD, *Ashwagandha Churna*^{iv} 5 grams with milk orally before meal for 30 days and *Ashokaristha* 10 ml BD^v orally with equal amount of water before meal for 30 days.

Method of Uttarbasti-

- ✓ *Uttarbasti* was administered after menstrual cessation.
- ✓ Snehana of Tila Taila and nadisweda was given on the lower abdomen, back and lower limbs of patient. Yoni Prakshalana with Triphala Kwatha was given to sterilize the peri-vaginal part.
- ✓ *Uttarbasti* procedure was performed in properly sterilized operation theatre. Autoclaved oil and instrument were used.
- ✓ The patient was lied down dorsal lithotomy and head low position on the Operation table. The peripheral part and part of Vagina was cleaned with betadine liquid. Using Cusco's speculum, the vagina and cervix were visualized. With the help of Uterine sound, size and shape of uterus was determined and then *Uttarbasti* cannula attached with 5 ml syringe filled with *Shudha Bala Taila* was passed into the uterine cavity. The drug was pushed very slowly in such a manner that it can easily reached up to the tubes.
- ✓ The patient was given head low position for one hour. The lower abdomen was fomented with hot water bag.
- ✓ Intercourse was restricted up to completion of *Uttarbasti*.

Time line

Date	Episode
8/9/2019	1 st visit
(LMP- 6/9/2019)	Oral drug advised. Adv. To start <i>Uttarabasti</i> from 4 th day of
	menses.
13/9/2019	1 st cycle of <i>Uttarabasti</i> (day 1)

15/9/2019	1 st cycle of <i>Uttarabasti</i> (day 2)
17/9/2019	1st cycle of <i>Uttarabasti</i> (day 3)
(LMP- 12/10/2019)	
18/10/2019	2 nd cycle of <i>Utarabasti</i> (day1)
20/10/2019	2 nd cycle of <i>Utarabasti</i> (day2)
22/10/2019	2 nd cycle of <i>Utarabasti</i> (day3)
	Ashwagandha Churna with Milk orally added
14/10/2019	Amenorrhoea since 2 days. UPT- Positive

The protocol and follow up of *Uttarbasti* of the patient are as follows:

	Date	Day of	B. P	P. R	Temp	Procedure	Oil	Oil
		LMP					retained	expelled
Cycle	13/9/2019	7 th	110/70	70/min	97.9 f	Utarabasti	1.5ml	3.5ml
1			mm hg			with		
						Shudha		
						Bala Taila		
	15/9/2019	9 th	120/80	72/min	98.2 F	Utarabasti	2.5ml	2.5ml
			mm hg			with		
						Shudha		
						Bala Taila		
	17/9/2019	11 th	110/80	78/min	98.3 F	Utarabasti	2.5ml	2.5ml
			mm hg			with		
						Shudha		
						Bala Taila		
Cycle	18/10/19	7 th	120/70	76/min	98.5 F	Utarabasti	2.5ml	2.5ml
2			mm hg			with		
						Shudha		
						Bala Taila		
	20/10/19	9 th	110/80	72/min	96.8 F	Utarabasti	2ml	3ml
			mm hg			with		
						Shudha		
						Bala Taila		
	22/10/19	11 th	120/70	74/min	97.7 F	Utarabasti	2ml	3ml
			mm hg			with		

			Shudha		
			Bala Taila		

Result – After administration of the above treatment protocol for 2 menstrual cycles. Patient came to the OPD with the complaints of missed periods. Her Urine Pregnancy test was conducted which was then positive.

Discussion

As per Ayurvedic literature, there are four major factors responsible for conception i.e., *Ritu, Kshetra, Ambu* and *Beeja. Kshetra* includes the whole female reproductive system, that must be structurally and functionally sound for conception. *Kshetra* also includes Fallopian tubes, which is essential factor for conception.

According to Ayurveda, block or obstruction in any *Shrotas*(channel) of the body is caused by *Vata* and *Kapha*, and the same is the pathology in case of fallopian tubal block. *Uttaravasti* is an ideal in-situ therapy that can be adopted in tubal block, since Vastiis the best therapy to control and regulate the *Vata*. Intrauterine *Utarabasti* (IUUB) act on tubal blockage by removing the whole inner lining and by the mechanical effect of stimulating contractions of the uterus.

Bala (Sida cordifolia) is the main ingredient of this oil, which has a *Rasayana* (rejuvenating /restoring the normal structure of the fallopian tube, means obstruction is removed through the *Vatahara* property and repair of the mucosa of the tubal lumen is done through rejuvenating property. Oil has the capacity to reach minute channels in the body due to its *Sukshma*(minute) property. Thereby the trial drug might have helped in relieving tubal block further. Simultaneous application of vaginal tampon ensures the constant drug delivery in micro quantities in the reproductive tract, especially in fallopian tubes.

It is not only the patency of the tubal lumen that is needed for the treatment of tubal infertility. Restoration of the tubal functions is also another very important objective of the study. It can be achieved by pacifying the vitiation of *Vata*. The *Snigdha Guna* of the *Taila* is definitely helpful to relieve the abnormality generated by the *Ruksha*, *Daruna*, and *Khara Guna* of *Vata*. It restores the tonic phasic contractions of the tube and movement of the cilia. It is supported by the results of *Uttar Basti*, that the patient conceived, and no ectopic pregnancy was reported.

Contents of *Ashokarishtha* constitutes mainly of *Aśoka (Saraca indica)*, Śuṇṭhi (Zingiber officinale), Harītakī (Terminalia chebula), Vāsā (Adhatoda vasica), and Candana (Santalum album), the drugs strengthen the heart (Hṛdya) and endows power (Balya) and act as rejuvenatives (Rasāyana) and strengthen the body (Dhātupuṣṭi). These are given to enhance endometrial receptivity and achieve pregnancy. vi

Ashwagandha is directly indicated in Vandhyatwa in Gadanigraha and Ksheer has Garbhadhankara properties & directly indicated in Yoniroga & Garbhastrava. Ashwagandhaksheerpaka gives strength to reproductive

organs. It is having Madhura Rasa dominance, which is Prithvi Jala Mahabhuta Pradhana. Its Balya, Brimhana, Rasayana properties are responsible for Upachaya thereby improves the endometrial thickness and helps in folliculogenesis. Shothahara property or Anti-inflammatory action vii of withaferin may be helping in preparing the endometrium to receive products of conception & also helpful in Pelvic inflammatory disease, inflammatory conditions of tubes.

Triphala Guggulu is one of the ancient Ayurvedic formulations as per Sharangdhara Samhita. viiiIngredients of Triphala Guggulu tablets are Emblica officinalis (Amla), Terminalia chebula (Hareetaki), Terminalia bellerica (Vibheetaki), Piper longum (long pepper), and Commiphora mukul (Guggulu). Triphala is well known for its wound-healing quality. It also soothes the inflamed mucous layer and helps in checking the further infection. Guggulu is one of the best-known anti-inflammatory herbs of Ayurveda. It also helps in healing the inflammation of tubes.

Conclusion

When Tubal blockage is cause of infertility, infertile couples are forced to dwell upon Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) or Reconstructive tubal surgery. But these treatment remains unreachable to major proportion of infertile couples around world because of its unaffordable cost. Tubal blockage can be correlated with Artavavaha Srotas Dushti mainly of Sanga type. It can be concluded that the in-situ treatment is giving encouraging results in cases of tubal block and perhaps *Uttaravasti* and *Yonipichu* and trial drug *Shudha* Bala Taila along with oral medications might have worked in synergy in removing the block in fallopian tubes and achieve conception. However, to confirm this observation, further large-scale evaluation is required.

Declaration of patient consent: The authors declare that they have obtained consent form from patient for publication of clinical information blinding the identity of individuals.

Conflict of interest: Nil

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