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An Ayurvedic Approach to “Kukunaka” w.s.r to Ophthalmia Neonatorum

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ABSTRACT:

Kukunaka is explained by Acharya Vagbhata under the Vartmagata netra Roga seen only in children having the classical symptoms of painful eye lid edema, discharge, itching etc and mentioned Sthanya Dushti and Dantotpattikala as the causative factor for the same. “Kukunaka” can be correlated to Ophthalmia neonatrum. It is a disease occurring in neonates within 4 weeks of delivery, affecting 1.6% to 12% of all newborns, presenting with inflammation of conjunctiva, sticky purulent discharge in infants, also called as neonates conjunctivitis due to maternal infection during labor and delivery. Investigation of both parents is necessary to prevent reoccurrence in subsequent pregnancies. If left untreated ophthalmia neonatrum can cause blindness so treatment should be given for both for mother and infant. Even in ayurvedic science treatment is planned both for mother and infant. Treatment includes vamana, virechana, jalaoukavacharana, lekhana, pratisarana, prakshalana, pariseka, asyotana, anjana, lepa, nasya to the infants whereas snehapana, vamana, virechana, stana lepa, pidana, stana dhupana is given to the mothers. In this regard here is an approach to the Kukunaka with special reference to ophthalmic Neonatorum in the ayurvedic Classics.

Keywords: kukunaka, neonates conjunctivitis, ophthalmia neonatrum.