



A REVIEW ON CARBUNCLE

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Abstract – A carbuncle is an infection of hair follicles in which group of boils are present on the surface of skin. From outside it has sieve like pattern but subcutaneously multiple hair follicles are intermingled together. Carbuncle means black. Black patches are found in the body. Incision and drainage are the mainstay of treatment for carbuncle. But some ayurvedic medication are also used as adjuvant therapy to prevent the reoccurrence of carbuncle. This study explores the pathogenesis, features and treatment used for carbuncle.

Keywords- Carbuncle, Boil, Incision and Drainage, Adjuvant therapy

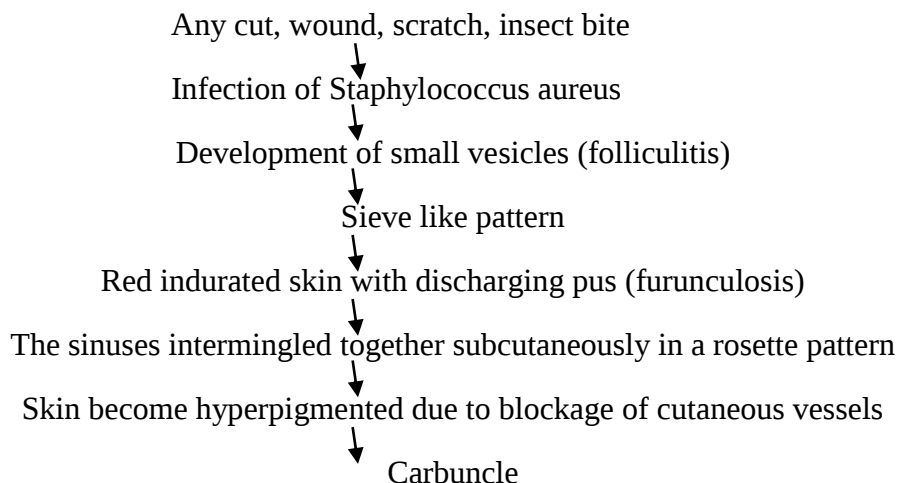
Introduction ^[1]- It is a gangrenous infection of hair follicles extending up to surrounding skin and deep into subcutaneous tissues. It is a cluster of a series of communicating abscess, having many openings for discharge at the surface. They usually appear as erythematous, tender, cystic, fluctuant, soft nodule with several draining sinuses or pustules over the surface which are intermingled from within. They usually appear mainly due to Staphylococcal infection and other Gram- negative bacteria are also the causative organisms for it. Carbuncles might have extensive base than they seem. There is central extensive slough, surrounded by a rosette of small areas of necrosis. A carbuncle can appear in any part of body with hair but most often found at the regions with thick skin like back, posterior neck and thighs. A carbuncle starts with a simple folliculitis, if left untreated infection may spread widely with multiple discharging fresh openings on the surface and it will lead to furuncle and multiple furuncles are contiguous, it becomes carbuncle. Under treatment when the slough is drained off, fibroblastic reaction start from the surrounding granulation tissue and carbuncle heals with characteristic induration.

Material and Methods-

Etiology ^[2] –

- Gram – negative bacterial infection mainly Staphylococcus aureus.
- Carbuncles mainly develop when bacteria invade the skin through cuts or wounds or a small scratch or insect bite.
- Areas with frictions are mainly prone to carbuncle formation as- armpits, thigh, waist, groin.
- Hirsute portions are commonly involved

Epidemiology- The incidence of carbuncles is uncertain. However, they are relatively common. Mostly young and middle-aged males come to OPD.

Pathogenesis^[3]**Risk Factors-**

- Immunocompromised patients
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Obesity
- Poor hygiene
- Chronic skin diseases

Clinical features-

- Swollen lump
- Discharging points (Ash like slough)
- Red, tender surrounding
- Itching
- Generalized symptoms as- Fever, Fatigue

Differential Diagnosis^[4] –

- Hidradenitis suppurativa
- Sebaceous cyst
- Cellulitis

Management^[5] - Carbuncle typically require medical as well as surgical intervention. They are usually drained by giving an incision and removing the slough for rapid healing along with antibiotic coverage to be given.

- Treatment of associated cause is must.
- Lifestyle changes play a very important role.
- Ayurvedic Management^[6] – 1 कांचनार गुग्गुलु – 2 BD

2. आरोग्यवर्धिनी वटी – 2BD

3. महामंजिष्ठादि क्वाथ – 40 ml BD

4. दशांग लेप for local application

Prognosis-

If treated they heal rapidly leaving no ugly scar. So, prognosis is excellent. Rare chances of development of sepsis.

References-

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