

Visual Analogies for Swellings

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Abstract

Analogical teaching is one among the types of Ancient Indian methods of education which has been adopted by various systems of medicine. Colossal data on analogies can be screened from all the texts of medical sciences. Currently, these analogies have been deserted in the teaching curriculum. This article illustrates the types of analogies mentioned for swelling. Adopting these analogies in medical education improves the perception of the unfamiliar subject in a familiar way.

Keyword: Analogy; Medical education; Swelling; Upama; Shape.

Introduction

Analogical teaching is an ancient Indian method of epistemology wherein the pupil is educated about a subject with the assistance of an analogy, termed as Upamana. Analogies aid in perception of an unfamiliar subject to be familiar. Along with Pratyaksha [direct perception], Anumana [Inference], this Upamana pramana was widely employed as major tool for education. For a medico, this method of teaching is highly essential instrument for imparting conceptual understanding, as all pathological conditions might not exist during the theoretic and practical

deliberations. An enormous number of analogies are cited in Ayurvedic treatises for educating the medico. Contemporary sciences have also used many analogies in detailing the concepts related to various pathological conditions. This article furnishes the list of analogies cited in contemporary sciences about describing the swellings.

Shapes and their analogies

Sushruta, the Father of Indian Surgery, is the foremost author to cite various analogies for swelling. He strongly suggests that a unique shape of a swelling play vital role in diagnosing the ailment and accordingly the decision on its management. Analogies related to fundamental principles of Ayurveda, Anatomy, physiology, pathology, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and instruments and related to ethics of clinical practice are elaborated in detail. The choice of analogies suggested, are exclusively naturally available materials like botanical, mineral, zoological aspects mainly concentrating on their appearance, color, shape. In order to just to give a bird's eye view of the analogies detailed in the Sushruta's treatise, table No. 1 illustrates the lists analogies used to describe various types of hemorrhoids.

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Table 1: Depicts the list of Analogies cited for Hemorrhoids.

Analogy	Description
Mudga	Resembling Green gram [Vigna radiata]
Shuka tunda	Parrot beak
Kalaya	Pea [Pisum sativum]
Kharjura Fruit	Date palm [Phoenix dactylifera]
Udumbara	Fruit of Ficus racemosa
Ambhoja	Seed of Calamus Rotang
Shikhi tunda	Beak of peacock
Jambhu phala	Syzygium cumini fruit
Bimbi phala	Coccinia indica fruit
Kebuka phala	Costus speciosus fruit

Nyagrodha phala	Ficus benghalensis fruit
Badara phala	Ziziphus mauritiana Lam fruit
Kadamba pushpa	Flower of Neolamarckia cadamba
Jalauka	Leech
Angushta	Great toe
Gostana	Aerola of Cow

Analogies cited in Contemporary Medical Science

Over the last few decades, a number of analogies have been made and are being used in order to describe a swelling. These analogies will ease out in describing the swelling to both medicos and patients. Hence analogies serve as a knowledge tool in the perception of the any unknown subject by comparison with a known subject.

Table 2: Depicts the categories of visual analogies cited for Swelling.

Analogy Category	Analogy	Example
Alphabetical	C shaped Swelling	Papilledema ⁵
	L Shaped swelling	Renal cell carcinoma ^{6,7}
	S Shaped swelling	Suppurative dacroadenitis ⁸
	V shaped Swelling	Copula linguae ⁹
	Y Shaped swelling	Sclerosing lipogranuloma ¹⁰
	Appendix like swelling	Congenital cystic dilatation of the submandibular duct ¹¹
	Bladder like swelling	Hydatid cyst ¹²
	Bone like swelling	Giant cell granuloma ¹³
	Cord like swelling	Penile Mondor's disease ¹⁴
	Fist like swelling	Diphtheritic cystitis and urethritis ¹⁵
Anatomical	Heart shaped	Lipoma in Penis ¹⁶
	Nipple like swelling	Congenital midline cervical cleft ¹⁷
	Kidney shaped	Leiomyoma ¹⁸
	Sac like swelling	Ganglion ¹⁹
	Scrotal like swelling	Iliac compression syndrome ²⁰
	Tongue like swelling	Von Recklinghausen's osteitis fibrosa ²¹
	Butterfly shaped	Hypothyroidism ²²
	Elephant pad like swelling	Sarcoidosis ²³
	Horse shoe shaped	Intra oral lymphoma ²⁴
	Tadpole shaped	Dermoid cyst ²⁵
Architectural	Dome shaped	Angiomyoma of the palate ²⁶
	Mound like swelling	Retinal anlage tumor ²⁷
Botanical	Shamrock shaped swelling	Shwannoma ²⁸
Container	Bottle shaped swelling	Gaucher's disease ²⁹
	Apple shaped	Pedunculated Lipofibroma ³⁰
Culinary	Almond shaped swelling	Multiple Myeloma ³¹
	Banana shaped swelling	Sarcoid dactylitis ³²
	Barley shaped swelling	Stye ³³
	Bean shaped swelling	Branchiogenic nasopharyngeal cyst ³⁴
	Cauliflower shaped	Myelomeningocele ³⁵
	Cherry like swelling	Haemangioma of pregnancy ³⁶
	Cucumber shaped swelling	Hair ball or Hair cast of the stomach ³⁷
	Donut shaped swelling	Strangulated urethral prolapse ³⁸

	Dough like swelling	Necrotizing mediastinitis ³⁹
	Egg Shaped swelling	Pelvic Haematocele ⁴⁰
	Sausage Shaped	Dactylitis [Sausage digit] ⁴¹
	Strawberry like swelling	Strawberry haemangioma ⁴²
	Lemon shaped swelling	Isolated Muscular cysticercosis ⁴³
	Lenticular shaped swelling	Orbial haemorrhage ⁴⁴
	Mulberry like swelling	Fibrosarcoma and pseudosarcoma of the larynx ⁴⁵
	Mushroom shaped	Papilledema ⁴⁶
	Nut shaped swelling	Acute suppurative dacryoadenitis ⁴⁷
	Potato like swelling	Osteochondroma ⁴⁸
	Pea shaped	Papillary thyroid carcinoma ⁴⁹
	Plum like swelling	Actinomycosis of the larynx ⁵⁰
	Olive shaped swelling	Cervical bronchial cyst ⁵¹
	Pear shaped	Extranasopharyngeal juvenile angiofibroma ⁵²
	Grape like swelling	Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma of the vagina ⁵³
	Gourd shaped	Tuberculous Tenosynovitis of the hand ⁵⁴
	Cuff like swelling	Pseudotumor of bone ⁵⁵
Fashion accessory	Collar like swelling	Diphtheria ⁵⁶
	Turban like swelling	Hodgkin's disease ⁵⁷
	Watch glass shaped swelling	Xanthomatosis ⁵⁸
Fitness accessory	Dumb bell shaped	Dumb-bell lipoma ⁵⁹
	Cone shaped	Cervical spine osteomyelitis ⁶⁰
	Disc shaped swelling	Disciform keratitis ⁶¹
	Fusiform shaped	Ossified styloid complex ⁶²
	Hemispheric shaped swelling	Aneurysmal bone cyst of the frontal bone ⁶³
Geometrical	Oval shaped	Salivary duct cyst ⁶⁴
	Pyramidal shaped	Mastoid Osteoma of Temporal Bone ⁶⁵
	Semielliptical shaped swelling	Osteomyelitis ⁶⁶
	Spherical shaped swelling	Adenomatoid odontogenic tumor of maxilla ⁶⁷
	Spindle shaped	Dyschondroplasia ⁶⁸
	Triangular shaped	Sclerosing lipogranuloma of the genitalia ⁶⁹
	Fibroid like swelling	Cervical pregnancy ⁷⁰
	Haematoma like swelling	Osteopetrosis ⁷¹
Pathological	Hernia like swelling	Laryngocele ^{72,73}
	Lipoma like swelling	Cystic hygroma of chest ⁷⁴
	Pimple like swelling	Epithelial inclusion cyst ⁷⁵
Weapon	Sabre like	Syphilitic periostitis ⁷⁶
	Ball like swelling	Acute serious epiglottis ⁷⁷
	Balloon shaped swelling	Radicular cyst ⁷⁸
	Bolster like swelling	Phlegmonous pharyngitis ⁷⁹
	Bubble like swelling	Mucocele ⁸⁰
	Club shaped swelling	Craniometaphyseal dysplasia ⁸¹
Miscellaneous	Hour glass shaped	Sublingual dermoid cyst ⁸²
	Jelly like swelling	Lymphangiectasia haemorrhagica conjunctivae ⁸³
	Pad like swelling	Kabuki make-up syndrome ⁸⁴
	Pillow shaped swelling	Acute obstructive laryngitis ⁸⁵
	Pouch like swelling	Urethral diverticulum ⁸⁶
	Ragged mass shaped swelling	Plasma cell granuloma of the mandible ⁸⁷
	Sponge like swelling	Congenital elephantiasis ⁸⁸

Both tables give a glimpse of wealth of analogies available in medical sciences. In the similar fashion, a treasure of analogies related to olfactory, tactile, gustatory and auditory are available in texts of Ancient Indian medical science. These analogies have been neglected in this era of technology dependant teaching methodology; bedside examination or clinical examination is being ignored both by medicos and their concerned faculties. The lost glory of analogical teaching has to be brought back in order to familiarize the medico about the subject and enhance the clarity in understanding.

Conclusion

Traditional teaching styles convey the subject in more pronounced way and augment the perception of unfamiliar or less known subject with assistance of analogies. Numerous analogies are cited for swelling which have been less valued and overlooked during teaching methodology. This analogical teaching is a necessity and medical fraternity must not allow to lose its glory.

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