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## Anatomical Consideration of “Artav-vaha Srotas”



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### Abstract

Ayurveda is most ancient medical science having all the part of medical including anatomy, physiology, pathology, medicine etc. brief anatomical description of human body is given in *Sharir- sthan* of every text of Ayurveda. Srotas are the peculiarity of Ayurvedic medical science describing the systems of body. Srotas are considered as secretory channels [1] of the body. Srotas are the hollow spaces of our body which transport the *parinam prad dhatu* [2] (essence of the food) from one place to another place. Srotas are the systems or the part of the body systems or the secretory channels which are responsible for the secretions or transportation of *Dhatu*. *Purush* (Live being) is considered as the combination of Srotas [3].

According to *Acharya Shushrut* there are two roots of *Artav-vaha srotas*, *Garbhasaya* (uterus) and *Artav - vaha dhamani* [4]. Here *artav-vaha srotas* *antermukh srotas* which is also known as *yogvahi srotas*. Here *Artava* is the menstrual blood and *Artav vaha Srotas* is the part of female reproductive system which is responsible for the formation of menstrual blood and the passage which carry the menstrual blood during menstrual cycle. We can consider all the systems including hormones secretory glands which are responsible for the formation of menstrual blood and its mensuration at right time eg. Ovary and its follicle. Due to the injury in *Artav vaha srotas* infertility, sexual intolerance, amenorrhea symptoms can be seen. In last *Artav vaha srotas* may be considered ovary, uterus, uterine endometrium, uterine arteries, cervix, vagina etc

**Keywords:** Srotas; Artav; Garbhashaya; parinamprad dhatu; Artava vaha dhamani; yogvahi

### Material and Method

It is a review article, in which I want to elaborate the ancient rachana sharir part Srotas in the light of modern anatomy. Various Acharyas in ancient era mention the topic Srotas sharirbut in this article I would like to focus upon the main text of ayurveda, charak and shushrut views regarding the Srotas. Two type of Srotas are described here Bahirmukh Srotas [5] (opens outside) and Antarmukh Srotas (opens inside the body). Here *artav-vaha srotas* *antermukh Srotas* which is also known as *yogvahi srotas*.

If any injury occurs in *artav vaha Srotas* then vidd lakshana [6] (symptoms due to injury) are the infertility, amenorrhea, painful intercourse etc.

### Discussion

Roots of *artav-vaha Srotas* mentioned *Garbhashaya* and *Artav vaha dhamani*. *Garbhashaya* is the uterus or womb which is the reservoir of artava (menstrual blood) in the endometrium till the date of menturation. According to *acharya shushrut* the position of *Garbhashaya* is in the third whorl of yoni (vagina) and its shape is like rohitmatsya much (rohu fish). *Acharya Dalhan* says that the opening is narrow and cavity is very large in shape

[7]. Endometrial of uterus is the main reservoir of the artava eg. Menstrual blood. During the menstrual cycle proliferation of the endometrium occur and the blood supply increases. The uterine arteries are the main vessels for the endometrium supply.

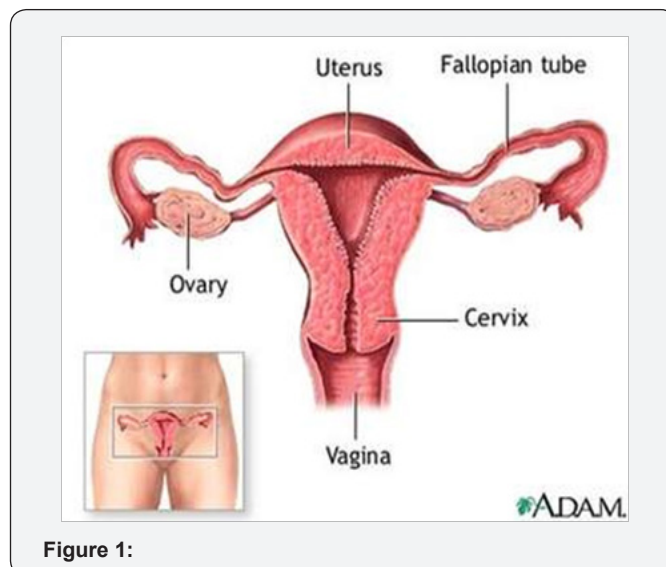


Figure 1:

Here the artava formation is done under the influence of the estrogen and FSH. The hormones are secreted by the pituitary and ovary are also the part of artava vaha srotas. When mensuration occurs the flow of artava is through uterine cavity toward the cervix and vagina. Here uterine cavity, cervix and vagina is also the artava-vaha damani (passage) which is the root of artava-vaha srotas. Finally we can consider as *artav vaha Srotas* to the whole female reproductive system [8]. Due to the injury in any part of *artav vaha Srotas* there may be infertility, amenorrhea and pain during sexual act. It may happen due to the injury of uterus, uterine tubes, vaginal wall, cervix and their surrounding viscera (Figure 1).

### Conclusion

Reviews as per my study through the ancient *Srotas sharir* to artava-vaha *Srotas* and its anatomical consideration with modern anatomy it come to know that whole female reproductive system is considered as the *artav vaha srotas*. Though opening of the vagina is considered as *Bahirmukh Srotasbut* that is

also a part of *artava vaha Srotas that is yogvahi srotas*. Mainly the endometrium, uterine and ovarian vessels, and hormone secretory glands are the roots of *artava-vaha srotas*.

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