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Concept of Beejasuddhi in Ayurveda and its role in preventing congenital disorders

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The concept of Beejasuddhi purification of reproductive tissues is deeply embedded in Ayurvedic philosophy as a foundation for healthy conception and progeny. Rooted in the Garbha Sambhava Samagri (essential factors of conception), it underscores that both Shukra (male gamete) and Artava (female gamete) must be free of dosha dushti (vitiation) to produce an ideal fetus. This ancient preventive model highlights purification procedures through Shodhana (detoxification), Rasayana (rejuvenation), and lifestyle disciplines, long before conception occurs.

Congenital anomalies, now medically linked to genetic mutations, epigenetic changes, teratogenic exposures, and gamete abnormalities, find early mention in Ayurveda as manifestations of disturbed Beeja, Beejabhaga, and Beejabhagavyava. Preventive strategies in Ayurveda include Garbhadhana Sanskara, seasonal and dietary regulation, and administration of reproductive tonics, which remarkably correlate with modern recommendations for preconception care and gamete health optimization.

This paper explores the classical roots, clinical applications, and modern biomedical parallels of Beejasuddhi, emphasizing its potential as a cost-effective, preventive paradigm in reproductive health. It evaluates Samskaras, herbal Rasayanas, Panchakarma regimens, and dietary modifications through a combination of Ayurvedic scripture and contemporary medical literature, aiming to reestablish the importance of preconception wellness in mitigating congenital disorders.

Keywords: Beejasuddhi, Ayurveda, Congenital Disorders, Rasayana, Panchakarma, Garbhini Paricharya, Preconception, Epigenetics, Shukra Dushti, Artava Dushti

1. Introduction

The foundation of a healthy life begins not at birth, but at conception-a view held both in ancient Ayurvedic science and modern embryology. Beejasuddhi, a Sanskrit term referring to the purification and fortification of reproductive elements, represents one of Ayurveda's most refined concepts in the domain of preconception care. It is central to the Ayurvedic approach of disease prevention (Swasthasya Swasthya Rakshanam), especially for disorders manifesting congenitally or later in life due to compromised reproductive health. Ayurveda categorizes congenital disorders (Janmabhaava Vikara) under those arising from hereditary, maternal, and preconceptional factors. Texts like Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita describe not only the qualities of healthy progeny but also causes of anomalies such as Kubjatva (hunchback), Andhatva (blindness), and Pangutva (paralysis), due to vitiated Beeja or defective Beejabhaga. These correlate with modern understandings of gene mutations, chromosomal disorders, and mitochondrial abnormalities.

While contemporary medicine has made remarkable advancements in prenatal diagnostics and gene therapy, it often falls short in universal prevention due to high costs and limited access. Ayurveda, on the other hand, offers a time-tested model of preventive care, rooted in Beejasuddhi that is both sustainable and holistic.

2. Objective of the paper

The objective of this paper is to analyze classical Ayurvedic frameworks and their intersection with contemporary knowledge, with the intent to underscore the scientific relevance of Beejasuddhi in today's context.

3. Reviews of Literature

The concept of Beejasuddhi has been extensively documented in classical Ayurvedic literature and is increasingly being explored in modern scientific contexts for its relevance

in preconceptional care and the prevention of congenital anomalies. The traditional texts of Ayurveda provide a foundational understanding of reproductive physiology and disease etiology rooted in a holistic worldview that links physical, mental, ethical, and environmental factors. Over time, several Ayurvedic scholars and modern researchers have expanded on these ideas to establish the importance of preconception health, reproductive detoxification, and rejuvenation.

The earliest and most authoritative references to *Beejasuddhi* appear in Charaka Samhita (Sharira Sthana 2), which outlines the Garbha Sambhava Samagri, or the four essential elements for the formation of the embryo-Ritu (fertile period), Kshetra (uterus), Ambu (nutritional support), and Beeja (reproductive seed). Among these, Beeja is emphasized as being critical to determining the structural, functional, and psychological characteristics of the offspring. Charaka states that if either Shukra or Artava is vitiated by doshic imbalance or karmic impurity, it can lead to abnormalities in the fetus ranging from structural defects to emotional and cognitive disorders.

Sushruta Samhita (Sharira Sthana 2/3) further categorizes the units of Beeja into Beejabhaga and Beejabhagavyava, concepts that correspond conceptually to the gene and Sushruta emphasizes that congenital chromosome. anomalies like blindness, deafness, or physical deformities are direct consequences of defects in these subunits. This early understanding of hereditary influence is remarkably prescient when compared with modern knowledge of mutations and chromosomal anomalies. Additionally, the text elaborates on Adibalapravritta (hereditary) and Janmabalapravritta (congenital but nonhereditary) disorders, which appear to map closely to the modern classification of genetic and acquired congenital conditions.

Vagbhata's Ashtanga Hridaya also discusses the role of preconception health, moral conduct, and seasonal timing in ensuring a healthy progeny. In his detailed descriptions, Vagbhata underscores the importance of balancing doshas. proper dietary habits, and emotional control before conception. The preparatory process he recommends includes Panchakarma purification followed by Rasavana therapy, both aimed at achieving Shuddha Beeja. The Ayurvedic understanding that the reproductive material reflects the cumulative health of all prior tissues (Dhatus) reinforces the need for a structured regimen of reiuvenation and detoxification before conception. Scholars such as P.V. Sharma and R.H. Singh have expanded on these classical foundations in their writings. Sharma, in his work Ayurvediya Prasuti Tantra evam Stri Roga, explains how the ancient seers linked menstrual health, psychological stability, and ethical lifestyle with the quality of Artava and its direct influence on the fetus. Singh, in Foundations of Ayurveda, emphasizes the role of Rasayana herbs in supporting Shukra and Artava tissue and provides insight into how preconceptional interventions align with current models of preventive medicine. In more recent academic contributions, Mishra and Mishra (2020) [14] explored the relevance of Beejabhaga Dushti in congenital anomalies in a detailed review published in the Journal of Ayurveda and Integrated Medical Sciences. The authors found strong parallels between the Ayurvedic view of gamete impurity and modern findings related to gamete epigenetics and oxidative stress. Their review emphasized that Beejasuddhi, when implemented through Panchakarma and Rasayana therapy, could reduce the likelihood of hereditary and nonhereditary congenital defects. They recommended that future clinical studies explore the correlation between Ayurvedic interventions and congenital anomaly rates in prospective parents.

In a study conducted by Bhattarai *et al.* (2019), [11] the use of Ashwagandha was shown to significantly improve semen parameters such as motility, morphology, and sperm count. These findings were published in the Ayurveda Journal of Health and align directly with classical Ayurvedic claims that Ashwagandha acts as a Vrishya Rasayana-a rejuvenative that enhances reproductive vitality. Other studies, including randomized trials on Shatavari, have demonstrated improvements in ovulation rates and hormonal regularity in women with reproductive challenges, providing scientific support to its use in Artava enhancement and uterine tonicity.

Modern biomedical literature also corroborates the importance of preconceptional health. The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights that congenital anomalies affect approximately 6% of all births globally, contributing to significant neonatal morbidity and mortality. The WHO's guidelines emphasize that preconception interventions, including nutritional correction, management of chronic conditions, and avoidance of harmful substances, can prevent a large number of birth defects. These recommendations mirror the Ayurvedic protocol of preparing the body and mind months before conception through dietary reform, detoxification, and lifestyle correction.

The role of oxidative stress in impairing gamete health is now a major focus in reproductive biology. According to Agarwal et al. (2005), up to 80% of male infertility cases are linked to oxidative damage in spermatozoa. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) can cause DNA fragmentation, mitochondrial damage, and apoptosis of germ cells. In Ayurveda, these effects would be interpreted as Beeja Dushti due to Pitta and Vata vitiation, further aggravated by Ama. Herbs like Amalaki, Guduchi, and Haridra are rich in polyphenols and known for their ROS-scavenging properties, lending pharmacological credibility to Ayurvedic interventions in *Beeiasuddhi*. Epigenetic studies have shown that lifestyle, diet, and environmental factors can influence gene expression in gametes without altering the DNA sequence itself. These changes can be transmitted across generations, affecting fetal development and disease susceptibility. This is directly aligned with the Ayurvedic view that parental health and behavior, especially during the preconception phase, have transgenerational impacts. The field of DOHaD (Developmental Origins of Health and Disease) proposes that interventions made before and during conception have long-term implications on the physical and psychological health of children, a view that resonates with Ayurveda's insistence on purifying and fortifying Beeja. Behavioral and psychological literature also supports the Ayurvedic emphasis on emotional balance during preconception. Research conducted by da Silva *et al.* (2021) [18] demonstrates that high levels of parental stress before conception can alter germline epigenetics and predispose offspring to neurodevelopmental disorders. Ayurveda's doctrine of Satvavajaya Chikitsa, aimed at cultivating mental clarity and peace, can thus be viewed as a complementary epigenetic intervention designed to optimize gamete quality and prevent congenital neurobehavioral disorders. Another area of convergence is found in circadian biology. Irregular sleep patterns and circadian disruption are now known to interfere with fertility hormones such as

melatonin, cortisol, LH, and FSH. Ayurveda's Dinacharya (daily routine) and Ritucharya (seasonal discipline) practices, which include regulated sleep, dietary cycles, and exposure to natural light, serve as effective tools to maintain hormonal balance and enhance reproductive outcomes.

1) Introduction

Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine, offers a profound and holistic understanding of health and disease that transcends the limitations of symptomatic treatment. One of its most visionary concepts is that of Beejasuddhi, which refers to the purification of the reproductive seeds-Shukra (sperm) in males and Artava (ovum) in females-prior to conception. This concept forms a vital aspect of Garbha Sambhava Samagri (the essential factors for conception), where the Beeja is considered equivalent to a seed whose purity determines the quality of the resulting life. Ayurveda asserts that for a child to be born with optimal physical, mental, and spiritual health, the gametes must be free from any doshic contamination (dosha dushti) and be structurally and functionally sound. The theory also takes into account hereditary defects, karmic influences, and maternal-fetal interactions, all of which can affect fetal development even before pregnancy begins. In recent decades, the global rise in congenital disorders and reproductive challenges has prompted both scientific and traditional systems to reexamine the importance of preconceptional care. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), congenital anomalies affect approximately 6% of all births globally, resulting in around 295,000 deaths of newborns within the first 28 days of life each year. In India alone, studies estimate that approximately 1.7 million children are born with birth defects annually, contributing to 9.6% of neonatal deaths. A 2021 study published in The Lancet Global Health noted that more than 94% of severe congenital anomalies occur in low- and middle-income countries, largely due to lack of preventive healthcare and awareness of modifiable risk factors during preconception and early pregnancy. These statistics underscore the urgent need for integrative approaches that emphasize prevention rather than cure-an area where Ayurveda, with its robust doctrine of Beejasuddhi, holds significant promise. Modern medicine attributes congenital anomalies to genetic mutations, teratogenic chromosomal abnormalities. advanced maternal age, and poor gamete quality. A large body of evidence now supports that both paternal and maternal health before conception significantly influence the quality of gametes and the embryo. For instance, DNA fragmentation in sperm due to oxidative stress is directly linked to miscarriage, poor embryonic development, and increased risks of genetic abnormalities. Likewise, exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), nutritional deficiencies, and chronic stress during the preconception period have been associated with adverse outcomes in children, including developmental delays and congenital malformations. While genetic counseling, folic acid supplementation, and lifestyle modifications are now part of standard preconception protocols in modern medicine, they primarily focus on minimizing risks rather than enhancing vitality. In contrast, Ayurveda not only seeks to eliminate toxic and vitiated influences but also to fortify the very of life-the Beeja-through multidimensional interventions. The Ayurvedic classics such as Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga Hridaya provide detailed guidelines on how to achieve Beejasuddhi before conception. These include Shodhana (detoxification through

Panchakarma), Rasayana (rejuvenation therapy), dietary and seasonal regimens (Ahara and Ritucharya), mental and emotional purification (Satvavajaya), and spiritual disciplines (Achara Rasayana). The process is not limited to physical cleansing but involves psychosomatic harmony and ethical conduct as essential pre-requisites for healthy progeny. The first Samskara among the 16 traditional Hindu rites, Garbhadhana Samskara, emphasizes the importance of conception at the right time, in the right state of mind, and under purified bodily conditions. This rite reflects Ayurveda's acknowledgment of the deep connection between cosmic timing, parental consciousness, and fetal well-being. From the standpoint of embryology, Ayurveda concept of introduces the Beejabhaga Beejabhagavyava, which resemble the modern understanding of genes and chromosomes. According to Sushruta Samhita (Sharira Sthana 2/3), deformities in these structural components lead to congenital abnormalities such as blindness (Andhatva), deafness (Badhiratva), hunchback (Kubjatva), or even intellectual impairments. This ancient observation bears a striking resemblance to the known effects of point mutations, chromosomal deletions, or meiotic errors in modern genetics. Thus, even before the discovery of DNA, Ayurveda had developed a comprehensive understanding of heredity, reproductive quality, and fetal development-concepts that modern science continues to validate with advanced tools like nextgeneration sequencing and prenatal diagnostics. Despite the growing sophistication of modern prenatal care, it is still largely reactive-aimed at identifying and managing problems after conception or during pregnancy. In contrast, Ayurveda promotes a proactive model of health rooted in the preparation of both parents months before conception. It recognizes that the process of creation is sacred and that physical, mental, and spiritual alignment is necessary to bring forth healthy, intelligent, and emotionally balanced children. As recent studies in epigenetics confirm that lifestyle, stress levels, and diet can modulate gene expression even in germ cells, the relevance of *Beeiasuddhi* as a preventive strategy becomes ever more pertinent. Avurveda's emphasis on detoxification, tissue nourishment, moral conduct, and seasonal balance offers a preventive framework that is not only scientifically sound but also culturally sustainable and accessible across socioeconomic boundaries. In this paper, we explore the Avurvedic concept of Beeiasuddhi in its classical depth and scientific context. We examine its principles, procedures, and the rationale behind each protocol while correlating them with emerging findings in reproductive science and epigenetics. We aim to highlight how this age-old practice, if integrated with modern healthcare models, can become a powerful tool in reducing the incidence of congenital anomalies and improving overall reproductive outcomes. By understanding and applying the principles of Beejasuddhi, we not only purify the path of life but also empower the next generation with the best possible foundation for health, intelligence, and resilience.

2) Classical Ayurvedic Framework of Beejasuddhi

Ayurveda, as a system of medicine, is deeply rooted in the principles of prevention and the harmonization of bodily and mental functions to maintain health. In the context of reproduction, Ayurveda approaches conception not merely as a physical union of sperm and ovum but as a sacred process influenced by biological, psychological, ethical, and spiritual factors. Among the most insightful and preventive

doctrines in Ayurvedic reproductive science is the concept of *Beejasuddhi*, or the purification of reproductive elements. This process is not only seen as necessary for fertility but also essential for producing disease-free, intelligent, and morally upright progeny.

The ancient texts clearly outline that a fetus is formed through the combination of four essential factors known as Garbha Sambhava Samagri-Ritu (fertile period), Kshetra (healthy uterine environment), Ambu (nutritive fluids), and Beeja (reproductive element). Among these, the Beeja holds a central place as it directly relates to the genetic blueprint and health potential of the offspring. Beeja represents both male and female reproductive seeds-Shukra and Artava-and their purity is fundamental for a successful and healthy conception. The texts of Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga Hridaya go beyond the surface to describe the minutiae of Beeja, including its microcomponents-Beejabhaga and Beejabhagavyava. These are believed to be the equivalents of what modern science now identifies as chromosomes and genes. According to Sushruta Samhita (Sharira Sthana 2/3), when Beeja or its sub-units are vitiated by any of the doshas (Vata, Pitta, Kapha), or if the purification of Beeja is not undertaken before conception, it leads to various congenital defects. These may include Andhatva (blindness), Badhiratva (deafness), Pangutva (lameness), Kubjatva (hunchback), or even mental disorders and retardation. The pathogenesis of these disorders is discussed in Ayurvedic terms through the lens of doshic disturbance, karmic impressions, and disturbances in Beejabhaga. While ancient, this framework bears remarkable resemblance to modern understandings of the impact of genetic mutations, chromosomal anomalies, and gene-environment interactions on congenital disorders. Importantly, Ayurveda categorizes such defects under two broad categories: Adibalapravritta Vyadhi, which are hereditary or familial disorders passed through Beeja, and Janmabalapravritta Vyadhi, which arise due to environmental, maternal, or in-utero factors during gestation. While the former deals with preconceptional purity, the latter can be influenced by maternal nutrition. emotions, exposure to harmful substances, or improper conduct during pregnancy. Nevertheless, both categories underscore the need for preventive action starting well before the actual moment of conception.

The process of *Beeiasuddhi* itself is comprehensive. It begins with the purification of the body through Shodhana-a series of Panchakarma detoxification procedures tailored to the individual's doshic constitution. For instance, Vamana (therapeutic emesis) is used to eliminate excess Kapha, Virechana (purgation) targets Pitta, and Basti (medicated enema) balances Vata. These procedures help in cleansing the Srotas (channels), particularly the Shukravaha and Artavavaha Srotas-the reproductive channels in men and women, respectively. The intention is to remove Ama (metabolic waste or toxins), normalize doshic balance, and strengthen the tissues (dhatus), especially Shukra Dhatu and Rakta Dhatu, which are foundational to reproductive health. After Shodhana, the next phase is Rasayana-rejuvenation therapy aimed at rebuilding and fortifying bodily tissues. Rasayana herbs such as Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera), Shatavari (Asparagus racemosus), Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia), and Amalaki (Emblica officinalis) are prescribed for their adaptogenic, antioxidant, and reproductive-enhancing properties. These herbs are believed to restore the quality of reproductive tissues, improve gamete viability, regulate hormonal functions, and enhance

Ojas-the vital essence considered to be the carrier of immunity and spiritual strength. In this way, Rasayana ensures that the purified Beeja are not only free from disease-causing impurities but are also functionally superior and genetically resilient. However, the Ayurvedic framework does not limit Beejasuddhi to physical procedures alone. It extends deeply into the domains of ethics, behavior, and spiritual practices. Achara Rasayana-a unique concept in Ayurveda-emphasizes the importance of righteous conduct, truthfulness, compassion, celibacy, forgiveness, and mindfulness. The observance of these principles is said to directly influence the subtle aspects of the individual's constitution, especially the Satva (mental clarity and purity), which is considered transmissible through the reproductive channels into the fetus. It is believed that the mental and spiritual states of the parents at the time of conception leave imprints on the psyche and health of the unborn child. Therefore, practices like meditation, prayer, chanting of mantras (e.g., Garbhadhana mantra), and abstention from mental disturbances are considered integral to Beejasuddhi. Further, the concept of Ritucharya (seasonal regimen) and Dinacharya (daily regimen) also play a supporting role in maintaining reproductive balance. Conception is advised during the most auspicious time, often aligned with ovulation in women and favorable lunar cycles, referred to as Shukla Paksha. Ayurveda cautions against conception during certain lunar phases, eclipses, or when the parents are physically or emotionally distressed. These practices reflect sophisticated understanding of environmental and cosmic influences on human biology-principles now explored in chronobiology and circadian rhythm science. In addition to physical and spiritual practices, diet (Ahara) is considered a vital aspect of Beejasuddhi. Foods that enhance Shukra and Artava are emphasized. For example, ghee, milk, sesame, black gram (Masha), and dry fruits are considered Shukravardhaka (spermatogenic), while iron-rich and cooling foods help nourish Artava. Foods that cause excessive heat, dryness, or toxins-such as fermented items. alcohol, and red meat-are generally contraindicated. The role of proper digestion and metabolism (Agni) is also emphasized, since poor digestion can lead to Ama formation, which eventually impairs tissue health including that of the reproductive system. Ultimately, the classical Ayurvedic framework of *Beejasuddhi* presents an advanced and integrated approach to reproductive health. It acknowledges the physical, emotional, psychological, dietary, and environmental factors involved in shaping the health of the child-beginning not in the womb but in the minds and bodies of the parents. Far from being outdated, these principles find increasing relevance in light of modern research into gamete epigenetics, prenatal stress, maternalfetal communication, and intergenerational health outcomes. In summation, Beejasuddhi represents not just a detoxification protocol, but a multi-layered strategy of personal transformation that prepares both parents for the sacred responsibility of creating life. It addresses the root causes of congenital disorders by eliminating doshic vitiations, nourishing the dhatus, enhancing the subtle mental faculties, and synchronizing the act of conception with cosmic and physiological rhythms. This profound understanding of conception and hereditary health sets Ayurveda apart as a preventive science and a deeply spiritual art of human evolution. This flowchart illustrates the sequential Ayurvedic approach for Beejasuddhi, Shodhana (detoxification), Rasayana including

(rejuvenation), Satvavajaya (mental balance), and Achara Rasayana (ethical lifestyle), all culminating in healthy conception.

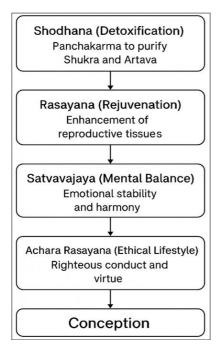


Fig 1: Ayurvedic Steps of Beejasuddhi

3) Beejasuddhi Protocols in Ayurveda

The protocols for Beejasuddhi in Ayurveda represent one of the most structured and preventive approaches to reproductive health ever devised. Ayurveda considers the phase before conception as a critical window for intervention, focusing on purification, rejuvenation, emotional balance, ethical conduct, and alignment with natural and cosmic rhythms. The ultimate goal of these protocols is to prepare both prospective parents-physically, mentally, and spiritually-to contribute high-quality reproductive elements (Beeja) that can form the basis of a healthy, intelligent, and virtuous progeny. Unlike modern fertility medicine, which often begins only after conception or infertility diagnosis, Ayurveda begins months in advance, using time-tested procedures designed to optimize gamete integrity, hormonal balance, and constitutional harmony. This section elaborates on the various steps and principles involved in Ayurvedic Beejasuddhi, supported by classical textual references and contemporary scientific rationale.

The purification of Beeja begins with Shodhana, which is the detoxification of the body through Panchakarma therapies. Panchakarma is a collective term for five main therapeutic actions-Vamana (emesis), Virechana (purgation), Basti (medicated enema), Nasya (nasal cleansing), and Raktamokshana (bloodletting). These procedures aim to eliminate accumulated doshas (biological humors) from the body, restore the balance of Vata, Pitta, and Kapha, and cleanse the various srotas (channels of circulation), including the Shukravaha and Artavavaha Srotas, which are directly involved in reproductive functioning. Panchakarma is typically preceded by Purva Karma (preparatory steps) such as Snehana (internal and external oleation) and Swedana (sudation or sweating therapy), which help in loosening the toxins lodged in the tissues and preparing them for expulsion. The main Pradhana Karma (principal procedures) are then administered under close supervision. Finally, *Paschat Karma* (post-procedures) including dietary regulation and gradual return to normal activities help stabilize the system and enhance the outcomes of detoxification.

Vamana is particularly effective for individuals with dominant Kapha dosha. It helps remove excess phlegmatic waste and mucus from the upper body and improves metabolism, which in turn enhances reproductive hormone regulation. Virechana is indicated for Pitta-dominant constitutions and targets the liver and digestive system. Since Pitta governs enzymes and hormones, its purification is crucial for hormonal balance and gamete quality. Basti, often considered the most important Panchakarma therapy, is primarily used for Vata imbalance. It involves the administration of medicated oils or decoctions via the rectal route and is extremely effective in managing neuromuscular, hormonal, and reproductive dysfunctions. Nasya clears the nasal passages and is believed to stimulate the hypothalamic-pituitary axis, which plays a pivotal role in endocrine regulation. Raktamokshana, though commonly used in modern settings, is employed in cases where blood impurities are believed to contribute to systemic or hereditary disorders.

Following this phase of *Shodhana*, patients are guided into the rejuvenation phase known as Rasayana Chikitsa. The term Rasayana comes from "Rasa" (plasma or essence) and "Ayana" (path), meaning the path through which essence flows. Rasayana therapies are aimed at strengthening tissues, boosting immunity, delaying aging, and enhancing reproductive vitality. In the context of Beejasuddhi, Rasayana drugs specifically target Shukra Dhatu (semen) in men and Artava Dhatu (ovum) in women. These therapies improve not only the quantity but also the functional and qualitative aspects of gametes. Classical Rasayana herbs and formulations used for this purpose include Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera), Shatavari (Asparagus racemosus), Kapikacchu (Mucuna pruriens), Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia), Amalaki (Emblica officinalis), Gokshura (Tribulus terrestris), and Bala (Sida cordifolia). These herbs been found to exhibit adaptogenic, immunomodulatory, and antioxidant properties that aid in sperm motility, oocyte maturation, endometrial receptivity, and hormonal regulation.

For men, Ashwagandha is particularly noted for its spermatogenic action. Modern clinical trials have demonstrated that supplementation with Ashwagandha root extract significantly increases sperm count, semen volume, and motility. This aligns with classical Ayurvedic understanding where Ashwagandha is described as Balya (strength-promoting) and Vrishya (libido-enhancing). Kapikacchu is another herb that enhances libido and testosterone levels, while simultaneously reducing oxidative stress in the testes. For women, Shatavari is regarded as the most potent uterine tonic. It regulates estrogen levels, improves follicular development, and stabilizes menstrual cycles. Phalaghrita-a medicated ghee preparation-is also widely used to support uterine health, ovum quality, and facilitate conception.

However, physical detoxification and herbal support alone do not constitute complete *Beejasuddhi*. Ayurveda maintains that the mind and consciousness of the parents also influence the fetus. Hence, the protocol incorporates *Satvavajaya Chikitsa* a branch of Ayurvedic psychiatry

aimed at emotional and mental purification. Satvavajaya encourages practices such as self-discipline, mindfulness, mantra chanting, meditation, pranayama (breath control), and spiritual reading to calm the mind and reduce rajas (activity) and tamas (inertia), thereby promoting sattva (purity and balance). The influence of psychological stress on fertility and fetal health is well documented in scientific literature, particularly in terms of cortisol elevation, hypothalamic suppression, and altered gametogenesis. In this regard, *Satvavajaya* becomes a valuable preventive tool in maintaining psychological homeostasis during the preconception period.

In addition to mental discipline, Achara Rasayana is emphasized to ensure that both partners adopt a virtuous lifestyle. This includes adherence to ethical and moral values such as truthfulness, non-violence, celibacy (or monogamy), humility, compassion, and respect for elders and teachers. It is believed that such a lifestyle promotes spiritual refinement and karmic purification, which influence the consciousness embedded in the reproductive seed. Ethical living creates a sattvic environment, which according to Ayurveda, shapes the child's character, intelligence, and destiny. While modern science may not explicitly correlate ethical behavior with gamete quality, emerging research in behavioral epigenetics suggests that lifestyle, stress, and even emotional states can affect gene expression patterns in gametes-offering a new dimension of scientific relevance to Achara Rasayana.

The final aspect of *Beejasuddhi* involves synchronization with natural and cosmic rhythms. Ayurveda gives high importance to the timing of conception. It recommends that conception be attempted during *Shukla Paksha* (waxing phase of the moon), ideally on auspicious lunar days and in a peaceful environment. The process of conception is likened to a *yajna* (sacred ritual), and it is advised that the couple engage in this act with mutual love, mental clarity, and spiritual awareness. Conception during periods of emotional disturbance, illness, or environmental pollution is

discouraged. Seasonal regimens (*Ritucharya*) and daily routines (*Dinacharya*) are also prescribed to maintain hormonal balance, regulate circadian rhythms, and optimize fertility. For example, avoiding late nights, excessive exposure to screens, and erratic meal timings is encouraged, while regular sleep, moderate physical activity, and light sattvic food are recommended.

Nutritional guidance forms a substantial part of *Beejasuddhi*. Ayurveda recommends foods that promote vitality (*Ojas*), fertility, and tissue nourishment. For men, milk, ghee, black gram (*Masha*), almonds, dates, sesame seeds, and sugarcane derivatives are emphasized. These are believed to be *Shukravardhaka* or spermatogenic. For women, foods rich in iron, calcium, and plant estrogens-like leafy greens, pomegranate, fennel, and fenugreek-are preferred. A diet devoid of processed foods, excessive spice, or incompatible combinations (*Viruddha Ahara*) is essential. Improper food combining, such as milk with sour fruits or fish with dairy, is said to create *Ama* and disturb *Agni* (digestive fire), ultimately impairing reproductive health.

Thus, the *Beejasuddhi* protocol represents a comprehensive and structured roadmap that integrates bodily purification, nutritional fortification, mental tranquility, ethical living, and cosmic alignment to ensure optimal reproductive potential. It reflects a deep understanding of the interconnectedness between physiology, psychology, environment, and consciousness. In the modern context, this approach could offer immense value, not just for infertility treatment but for enhancing the overall health and genetic potential of future generations.

By adopting *Beejasuddhi* protocols, individuals are not only preparing their bodies for conception but are engaging in a sacred act of creation with full awareness and responsibility. In this way, Ayurveda elevates reproduction from a biological event to a spiritual initiation, ensuring that the child born is not only healthy in body but also endowed with clarity of mind, strength of character, and a balanced constitution.

Table 1: Ayurvedic herbs used in Beejasuddhi and their modern correlates

Herb Name (Botanical)	Ayurvedic Use	Action on Reproductive Health (Classical View)	Modern Pharmacological Actions
Ashwagandha (Withania	Rasayana, Balya, Vrishya	Enhances sperm quality, libido, and	Increases testosterone, improves sperm count and motility,
somnifera)		vitality	reduces oxidative stress; acts as adaptogen
Shatavari (Asparagus	Stanya janana, Rasayana,	Supports female fertility, balances	Promotes estrogenic activity, follicular growth, regulates
racemosus)	Artava vardhaka	hormones, strengthens uterus	menstrual cycle, increases endometrial thickness
Kapikacchu (Mucuna	Vrishya, Vajikarana	Increases sperm count and quality	Improves dopamine levels, boosts libido, enhances
pruriens)			spermatogenesis, antioxidant action on testes
Amalaki (Emblica	Rasayana, Tridoshaghna,	Promotes tissue regeneration, supports	Rich in vitamin C, antioxidant, anti-aging, protects against
officinalis)	Chakshushya	oocyte health	DNA damage and cellular stress
Guduchi (Tinospora cordifolia)	Rasayana, Medhya, Balya	Enhances immunity, cleanses	Immunomodulatory, hepatoprotective, antioxidant, supports
		reproductive tissues	reproductive hormonal balance
Phalaghrita (Medicated ghee formulation)	Uterine tonic, Garbha sthapaka	Enhances fertility, strengthens uterus	Contains lipid-based delivery of herbal compounds, promotes
			endometrial health, improves implantation potential (Ayurvedic
			Pharmacopoeia of India, Vol. 4)
Bala (Sida cordifolia)	Balya, Rasayana,	Tones reproductive system, increases	Anti-fatigue, anabolic, enhances strength and stamina; supports
	Shukravardhaka	vitality	testosterone levels
Gokshura (Tribulus	Mutrala, Shukrala, Balya	Improves semen volume and motility	Enhances testosterone, increases sperm production, libido
terrestris)			enhancer, antioxidant
Yashtimadhu	Rasayana, Stanya vardhaka	Supports hormonal regulation,	Phytoestrogenic, anti-inflammatory, endocrine modulator,
(Glycyrrhiza glabra)		promotes oocyte quality	reduces PCOS symptoms
Dashamoola (Group of	Vatahara, Garbhashaya	Promotes uterine health, prevents	Anti-inflammatory, uterotonic, modulates prostaglandin
10 roots)	balya	miscarriage	synthesis, supports implantation

Sources: Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India. Govt. of India, Ministry of AYUSH, Singh RH. Foundations of Ayurveda, Ahmad MK *et al.*, Fertility and Sterility, 2010, Thakur M *et al.*, Journal of Ethnopharmacology, 2012, Armanini D *et al.*, Steroids, 2002, Andrade C *et al.*, Phytotherapy Research, 2007, Scartezzini P, Speroni E. Fitoterapia, 2000.

4. Role of *Beejasuddhi* in Prevention of Congenital Disorders

Ayurveda's predictive and preventive framework concerning congenital disorders is among its most forward-looking contributions to health science. Central to this framework is the doctrine of *Beejasuddhi*, which directly addresses the root cause of many *Janmabala-pravritta* (congenital) and *Adibala-pravritta* (hereditary) conditions. The premise is simple yet profound: just as a diseased or damaged seed cannot grow into a healthy tree, impure or vitiated reproductive elements (*Shukra* and *Artava*) cannot give rise to a fully developed, disease-free fetus. While modern science focuses on screening congenital conditions through ultrasonography, biochemical markers, and genetic testing, Ayurveda shifts the emphasis toward preconceptional purification and optimization-essentially, preventing the possibility of anomalies from arising in the first place.

Congenital disorders in the Ayurvedic paradigm are seen as the result of defects in the Beeja, Beejabhaga, and Beejabhagavyava. These terms represent macro and micro aspects of the reproductive tissue that are instrumental in shaping the physical, mental, and even moral constitution of the offspring. Beejabhaga refers to specific portions of the reproductive material that are responsible for forming different body parts, while Beejabhagavyava represents even finer subunits-corresponding metaphorically to chromosomes or genes. When these units are affected by doshic imbalance-Vata, Pitta, or Kapha-or exposed to toxins and incompatible lifestyle factors, they become incapable of properly transmitting the blueprint for human development. The result is often structural deformities, functional deficits, or delayed maturation, which in contemporary terms would equate to congenital anomalies, birth defects, or inherited genetic conditions.

The classical texts are rich in descriptions of such anomalies and their etiology. *Sushruta Samhita* explains that blindness (*Andhatva*), dwarfism (*Vamanatva*), lameness (*Pangutva*), and cognitive impairment can be traced to impurities in the reproductive seed. *Charaka Samhita* similarly notes that mental instability, behavioral disorders, and emotional disturbances in children are linked to disturbed parental consciousness at the time of conception. The Ayurvedic sages did not compartmentalize heredity, nutrition, environment, and mental health into isolated causes but understood them as intertwined influences acting on the *Beeja* before and during the act of conception.

In this context, the importance of Beejasuddhi as a preventive intervention becomes self-evident. The practice of bodily purification through Shodhana therapies such as Panchakarma is aimed at removing accumulated toxins that could impair cellular integrity and metabolic balance. Shukra and Artava, as refined end-products of Rasa and Rakta Dhatus respectively, are extremely sensitive to metabolic disruption. Thus, any impairment in the earlier tissue transformation process due to ama (toxins), poor digestion, or lifestyle errors can compromise the quality of gametes. By eliminating such impurities, Panchakarma establishes the optimal internal environment for gamete development. It ensures that the reproductive channels are free-flowing, hormone production is normalized, and tissue nutrition is restored-all of which are critical for healthy fertilization and embryonic development.

Post-purification, Rasayana therapy plays a vital role in revitalizing and enhancing the potency of the reproductive

tissues. This includes the administration of rejuvenative herbs and medicated ghee formulations known to improve oocyte and sperm viability, modulate reproductive hormones, and protect genetic material from oxidative damage. Research on *Ashwagandha*, *Shatavari*, and *Amalaki* confirms their antioxidant, immunomodulatory, and gametogenic properties, lending modern scientific credibility to traditional Rasayana practices. These herbs improve sperm DNA integrity, increase ovarian follicle quality, and ensure a hormonally synchronized menstrual cycle-conditions under which congenital disorders are less likely to arise.

Beyond physical interventions, Ayurveda also recognizes the psychological and karmic dimensions in the causation of congenital disorders. The mental and emotional state of both parents at the time of conception is believed to be crucial. Stress, anger, grief, and even lack of mutual affection can vitiate the Satva of the fetus, resulting in subtle neuropsychological imbalances. Modern science has begun to validate this idea through the field of behavioral epigenetics, which demonstrates how parental stress, trauma, or emotional instability can lead to alterations in gene expression in germ cells, thereby influencing offspring development. For example, elevated cortisol levels in either parent have been associated with increased risk of autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, and mood dysregulation in children. These findings are consistent with the Ayurvedic doctrine of Satvavajaya Chikitsa, which prescribes mental purification and emotional regulation during preconception phase.

The ethical and behavioral component of *Beejasuddhi* is encapsulated in the concept of *Achara Rasayana*. This prescribes a code of righteous conduct and moral discipline for prospective parents. Abstaining from sexual indulgence during improper times, avoiding negative company, practicing compassion, and engaging in spiritually uplifting activities are considered essential to enhancing the *Satva Guna* and karmic purity of the gametes. Although modern medicine does not explicitly link ethics with genetics, the emerging field of psychosocial epigenetics does indicate that behaviors and emotional environments can affect transgenerational health outcomes. In other words, the moral and emotional ecosystem created by the parents before conception has a measurable effect on the future well-being of the child.

Timing of conception is another essential factor in the Ayurvedic prevention of congenital disorders. Ayurveda advises that conception be attempted during *Shukla Paksha* (waxing moon phase) when lunar energy is ascending, ideally on even-numbered nights and during a calm mental state. The importance of such timing is not merely ritualistic but is reflective of ancient observations on circadian and lunar rhythms, which are now being studied for their influence on hormonal cycles and fertility. Aligning conception with these natural rhythms may optimize hormonal surges, enhance gamete receptivity, and reduce the risk of anomalies during the critical phases of embryonic division and implantation.

Furthermore, dietary and lifestyle practices leading up to conception are prescribed with precision. Foods that nourish the *Shukra* and *Artava*-such as ghee, milk, almonds, dates, black gram, and seasonal fruits-are recommended to strengthen reproductive tissues. On the other hand, alcohol, processed foods, incompatible food combinations, and

reheated meals are discouraged as they are believed to produce *ama*, impair *Agni*, and vitiate the doshas. Modern nutrition science corroborates these views, with studies linking trans fats, alcohol, and processed foods to reduced sperm quality, hormonal imbalances, and increased risk of birth defects.

In addition to the prevention of gross structural defects, *Beejasuddhi* may also play a role in averting more subtle congenital issues like neurodevelopmental disorders, metabolic syndromes, and immunological abnormalities. Emerging studies in developmental origins of health and disease (DOHaD) theory have confirmed that early life programming, including gamete-level epigenetic modulation, has a profound impact on the risk of chronic diseases later in life. Ayurvedic preconception care, through its multi-pronged approach-detoxification, rejuvenation, ethical alignment, and synchronization with nature-addresses these risk factors at their very root.

In essence, the preventive power of Beejasuddhi lies in its ability to cleanse, restore, and uplift every dimension of human fertility-physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. It not only prepares the biological terrain for a successful conception but also cultivates an inner atmosphere of health, peace, and clarity within the parents. By doing so, it drastically reduces the likelihood of congenital anomalies and ensures that the child begins life with the best possible foundation for longevity, intelligence, and inner harmony. This deeply integrated approach offers an opportunity to shift from reactive treatments of congenital disorders to proactive health creation, positioning Ayurveda not only as a system of alternative medicine but as a paradigm of reproductive excellence. The challenge now is to translate these profound insights into scalable, evidence-based interventions that can complement modern reproductive health programs across the globe.

5. Modern Scientific Correlations

The Ayurvedic concept of Beejasuddhi, though rooted in ancient philosophy, finds increasing relevance in modern scientific discourse-particularly in fields such reproductive biology, genetics, epigenetics, environmental toxicology, and preventive medicine. While Ayurveda articulates Beejasuddhi in terms of doshic balance, purification of Shukra and Artava, and mental and ethical conduct, the essence of these processes aligns closely with contemporary understandings of gamete health, germline integrity, and early-life programming. This section explores how the classical doctrines of Beejasuddhi correlate with modern biological mechanisms and clinical research, highlighting the convergence of ancient wisdom and modern science in the pursuit of healthy conception and congenital disorder prevention. At the cellular and molecular level, the modern understanding of gametogenesis reveals that the health of the germ cells-sperm and ova-is highly sensitive to internal and external environmental influences. Factors such as oxidative stress, inflammation, DNA fragmentation, and epigenetic mutations play a pivotal role in determining the quality of gametes and the outcome of fertilization. These findings align with Ayurveda's view that vitiated doshas and ama (toxins) interfere with the purity and functionality of Beeja, resulting in poor conception outcomes or developmental abnormalities. One of the most extensively studied contributors to impaired gamete quality is oxidative stress, a condition where reactive oxygen species (ROS) exceed the body's antioxidant defenses. In males, oxidative

stress is responsible for sperm DNA fragmentation, reduced motility, and abnormal morphology. In females, it disrupts folliculogenesis, damages oocyte mitochondria, and leads to meiotic errors. Clinical studies have shown that up to 40% of male infertility cases and 25-30% of female infertility cases involve oxidative damage to gametes. Ayurvedic Rasayana herbs such as Ashwagandha, Amalaki, Guduchi, and Shatavari have been pharmacologically validated for potent antioxidant properties. For instance, Ashwagandha has been shown to significantly reduce sperm DNA fragmentation and lipid peroxidation, thereby enhancing reproductive success. These findings mirror Ayurveda's emphasis on rejuvenation therapies post-Shodhana to fortify the Beeja before conception. The field of epigenetics, which studies changes in gene expression not caused by alterations in the DNA sequence itself, provides a powerful lens through which to understand Beejasuddhi. Environmental and lifestyle factors such as diet, stress, toxins, and even parental age can induce epigenetic changes in gametes that influence not only fertility but also the longterm health of the offspring. This phenomenon is now widely recognized through the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) hypothesis, which states that early-life exposures-including those occurring at the gamete and embryonic stages-have lasting impacts on the risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and neurodevelopmental conditions. From this perspective, Ayurveda's preconception interventions-like Panchakarma detoxification, Rasayana therapy, dietary modification, and mental purification-may serve as epigenetic modulators. By improving metabolic pathways, reducing inflammation, and optimizing endocrine function, these therapies potentially influence DNA methylation, histone acetylation, and noncoding RNA activity-mechanisms central to gene expression. For example, recent research indicates that dietary polyphenols and flavonoids, abundant in Ayurvedic herbs like Haritaki, Amalaki, and Guduchi, have the ability to positively modulate gene expression in germ cells, supporting the prevention of transgenerational disorders. Another point of intersection lies in the concept of germline integrity, which refers to the preservation of accurate genetic material in gametes passed on to the next generation. Modern studies show that exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)-such as bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates, and pesticides-can cause chromosomal abnormalities, meiotic errors, and reduced fertility. These exposures also increase the risk of congenital conditions like hypospadias, neural tube defects, and autism spectrum disorders. Ayurveda, while not naming these pollutants specifically, has long warned against the consumption of Viruddha Ahara (incompatible foods), excessive heating of food, and chemical additives-all of which can be sources of modern EDCs. Ayurvedic recommendations to consume Sattvik Ahara (pure, seasonal, and freshly prepared food), avoid reheated meals, and use natural cookware resonate with current public health guidelines aimed at minimizing toxin exposure and preserving reproductive health. Furthermore, Beejasuddhi incorporates the cleansing of mental and emotional states, a dimension increasingly acknowledged in reproductive science. Chronic stress is now known to impair the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal (HPG) axis, disrupt menstrual cycles, reduce sperm parameters, and alter gamete gene expression. Elevated cortisol levels in prospective parents can increase the risk of anxiety, depression, and behavioral disorders in the offspring. Ayurvedic strategies

such as Satvavajaya Chikitsa, yoga, meditation, and Achara Rasayana (ethical behavior and mental discipline) are designed to restore mental equilibrium and reduce stressinduced biological changes. Mind-body interventions like mindfulness and breath work, which parallel Ayurvedic practices, have been shown to improve IVF success rates and lower pregnancy complications-offering modern validation of ancient emotional purification methods. In addition, the role of circadian and seasonal rhythms in fertility is gaining attention. Disruption of biological clocks due to shift work, poor sleep, or artificial lighting is associated with irregular ovulation, low testosterone, and increased miscarriage rates. Ayurveda's emphasis on Dinacharya (daily routine) and Ritucharya (seasonal regimen) ensures that the body's natural hormonal rhythms are preserved. This is critical for gametogenesis, endometrial receptivity, and early embryonic development. For instance, studies show that melatonin and cortisolhormones deeply tied to circadian rhythms-play a direct role in oocyte maturation and sperm production. Ayurveda's directive to align with natural light cycles, eat meals at consistent times, and maintain regular sleep-wake patterns contributes to optimal reproductive physiology. Emerging insights into sperm epigenome remodeling during spermatogenesis also reflect Ayurveda's principle of conscious purification over time. It is now known that sperm cells undergo extensive chromatin remodeling and small RNA acquisition in the testes and epididymis-processes that can be influenced by environmental exposures, diet, and mental stress over several months. Given that Ayurvedic Beejasuddhi protocols often span a preparatory phase of 3-6 months prior to conception, this timing is biologically sound. It corresponds exactly with the duration of spermatogenesis and oogenesis cycles, during which critical epigenetic programming takes place. Finally, the concept of intergenerational transmission of health traits, long upheld by Ayurveda, is now a central theme in modern epigenetics. Studies reveal that paternal obesity, maternal stress, and poor nutrition can influence not just the immediate offspring but also subsequent generations through inherited epigenetic changes. These findings bring renewed attention to Ayurveda's ancient mandate that both prospective parents must undergo bodily, mental, and spiritual purification before conception-a process that doesn't just prevent defects, but may promote the expression of superior traits and long-term resilience in the progeny. In sum, the Ayurvedic concept of Beejasuddhi is not only philosophically elegant but increasingly supported by biomedical evidence. From molecular insights into oxidative stress and epigenetic programming to clinical research on herbal antioxidants and stress reduction, modern science is beginning to articulate in its own language what Ayurveda has taught for millennia. This convergence opens the door for integrative reproductive medicine where Beejasuddhi complement genetic counseling, preimplantation screening as a holistic, evidence-based strategy to reduce congenital anomalies and improve birth outcomes.

As science continues to uncover the subtle influences on reproductive health, Ayurveda's multi-dimensional approach-encompassing purification, rejuvenation, ethical alignment, and mental clarity-offers a timeless model of preconception care that aligns with current understandings and addresses what modern medicine often overlooks: the

sacred responsibility of creating life in full awareness and purity.

6. Discussion

The integrative potential of Beejasuddhi in modern reproductive science is enormous. It provides a roadmap not just for prevention of disease but for the holistic evolution of the human species. In an age where infertility is rising and congenital disorders are becoming more prevalent due to lifestyle disorders and environmental factors, Ayurveda offers a model that addresses the root causes. Rather than waiting for pregnancy to begin medical intervention, Ayurveda advises the purification of the body, mind, and spirit months in advance. This is consistent with new preconception health models being advocated in global health, though Ayurveda's reach goes much deeper by including emotional and karmic aspects. There is also the social dimension where the couple's commitment to personal transformation and self-discipline becomes the foundation for the health of the next generation. While the practices may seem ritualistic, they reflect an understanding of reproductive biology that science is only beginning to explore through the language of molecular medicine. The primary challenge lies in validation. Systematic clinical trials, biochemical assays, and integrative treatment models must be developed to formally bring Beejasuddhi into mainstream reproductive protocols. Nonetheless, the philosophical depth and practical value it offers makes it an indispensable component of a preventive health care framework.

7. Conclusion and Future Directions

The concept of Beejasuddhi in Ayurveda is a testimony to the civilization's deep understanding of human biology, psychology, and spirituality. It recognizes that the quality of life is sown at the moment of conception and offers comprehensive strategies to ensure that this seed is pure and potent. Its relevance in the prevention of congenital anomalies is immense, particularly in societies where access to genetic counseling and medical screening is limited. Even in technologically advanced settings, the addition of Ayurvedic practices can serve as a complementary approach to improving reproductive outcomes. Moving forward, collaboration between Ayurvedic scholars and biomedical researchers is crucial to scientifically evaluate these timetested protocols. Institutions can create structured preconception programs incorporating Panchakarma, Rasayana, yoga, and nutritional guidance under supervised settings. Furthermore, public health policies could integrate Beejasuddhi-inspired awareness campaigns that educate couples on the importance of health before conception. By reviving and revalidating this ancient wisdom, we may not only prevent congenital disorders but also create a healthier, more conscious future generation.

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