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Relationship between *KALA* (Season) at conception, *KALA* (Season) at delivery and age of mother with *Prakriti* of infants (Cross-sectional study)

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Abstract

Background: *Prakriti* is one of the distinctive and elementary concepts of *Ayurveda* that explain the uniqueness, which is decided at the time of conception and later nurtured during the intrauterine life. There are so many aspects that influence the *Prakriti* of an infant; *Kala- Garbhasaya Prakriti* (season at conception) is one of them.

Material and Methods: *Prakriti* of 226 infants was assessed thru PRS-IPA (Prototype Research Software-Infant *Prakriti* Assessment), while *Kala* (season) at conception of mother, *Kala* (season) at delivery of mother, time at delivery of mother and age of mother at the time of delivery were gathered by demographical data of research case sheet.

Observation and Result: Total 226 infants were registered on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria of study after proper screening and consent. *Prakriti* of registered infants was assessed by software IPS-PRA and its relation was explored in relation to *Kala* (season) at conception of mother, *Kala* (season) at delivery of mother, time at delivery of mother and age of mother at the time of delivery.

Discussion and Conclusion: Variation in incidence of infant's *Prakriti* in relation to season at the time of conception may be attributed to other factors which play important contributory role in deciding the individual's final *Prakriti*. *Acharya Charak, Sushruta* and *Vagbhata* have described that *Vata, Pitta and Kapha Prakopa* takes place in *Varsha, Sharad and Basanta Ritu*. This study showed more percentage of *Kaphaja* and *Pittaja Prakriti* of infants when mother conceive in *Basanta* and *Sharada Ritu*. This validated the concept of *Ayurveda* because *Basanta Ritu* is period of *Kapha Prakop* and *Sharada Ritu* is period of *Pitta Prakop*.

Keywords: *Prakriti, Ritu, Kala, Season, Dosha*

Introduction

Every man and women on the earth born with some or other physical and mental peculiarities which will remain with him or her through the life. Such features which required by birth itself are called *Prakriti*. These specific types of *Doshika Prakriti* can be identified in growing individuals [1]. The knowledge about the *Prakriti* is helpful in diagnosis of diseases [2], management of disease [3] and forecast of *Dosha* dependent disorders in future [4]. Knowledge of *Prakriti* can guide the parents for prevention of expected disorders and deciding career of their wards at a very early age [5].

Formation of *Deha Prakriti*

Acharya Charaka has described these factors influencing the *Prakriti* determination as [6] –

1. *Sukra-Shonita Prakriti* (Characteristics of sperm and ova)
2. *Kala-Garbhasaya Prakriti* (Time factor and condition of uterus)
3. *Maturaharavihara Prakriti* (Diet and code of conduct of mother)
4. *Panchamahabhuta-vikara Prakriti* (Condition of *Panchamahabhuta-vikara*).

Acharya Sushruta [7] emphasizes mainly on the genetic factors such as

1. Status and *Dosha* of sperm
2. Status and *Dosha* of ovum are responsible for formation of *Prakriti* (Constitution)

Apart from the above mentioned factors, *Acharya Charaka* [8] describes some other factors for *Prakriti* determination such as

1. *Jati-Prasakta* (Racial/ Caste)
2. *Kula-Prasakta* (Familial)

3. *Desh-anupatinee* (Country)
4. *Vayo-nupatinee* (Natural change according to age)
5. *Kala-nupatini* (Time)
6. *Pratyatmaniyata* (Individual specific character)

Vagbhata [9] has added seventh as strength (*Bala*) in this list. The present study was planned to find out the relationship of *Kala* (season) at conception, *Kala* (season) at delivery, time at delivery and mother's age at the time of delivery on infants' *Prakriti*.

Material and Methods

Selection of patients

This cross-sectional study was completed on *Kaumarbhritya/Balroga*, O.P.D., Sir Sunderlal (S.S) Hospital, Institute of medical sciences (I.M.S), Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U) after obtaining approval from the institutional ethics committee. Written informed consent was taken before include the infant in study. Assessment of infants *Prakriti* was done on 10th day of life thru PRS-IPA (Prototype Research Software-Infant *Prakriti* Assessment). Infants were selected on following inclusion criteria and exclusion following inclusion criteria and exclusion Criteria-

Inclusion criteria

1. If attendant give written consent for the participation in the study,
2. Full term and appropriate gestational age [FT (AGA)]
3. Infants who delivered by uncomplicated SVD (spontaneous vaginal delivery) or LSCS (lower segment Cesarean section) without showing any sign of fetal distress.

Exclusion criteria

1. If attendant was not willing for the participation.
2. Preterm, post term or full term [Small Gestational age (SGA)/ Large gestational age (LGA)] baby.
3. If congenital anomalies associated at registration.
4. If suffering from any life-threatening disease.

Ethical clearance

The ethical committee clearance number is dean/2011-12/392-A dated on 12/12/2011.

Assessment of *Prakriti*

For this study, a questionnaire of software was prepared on the basis of *Prakriti* characteristic described in different textbooks of *Ayurveda* viz. *Charaka Samhita* [10], *Sushruta Samhita* [11], *Ashtanga Samgraha* [12], *Ashtanga Hridaya* [13], *Bhava Prakash* [14], *Sharangadhar Samhita* [15], *Harita Samhita* [16] and *Bhela Samhita* [17]. Characteristic related to the infants was mainly taken for questionnaire in this software while the others characteristics related to the adults were not considered.

Assessment was done by *Darshan* (Inspection), *Sparshana* (Palpation) and *Prasana* (questionnaire) *Pariksha* (examination) [18, 19]. Scores of *Vata*, *Pitta* and *Kapha* in an infant was scored by using a 0/1 against V/P/K for each of the questions depending on a no or yes answer respectively and cumulative scores of V, P and K are calculated in each individual through the software [20].

In this cross sectional study a significant relationship appear between *Prakriti* of Infant and *Kala* (season) at conception of mother, *Kala* (season) at delivery of mother, time at delivery of mother, and age of mother at the time of delivery. *Kala* is important factor which influences *Prakriti* determination. *Ayurveda* has given great importance to the *Kala* (time) for the *Swastha* (healthy) as well as the *Roga* (disease). According to *Acharya Charaka*, *Kala* have been divided into *Uttarayana* and *Dakshinayana*. *Uttarayana* or *Adana Kala* composed by *Sishir*, *Basanta*, *Greesma* and *Dakshinayana* or *Visarga Kala* is composed by *Varsha*, *Sharad*, *Hemanta*. *Tridoshas* when get affected by external forces as *Kala* (season), it also reflects upon the corresponding *Doshaja* or genetic *Prakriti* [21]. *Sanchay* (Accumulation of *Dosha*), *Prakop* (Aggravation of *Dosha*) and *Prasara* (Rehabilitation of *Dosha*) dependent on *Kala* (Season). Contribution of season on the infant's *Prakriti* was assessed on the basis of expected month of conception which was calculated by the LMP and history from mother.

Table 1: Effect of *Ritukala* on *Tridoshas*

<i>Dosha</i>	<i>anchaya</i>	<i>Prakopa</i>	<i>Prashara</i>
<i>Vata</i>	<i>Grishma</i>	<i>Varsha</i>	<i>Sharad</i>
<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Varsha</i>	<i>Sharad</i>	<i>Hemant</i>
<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Shishira</i>	<i>Basanta</i>	<i>Grisma</i>

Table 2: *Doshic* Rhythms in Different (*Kala*) Seasons

Season(<i>Kala</i>)	Englishmonth	<i>Sanchaya</i>	<i>Prako a</i>	<i>Prasha a</i>
<i>Sishir</i>	January - February	<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Pitta</i>
<i>Basant</i>	March – April	<i>Kapha</i>
<i>Grisma</i>	May - June	<i>Kapha</i>
<i>Varsha</i>	July – August	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Kapha</i>
<i>Sharad</i>	September- October	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Kapha</i>
<i>Hemant</i>	November- December	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Vata</i>

Table 3: *Doshic* Rhythms in the day and night

Day/Night	Time	Time (AM/PM)	<i>Sanchaya</i>	<i>Prakopa</i>	<i>Prashara</i>
Day	Morning	6.00 AM to 10.00 AM	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Vata</i>
	Noon	10.00 PM to 2.00 PM	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Kapha</i>
	Afternoon	2.00 PM to 6.00 PM	<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Pitta</i>
Night	Evening	6.00 to 10.00 PM	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Vata</i>
	Midnight	10.00 to 2.00 AM	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Pitta</i>	<i>Kapha</i>
	Early morning	2.00 to 6.00 AM	<i>Kapha</i>	<i>Vata</i>	<i>Pitta</i>

Observation and Result

Total 226 infants were registered on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria of study after proper screening as per predesigned proforma. *Prakriti* of infants was assessed by

software IPS-PRA and its relation was explored to *Kala* (season) at conception of mother, *Kala* (season) at delivery of mother, time at delivery of mother and age of mother at the time of delivery.

Table 4: Relation between *Kala* / Season of Conception (SOC) with incidence of infants *Prakriti*

Season of conception (SOC)	Prakriti of infants (Total n=226)					
	Vata (n=5)	Pitta (n=27)	Kapha (n=31)	Vata-Pitta (n=48)	Vata-Kapha (n=53)	Pitta-Kapha (n=62)
<i>Sishir</i>	0 (0.0%)	2 (4.35%)	3 (6.52%)	11 (23.91%)	11 (23.91%)	19 (41.30%)
<i>Basant</i>	0 (0.0%)	4 (8.33%)	9 (18.75%)	9 (18.75%)	11 (22.92%)	15 (31.25%)
<i>Grisma</i>	2 (13.33%)	1 (6.67%)	1 (6.67%)	2 (13.33%)	4 (26.66%)	5 (33.33%)
<i>Varsha</i>	1 (5%)	4 (20%)	5 (25%)	5 (25%)	3 (15%)	2 (10%)
<i>Sharad</i>	1 (1.26%)	13(16.46%)	10 (12.66%)	18 (22.78%)	20 (25.32%)	17 (21.51%)
<i>Hemant</i>	1 (5.55%)	3 (16.67%)	3 (16.67%)	3 (16.67%)	4 (22.22%)	4 (22.22%)

This table reveals that the maximum mothers conceived in season of *Sharad* (35%) while minimum in season of *Grisma* (6.6%). Maximum infants whose mother conceived in *Sishira* belonged to *Pitta-Kapha Prakriti* (41.30%).

The mothers who conceived in *Sharad* their infants were of *Pitta Prakriti* (16.46.1%). Further details can be seen from Table No 4.

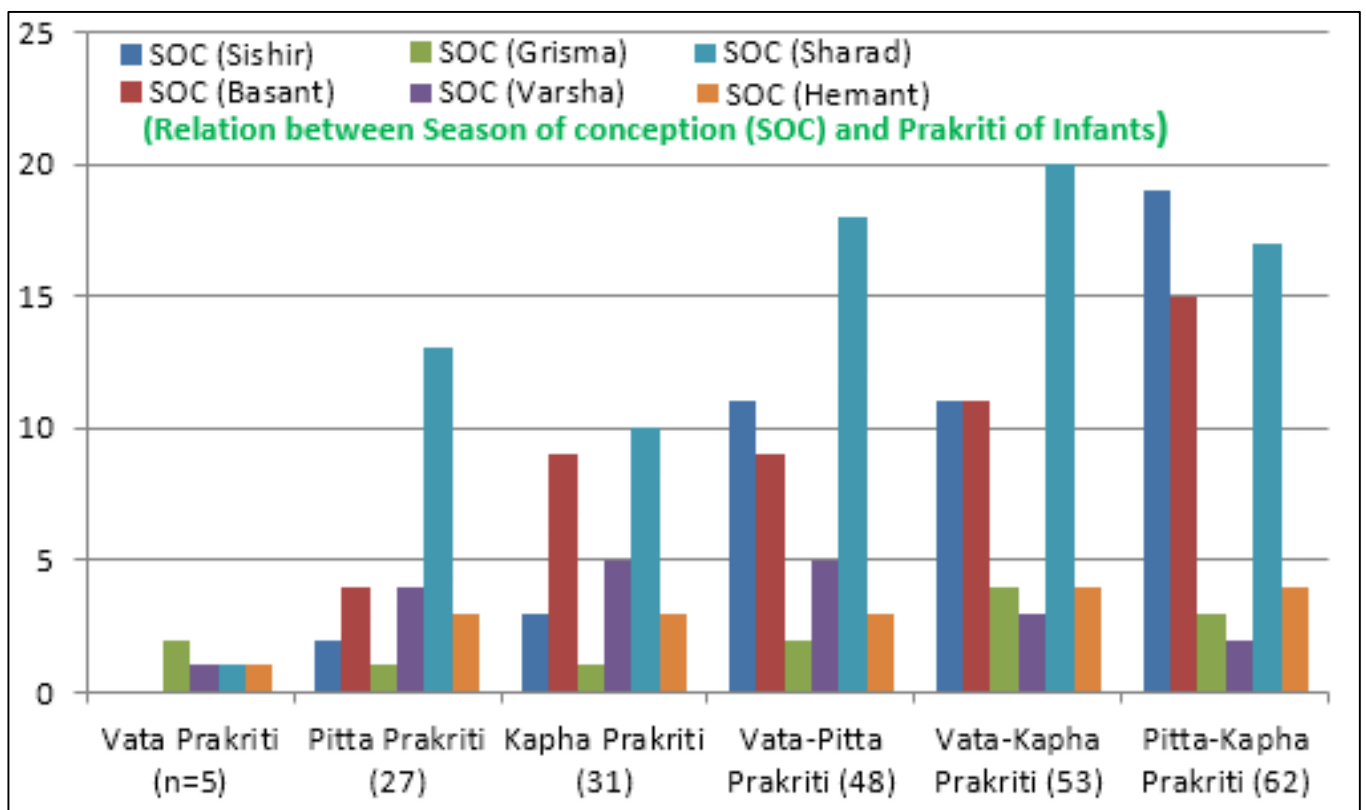


Fig 1: Relation between season of conception (SOC) and Prakriti of Infants

Table 5: Relation between Seasons of delivery (SOD) with incidence of infants *Prakriti*

Season of delivery (SOD)	Prakriti of Infants Total (n=226)					
	Vata (n=5)	Pitta (n=27)	Kapha (n=31)	Vata-Pitta (n=48)	Vata-Kapha (n=53)	Pitta-Kapha (n=62)
<i>Sishir</i>	0 (0.0%)	3 (6.81%)	8(18.18%)	8 (18.18%)	11 (25.00%)	14 (31.81%)
<i>Basant</i>	2 (11.11%)	2(11.11%)	3(16.67%)	4 (22.22%)	3 (16.67%)	4 (22.22%)
<i>Grisma</i>	2 (5.28%)	8(21.05%)	6(15.78%)	9 (23.68%)	7 (18.42%)	6 (15.78%)
<i>Varsha</i>	1 (1.38%)	11(15.27%)	9(12.50%)	15 (20.83%)	19 (26.38%)	17 (23.61%)
<i>Sarad</i>	0 (0.0%)	1 (5.56%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (27.78%)	4 (22.22%)	8 (44.44%)
<i>Hemant</i>	0 (0.0%)	2 (5.55%)	5(13.88%)	7 (19.44%)	9 (25.00%)	13 (36.11%)

This table shows that overall incidence of infants born in *Varsha* was maximum (31.9%) while it was minimum in 8%

in *Sharad*. Further details can be seen from Table No 5.

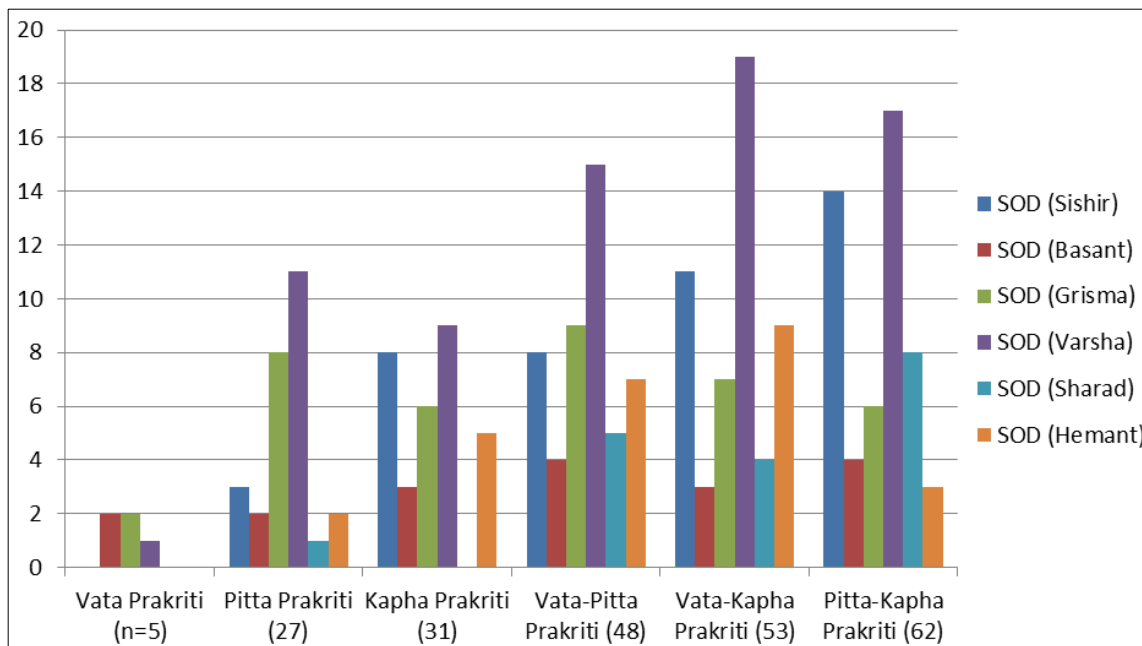


Fig 2: Relation between Season of delivery (SOD) and Prakriti of Infants

Table 6: Relation between Time of Delivery (TOD) with incidence of infants Prakriti

(Time of delivery)	Prakriti of Infants					
	Vata (n=5)	Pitta (n=27)	Kapha(n=31)	Vata-Pitta(n=48)	VataKapha(n=53)	PittaKapha(n=62)
Group 1 (~2.00 AM to ~6.00 AM) (Vata Prakop)	0 (0.0%)	4 (20%)	3 (15%)	6 (30%)	3 (15%)	4 (20%)
Group 2 (~6.00 AM to ~10.00 AM) (Kapha Prakop)	1 (2.85%)	6 (17.14%)	5 (14.28%)	4 (11.42%)	9 (25.71%)	10 (28.57%)
Group 3 (~10.00 AM to ~2.00 PM) (Pitta Prakop)	2 (3.07%)	5 (7.69%)	8 (25.81%)	14 (29.17%)	17 (32.08%)	19 (30.77%)
Group 4 (~2.00 PM to ~6.00 PM) (Vata Prakop)	1 (3.57%)	3 (10.71%)	2 (7.14%)	8 (28.57%)	5 (17.85%)	9 (32.14%)
Group 5 (~6.00 PM to ~10.00 PM) (Kapha Prakop)	0 (0.0%)	4 (12.50%)	5 (15.62%)	6 (18.75%)	8 (25%)	9 (28.12%)
Group 6 (~10.00 PM to ~2.00 AM) (Pitta Prakop)	1 (2.17%)	5 (10.86%)	8 (17.39%)	10 (21.73%)	11 (23.91%)	11 (23.91%)

Maximum (28.8%) infants were born during 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM and minim infants (8.8%) were born during 2.00 AM- 6.00 AM. Further details can be seen from Table No 6.

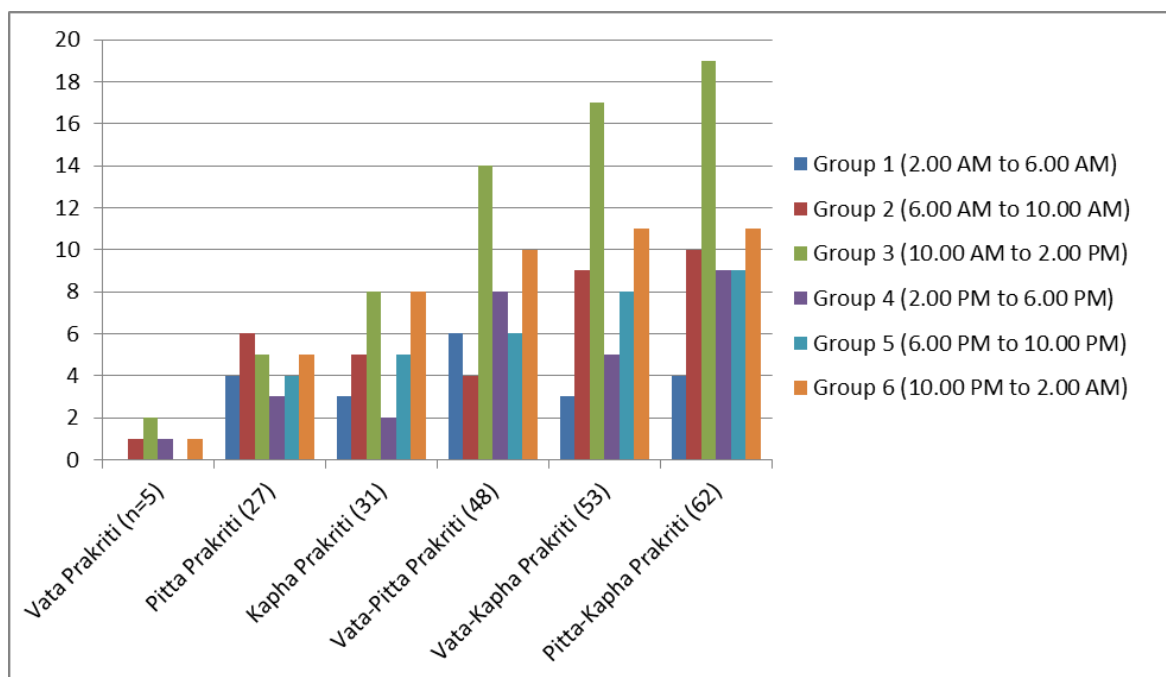


Fig 3: Relation between Time of delivery (TOD) and Prakriti of Infants.

Table 7: Relationship between Mother age group with incidence of infants *Prakriti*

Mother Age group (Years)	Prakriti of infants					
	Vata (n=5)	Pitta (n=27)	Kapha (n=31)	Vata-Pitta (n=48)	Vata-Kapha (n=53)	Pitta-Kapha (n=62)
Group 1 (20-24 yrs)	0(0.0%)	8 (29.6%)	10 (32.3%)	18 (37.5%)	10 (18.9%)	23 (37.1%)
Group 2 (25-28 yrs)	3(60.0%)	12 (44.4%)	13(41.9%)	15(31.2%)	27 (50.9%)	23 (37.1%)
Group 3 (29-32 yrs)	2(40.0%)	5 (18.5%)	3 (9.7%)	13 (27.1%)	10 (18.9%)	12 (19.4%)
Group 4 (>32 yrs)	0(0.0%)	2 (7.4%)	5 (16.1%)	2 (4.2%)	6 (11.3%)	4 (6.5%)

This table reveals that among 20-24 years 37.5% and 37.1% infants were of *Vata-Pitta* and *Pitta-Kapha Prakriti*. Among

25-28 years maximum infants (50.9%) belonged to *Vata Kapha Prakriti*. Further details can be seen from Table No 7.

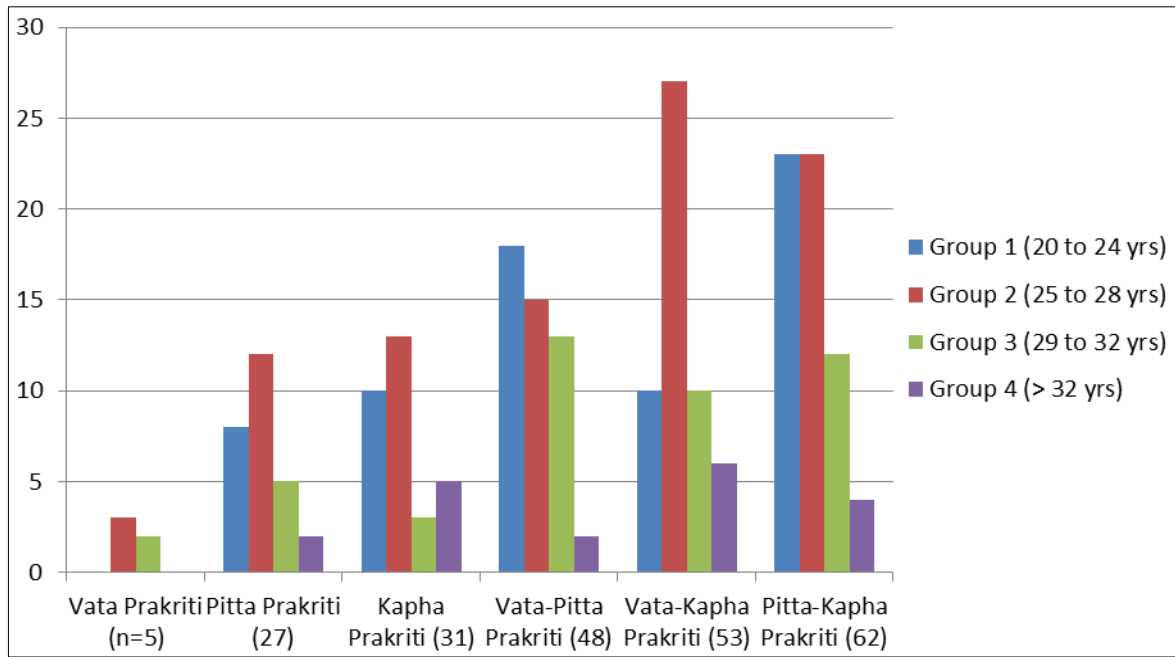


Fig 4: Relation between Mother age group and Prakriti of Infants

Discussion

Ayurveda is an ancient system of personalized medicine documented and practiced in India since 1500 B.C. *Prakriti* (genetic constitution) is basic genetic constitution of the body. *Ayurveda* describes seven broad constitution types of *Prakriti*. *Acharya Charaka* has described four factors influencing the *Prakriti* determination is *Sukra-Shonita Prakriti* (Characteristics of sperm and ova), *Kala-Garbhastaya Prakriti* (Time factor and condition of uterus), *Maturaharavihara Prakriti* (Diet and code of conduct of mother) and *Panchamahabhuta-vikara Prakriti* (Condition of *Panchamahabhuta-vikara*)^[22]. The *Kala* (season) has specific impact on *Dosha* predominant during formation of *Prakriti* (genetic constitution). Different *Prakriti* (genetic constitution) of individuals shows diverse reactions towards six *Kala* (season)^[23]. *Prakriti* influenced by various factors, out of which time of conception is one of the important factors. *Acharya Charak*^[24], *Sushruta*^[25] and *Vagbhata*^[26] have described that *Vata, Pitta and Kapha Prakopa* takes place in *Varsha, Sharad and Basanta Ritu*.

In present study, a contribution of season on the infant's *Prakriti* was assessed on the basis of expected date of conception which was calculated by the LMP and history from mother.

The data of observation revealed that more percentage *Kaphaja* and *Pitta Prakriti* of infants when mother conceive in *Basanta* and *Sharada Ritu*. This validated the concept of *Ayurveda* because *Basanta Ritu* is period of *Kapha Prakop* and *Sharada Ritu* is period of *Pitta Prakop*. *Vata-Pitta*

Prakriti was born to mothers who had been conceived in *Basanta Ritu*, a *Kapha* aggravating season. However, this trend was not seen in children of *Vata Prakriti* this may be due to less sample size and other contributory factors in respect to *Prakriti*. A study carried out during 1972 to 1990, by Anand K *et al.* 1999, has shown incidence of maximum delivery in month of July to September (35%), while in the present study it is 31.9%, which is in conformity with earlier workers. High incidence of delivery/birth of infants in *Varsha Ritu* is due to aggravation of *Vata Dosha* in mother, who had conceived during the *Sharad Ritu* because *Vata* also affects the mother particularly the uterus in turns the fetus.

Relation between the time of delivery and incidence of infants *Prakriti* was observed. In *Ayurveda*, no reference is available in regard to effect of season at the time of birth. *Acharya Vagbhata* has described about rhythmic variation as per the predominance of *Dosha*^[27] during the course of a day i.e. in twenty four hours. On the basis of data it may be inferred that diurnal variation i.e. *Dosha* dominance at the time of delivery in mother has no role in deciding infant's *Prakriti*. At the time of conception if mother age group is 25-28 yrs then maximum chance of infants *Prakriti* was *Pitta, Kapha* and *Vata-Kapha*. If mother age group is 20-24 yrs then maximum chance of infants *Prakriti* was *Kapha, Vata-Pitta and Pitta-Kapha*.

Conclusion

Variation in incidence of infant's *Prakriti* in relation to season at the time of conception may be attributed to other factors

which play important contributory role in deciding the individual's final *Prakriti*. This variation seems to be the effect of other factors like *Sukra-Shonit Prakriti*, *Matura-Ahara Prakriti* and *Panchmahabhuta-vikara Prakriti* and had contributed at the time of conception and during in-utero growth and development of embryo and fetus. *Acharya Charak*, *Sushruta* and *Vagbhata* have described that *Vata*, *Pitta* and *Kapha Prakopa* takes place in *Varsha*, *Sharad* and *Basanta Ritu*. This study showed more percentage of *Kaphaja* and *Pittaja Prakriti* of infants when mother conceive in *Basanta* and *Sharada Ritu*. This validated the concept of *Ayurveda* because *Basanta Ritu* is period of *Kapha Prakop* and *Sharada Ritu* is period of *Pitta Prakop*.

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