**Madhavacharya**

Madhava, popularly known as Madhavacharya, is acknowledged as one of the finest Ayurvedic physicians even today. The author of a text on medical diagnostics (Rogavinischaya), known as ‘Madhavanidan’, Madhava belonged to the era of 7th century AD. He was the son of Indukara and belonged to the Kara family of physicians; hence he is also referred to as Madhavakara. Madhavanidan is considered as a pioneering compendium developed on the foundations of knowledge resource from Charaka samhita, Sushruta samhita, Ashtanga sangraha, Ashtanga hrudaya and many other classical texts enriched by Madhavacharya. The legacy of Madhavanidan continued in subsequent centuries being referred to in writings related to diagnostics and other literature concerned with Ayurveda. The popularity and utility of this treatise is evident and prevalent today amongst the practitioners of Ayurvedic system of healthcare. It is an essential component of current undergraduate and postgraduate Indian Medicine.

The diagnostic treatise is unique in its content. The very first chapter of Madhavanidan is ascribed to Pancha-Nidana under the title of Amavata. It is an essential component of current undergraduate and postgraduate teaching of Ayurveda. It is translated into several languages like Bengali, Oriya etc. The diagnostic treatise is well preserved through the centuries and forms an essential component of current undergraduate and postgraduate teaching of Ayurveda. Madhava also authored another book ‘Madhava-Chikitsa’, a treatise on principles of therapeutics and this has been referred to by several authors; however the manuscript is not easily accessible.

In Madhava-Nidan a total of 1530 verses are classified in 69 chapters which are arranged as per 6 branches of Ayurveda such as Kayachikitsa (Internal medicine), Graharvidya (Astrology and transcendence), Shalyatantra (Diseases for surgical intervention), Shalakyatantra (Diseases of head and neck), Kaumarbhritiya (Pediatrics, inclusive of Obstetrics and gynecology), Agadatantra (Toxicology) while excluding Rasayan and Vajikara (Aphrodisiac) of Ashtanga Ayurveda.

Madhavacharya’s description of ‘Amavata’ is worth noting. Madhava dedicates a separate chapter for this first ever description of Amavata which is essentially a polyarticular inflammatory disease. The clinical manifestations of Amavata were mentioned in the Arabic in 8th century AD. Later on several translations are made into English, French, Italian, Sinhala, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, Bengali, Oriya etc. The diagnostic treatise is well preserved through the centuries and forms an essential component of current undergraduate and postgraduate teaching of Ayurveda. Madhava also authored another book ‘Madhava-Chikitsa’, a treatise on principles of therapeutics and this has been referred to by several authors; however the manuscript is not easily accessible.

**References**