2.2. Shastra - Nirukti, Prakara, Guna, Prayog, Dosha, Karma, Anushastra and Relevant modern instruments

Unit 2. Yantra & Śastra — Topic 2. Śastra (Sharp Instruments): Nirukti, Prakāra, Guṇa, Prayoga, Doṣa, Karma, Anuśastra & Modern Mapping

1) Nirukti (Etymology) & Paribhāṣā (Definition)

Nirukti: Śastra derives from the Sanskrit root śas—śiśāsana (to discipline/operate). In Śalyatantra, Śastra denotes tīkṣṇa-upakaraṇa—sharp-edged instruments intended for cutting, incising, scraping, puncturing and allied surgical maneuvers. Suśruta treats Śastra as the primary agents of **pradhāna-śalyakarma** (principal operative steps), complemented by Yantra (blunt aids) and Anuśastra (substitute/auxiliary tools).

2) Prakāra (Types) — The Twenty Śastra of Suśruta (Sūtrasthāna 8)

Suśruta classically enumerates **20 sharp instruments** (Śastra). Names describe their **shape/function**—a powerful memory help for viva.

| # | Sanskrit name (gloss) | Classical sense | Typical modern correlate |
|----|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Maṇḍalāgra (round-tipped knife) | Circular/rounded edge for incision & scraping | Scalpel no. 10/15 (rounder contour) |
| 2 | Karapatra (saw) | Sawing hard tissue | Bone saw / Gigli (principle) |
| 3 | Vrddhipatra (razor/lancet) | Chedana-Bhedana (incision/excision) | Bard-Parker scalpel / razor |
| 4 | Nakhāśastra (nail-cutter) | Precise cutting | Nail clipper/special trimmer |
| 5 | Mudrikā (ring-knife) | Controlled incision in confined space | Ring knife / guarded knife |
| 6 | Utpalapatra (lotus-leaf knife) | Leaf-shaped incision | Leaf scalpel |
| 7 | Arddhadhāra (single-edged lancet) | Fine incision/excision | Lancet / beaver blade |
| 8 | Śūci (needle) | Suturing (Sīvya) | Needles (round/triangular/curved) |
| 9 | Kuśapatra (kūśa-grass blade) | Thin secretion/scraping | Micro-knife/sickle knife |
| 10 | Ātemukha (bird-bill knife) | Beak-like tip for drainage | Tenotomy/duck-bill tools |
| 11 | Śarārimukha (bird-bill scissors) | Clipping/secretion | Scissors/clipper |
| 12 | Antarmukha (semi-circular serrate) | Saw-like inner edge | Hand saw/raspatory type |
| 13 | Trikūrchaka (trocar) | Secretion/aspiration | Trocar & cannula |
| 14 | Kuţhārikā (small axe) | Puncture/osteotomy | Osteotome/chisel |
| 15 | Vrīhīmukha (rice-grain tip) | Serrated puncture | Toothed awl/spur needle |
| 16 | Ārā (awl) | Puncturing | Surgical awl |
| 17 | Vetasapatraka (reed-leaf knife) | Puncture/incision | Leafy micro-knife |
| 18 | Vadiśa (barbed hook) | Extraction (āharaṇa) | Surgical hook/fish-hook |
| 19 | Danta-śaṅku (dental extractor) | Extraction of teeth | Dental elevator/forceps |
| 20 | Eṣaṇī (probe/director) | Eṣaṇā —probing/directing | Probe/director |

"शस्त्राणि— मण्डलाग्र, करपत्र, वृद्धिपत्र, नस्रशस्त्र, मुद्रिका, उत्पलपत्र, अर्धधार, शूचि, कुशपत्र, आतमुस, शरारीमुस, अन्तरमुस, त्रिकूर्चक, कुठारिका, ब्रीहीमुस, आरा, वेतसपत्रक, विडिश, दन्तशङ्कु, एशनी— इति।" — Suśruta Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna 8 (Śastrāvacharaṇīya)

How to write in exams: Quote or paraphrase the list; then pick any **5** and state one **signature use** each (e.g., *Karapatra—bone sawing*).

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3) Guna (Desirable Qualities) of Sastra

Suśruta emphasises geometry, tempering and finish:

- Material & make: pure, strong iron/steel; well-shaped; well-ground; keen, even edge; good point; secure handle and balance.
- Edge-task matching:
 - Bhedana (excision): edge as thin as muşura-dāl husk.
 - **Lekhana** (scarification/scraping): **half** as thin as bhedana edge.
 - Vyādhana/Visrāvaṇa (puncture/evacuation): edge as fine as hair.
 - o Chedana (incision): half as thin as vyādhana.
- Tempering: kṣāra (alkali) for cutting arrows/bone/foreign bodies; jala (water) for flesh-cutting; taila (oil) for vein/nerve work.
- **Protection:** edges sheathed; instruments whetted on proper stones; safe storage.

Authoritative gist (Su. Sū. 8): a surgical instrument well-ground, well-shaped, keen-edged, with convenient handle alone deserves use; rough/jagged/uneven, too thick/thin/long/short are rejected.

4) Doşa (Defects) of Sastra — What to Avoid

From Su. Sū. 8 (defective traits):

- Vakratā (undue curvature/off-axis), Kuṇṭhatā (bluntness), Viṣamadhārā (uneven edge), Khara-dhārā (rough/jagged edge), Ati-sthūlatā (too thick), Ati-kṛśatā (too thin), Ati-dīrghatā (too long), Ati-hrasvatā (too short).
- **Applied prevention:** correct sharpening protocol; **pre-use inspection** (hinges, serrations); retire deformed edges; match blade profile to tissue.

Use this list to argue instrument rejection in viva and to justify changing blades mid-case.

5) Prayoga (Clinical Use) — Map Śastra to Steps

- Incision/Excision (Chedana-Bhedana): Maṇḍalāgra, Vṛddhipatra, Arddhadhāra for skin/fascia work; Karapatra/Kuṭhārikā for bone exposure where indicated.
- Scarification (Lekhana): Maṇḍalāgra/Karapatra for indurated margins, sinus-lip; precise edge-thickness per Su. Sū. 8.
- Puncture (Vyādhana): Trikūrchaka, Ārā, Vrīhīmukha, Vetasapatraka, Śūci—for hydrocele/ascites veins
 etc.
- Evacuation (Sravya/Visrāvaṇa): Kuśapatra, Śarārimukha, Ātemukha, Antarmukha—opened and drained with hair-fine edge, then Nāḍī-yantra for sustained drainage.
- Extraction (Āharaṇa): Vaḍiśa, Danta-śaṅku—solid foreign bodies/teeth; probe (Eṣaṇī) for direction before extraction.
- Suturing (Sīvya): Śūci (needles)—round, triangular, or semicircular per site (joint skin, scrotum/abdomen, marma-proximate tissue) as guided in Su. Sū. 25 (sivana-vidhi).

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6) Śastra-karmāṇi (Eight Operative Actions) — Ashtavidha with Indications

Suśruta's operative doctrine is the eightfold Śastra-karma—learn the Sanskrit names and one-liner indications.

- 1. **Chedana (**श्चेदन) *Incision* to open; **Chedya** lesions listed (e.g., bhagandara, arbuda, arśa).
- 2. **Bhedana** (भेदन) *Excision / cutting out* (many translators swap the English words; keep the Sanskrit clear). Useful in **vidradhi, vrddhi, granthi, nādī-vrana**, etc.
- 3. Lekhana (लेखन) Scarification/scraping of hard, thick, elevated margins/indurated tissue.
- 4. Vyādhana (व्याधन) Puncture/aspiration, e.g., dakodara (ascites), mūtra-vṛddhi (hydrocele), controlled śirā work.
- 5. **Eṣaṇā (**एषणा) *Probing/exploration*, esp. **sinus/foreign body** tracts.
- 6. Āharaṇa (आहरण) Extraction/drawing out stones, foreign bodies, impacted stool/foetus (obstetric extraction references).
- 7. **Sravana/Visrāvaṇa (**स्नावण/विस्नावण) *Evacuation/secretion* in **vidradhi/kuṣṭha**, inflamed swellings, ear-lobe disease, etc.
- 8. **Sīvana (**सीवन) *Suturing* of **clean** wounds after proper debridement; **needle-shapes** chosen by site (round/triangular/semicircular).

Suturing specifics (Su. Sū. 25):

- Threads: cotton, aśmantaka/hemp fibres, aṭasī/mūrvā/gudūcī, leather strips, horsehair, or sinews.
- Suture patterns: Gophana, Tunna-sevanī, Rju-granthi—selected by shape/position of the wound.
- **Needles:** round (two-aṅgula) for joints/thin tissues; trihedral (three-aṅgula) for fleshy parts; semicircular for scrotum/abdominal skin/marma zones.

7) Anuśastra (Inferior/Substitutes) — What to Use When the Knife is Unsuitable

Suśruta lists substitute instruments to **incise/excise/extract/secrete/probe** when patients are **too young, fearful**, or when **proper instruments are unavailable** (Su. Sū. 8):

- Bamboo skin (vetasa-valka), crystal (sphaţika), bits of glass (kāca), kuruvinda (corundum/quartz) for incision/excision in select contexts.
- Nails (nakhāḥ) in feasible incision/extraction scenarios.
- Leeches (jalaukā), fire (agni), alkali (kṣāra) as Anuśastra-karmāṇi for visrāvaṇa/chemo-thermal actions
 (detailed in Su. Sū. 11-13).
- Leaves (gojī, śephalika, śākapatra) secretion/evacuation in mouth/eyelid disorders.
- Hair (keśa), corn-sprout (ankura), fingers (anguli) probing (eṣaṇā) in absence of a probe.

"वल्क-स्फटिक-काच-कुरुविन्दा जलौका-अग्नि-क्षार-नसार- गोजी-शेफालिका-शाकपत्र-अङ्कुर-केश-अङ्गुलयः एते अनुशस्त्रसङ्ग्रहाः।" — Suśruta Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna 8 (sense of list)

8) Modern Mapping — Quick Tables for OT Practice

A) Sastra → Core action → Modern substitute

Sastra Signature action Modern

Maṇḍalāgra / Vṛddhipatra / Arddhadhāra **Chedana-Bhedana** Scalpels, lancets

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ŚastraSignature actionModernKarapatra / AntarmukhaSawing/secretionBone saws, serrated knives

Kuṭhārikā / ĀrāPuncture/bone entry Osteotomes, awlsTrikūrchakaVyādhana/aspiration Trocar-cannula

Kuśapatra / Śarārimukha / Ātemukha **Visrāvaņa** Scissors, drains entry Vaḍiśa / Danta-śaṅku **Āharaṇa** Hooks, elevators, forceps

Śūci **Sīvana** Surgical needles (round, 3-edged, semicircular)

Eşaṇī Eşaṇā Probes/directors

B) Edge preparation (Su. Sū. 8) — what's "thin enough"?

• Excision (Bhedana): edge ~ muşura husk.

• Scraping (Lekhana): ½ of the above.

• Puncture/Secretion (Vyādhana/Visrāvaņa): hair-fine.

• Incision (Chedana): ½ of hair-fine.

9) Technique Pearls (from Su. Sū. 8 & 25)

- Grips & handling: Vṛddhipatra for scraping—with palm slightly supinated; Vrihīmukha—handle concealed in palm, blade held by thumb-index; Ara/Karapatra/Eṣaṇī—held at roots; Kuthārikā—supported on left, tapped with right (thumb & third finger).
- Patient factors: In kings/children/timid/delicate, prefer Trikūrchaka for evacuation—less traumatic.
- Suturing: Respect marma proximity; choose needle body and pattern accordingly; never sew unclean wounds—do śodhana first.

10) Safety — Errors (Vyāpada) and How to Prevent Them

हीनातिरिक्तं तिर्यक् च गात्रच्छेदनमात्मनः। एताश्चतस्त्रोऽष्टविधे कर्मणि व्यापदः स्मृताः॥ — Su. Sū. 25/30

- Hīna (under): inadequate cut/evacuation → re-do with correct edge & plane.
- Atirikta (over): excessive cut → hemostasis, layer-wise control.
- Tiryan (oblique): off-plane incision → re-mark, stabilize tissue.
- Ātma-chedana (self-injury): poor ergonomics → correct grip, neutral wrist, guarded blades.

General rule: Never incise, suture or evacuate **without eṣaṇā** (probing) when tracts are uncertain; **match edge** to tissue; **temper** blades for task.

11) Self-Check Recap (High-yield)

- 20 Sastra names with one-liner uses (Su. Sū. 8).
- Guna vs Dosa: keen, even edge & good handle vs curvature, bluntness, uneven/jagged, mis-sized (Su. Sū. 8).
- Asţavidha Śastra-karma: Chedana, Bhedana, Lekhana, Vyādhana, Eṣaṇā, Āharaṇa, Sravana/Visrāvaṇa,
 Sīvana (Su. Sū. 25).
- Anuśastra: bamboo skin, crystal, glass, kuruvinda, nails, leaves, hair, finger; leech-fire-alkali as special substitutes (Su. Sū. 8; Su. Sū. 11-13).
- Vyāpada (errors): hīna/atirikta/tiryaṅ/ātma-chedana (Su. Sū. 25/30).

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• Edge-task rule & tempering—quote from Su. Sū. 8 in viva.

12) Assessment

A) MCQs (Single best answer)

1. Edge for Vyādhana/Visrāvaņa should be:

a) As thick as a nail b) As thin as **hair** c) As thin as *muṣura* husk d) As thick as paper **Ans:** b (Su. Sū. 8)

2. **Karapatra** corresponds most closely to:

a) Lancet b) Bone saw c) Trocar d) Awl

Ans: b (Su. Sū. 8)

3. **Trikūrchaka** is primarily used for:

a) Suturing b) Excision c) Puncture/evacuation d) Scraping

Ans: c (Su. Sū. 8)

4. **Anuśastra** suitable for probing when probe is absent:

a) Hair/corn-sprout/finger b) Tourniquet c) Retractor d) Bandage

Ans: a (Su. Sū. 8)

5. The four common errors in Astavidha Sastra-karma include all except:

a) Hīna b) Atirikta c) **Vivecana** d) Ātma-chedana

Ans: c (Su. Sū. 25/30)

6. Sūci selection: a semicircular needle is ideal for:

a) Joint capsule b) Scrotal/abdominal skin/marma-proximate c) Fleshy thigh d) Nail bed

Ans: b (Su. Sū. 25)

7. **Doṣa** of Śastra that risks false tract:

a) Vakratā b) Mṛdutā c) Sthūlatā d) Dīrghatā

Ans: a (Su. Sū. 8)

8. Vadiśa is used chiefly for:

a) Extraction b) Incision c) Suturing d) Cauterisation

Ans: a (Su. Sū. 8)

9. **Lekhana** is preferred in:

a) Acute clean wounds b) **Indurated/elevated margins** c) Acute hydrocele d) Bone fracture

Ans: b (Su. Sū. 25)

10. **Tempering with alkali** is indicated when cutting:

a) Skin b) Bone/arrow/foreign body c) Vein d) Nerve

Ans: b (Su. Sū. 8)

B) SAQs (3-5 lines; cite Suśruta)

- 1. Enumerate 20 Śastra with one function each (Su. Sū. 8).
- 2. Write Guṇa and Doṣa of Śastra (Su. Sū. 8) with one preventive step.
- 3. Define and indicate any four of the Aştavidha Śastra-karmāṇi (Su. Sū. 25).
- 4. What are **Anuśastra**? Give **five** examples and their uses (Su. Sū. 8).
- 5. Explain four vyāpada and their prevention (Su. Sū. 25/30).

C) LAQs

- Śastra doctrine of Suśruta: Nirukti → 20 Śastra (Su. Sū. 8) with geometry, edge & temper rules → Guṇa-Doṣa with prevention → Aṣṭavidha Śastra-karma (Su. Sū. 25) with indications & vyāpada → Anuśastra and modern mapping.
- 2. From śloka to OT: Show how edge-task matching & tempering (Su. Sū. 8) plus suturing rules (Su. Sū. 25) translate into present-day scalpel/needle selection, safe drainage and wound closure protocols.

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Additional reading - Su.Su. Ch. 8

Opening & Intention (1)

अथातः शस्त्रावचारणीयमध्यायं व्याख्यास्यामः ॥१॥

Now, then, we shall expound the chapter on the handling of surgical instruments.

Authority of Dhanvantari (2)

यथोवाच भगवान् धन्वन्तरि: ॥२॥

Thus spoke the Worshipful Lord Dhanvantari.

Twenty Sharp Instruments (3)

विंशतिः शस्त्राणि, तद्यथा- मण्डलाग्रकरपत्रवृद्धिपत्रनखशस्त्रमुद्रिकोत्पलपत्रकार्धधारसूचीकुशपत्राटीमुख-

शरारिमुखान्तर्मुखत्रिकूर्चककुठारिकाव्रीहिमुखारावेतसपत्रकविडशदन्तशङ्क्वेषण्य इति ॥३॥

There are twenty sharp instruments, namely: maṇḍalāgra, karapatra, vṛddhipatra, nakhaśastra, mudrikā, utpalapatra, ardhadhārā, sūcī, kuśapatra, āṭīmukha, śarārimukha, antarmukha, trikūrcaka, kuṭhārikā, vrīhimukha, ārā, vetasapatra, baḍiśa, dantaśaṅku, and eṣaṇī.

Eight Operative Uses (4)

तत्र मण्डलाग्रकरपत्रे स्यातां छेदने लेखने च, वृद्धिपत्रनखशस्त्रमुद्रिकोत्पलपत्रकार्धधाराणि छेदने भेदने च, सूचीकुशपत्राटी(टा)मुखशरारिमुखान्तर्मुखित्रकूर्चकानि विम्रावणे, कुटारिकाब्रीहिमुखारावेतसपत्रकाणि व्यधने सूची च, बिडशं दन्तशङ्कुश्चाहरणे, एषण्येषणे आनुलोम्ये च, सूच्यः सीवने ; इत्यष्टविधे कर्मण्युपयोगः शस्त्राणां व्याख्यातः॥४॥

Of these: maṇḍalāgra and karapatra are for cutting and linear incising; vṛddhipatra, nail-knife, ring-knife, lotus-leaf blade, and half-edged blade are for cutting and piercing; needle, grass-leaf blade, āṭīmukha, arrow-head blade, inward-curved blade, and trikūrcaka serve for letting out (blood/fluids); small axe, rice-grain tip, awl, and willow-leaf blade are for puncturing—so too the needle; barbed hook and tooth-probe are for extraction; the searching probe is for probing and following the natural tract; needles are for suturing. Thus the use of instruments in the eight classes of operative actions is declared.

Grasp & Handling (5)

तेषामथ यथायोगं ग्रहणसमासोपायः कर्मसु वक्ष्यते- तत्र वृद्धिपत्रं वृन्तफलसाधारणे भागे गृह्णीयात्, भेदनान्येवं सर्वाणि, वृद्धिपत्रं मण्डलाग्रं च किञ्चिदुत्तानेन पाणिना लेखने बहुशोऽवचार्यं, वृन्ताग्रे विस्नावणानि, विशेषेण तु बालवृद्धसुकुमारभीरुनारीणां राज्ञां राजमा(पु)त्राणां च त्रिकूर्चकेन विस्नावयेत्, तलप्रच्छादितवृन्तमङ्गुष्ठप्रदेशिनीभ्यां व्रीहिमुखं, कुठारिकां वामहस्तन्यस्तामितरहस्तमध्यमाङ्गुल्याऽङ्गुष्ठविष्टब्थयाऽभिहन्यात्, आराकरपत्रैषण्यो मूले, शेषाणि तु यथायोगं गृह्णीयात् ॥४॥

Now their grasp and handling, appropriate to each task, will be told. The **vṛddhipatra** should be held at the junction of stalk and blade; similarly all piercing instruments. The **vṛddhipatra** and **maṇḍalāgra**, with the hand slightly raised, should be frequently steadied for linear incisions. For blood-letting, grasp at the tip of the stalk; and especially in children, the aged, the delicate, the timid, women, and kings/princes, let blood with the **trikūrcaka**. Drive the **vrīhimukha** with the stalk covered by the palm between thumb and index; the **kuṭhārikā**, placed in the left hand, is struck/driven using the middle finger and thumb of the other hand. Hold the **awl**, **karapatra**, and **probe** near their base; the others as suited.

Form Implied by Names (6)

तेषां नामभिरेवाकृतयः प्रायेण व्याख्याताः ॥६॥

For the most part, their very names indicate their shapes.

Standard Lengths (7)

तत्र नस्रशस्त्रैषण्यावष्टाङ्गुले, सूच्यो वक्ष्यन्ते, (प्रदेशिन्यग्रपर्वप्रदेशप्रमाणा मुद्रिका, दशाङ्गुला शरारिमुखी सा च (या सा) कर्तरीति कथ्यते)। शेषाणि तु षडङ्गुलानि ॥७॥

Here, the **nail-knife** and **searching probe** are eight angulas in length; **needles** will be described later. The **mudrikā** is measured by the terminal region of the index finger; the **śarārimukhī** is ten angulas and is also called **kartarī** (scissortype). The remaining instruments are six angulas.

Qualities of Good Instruments (8)

तानि सुग्रहाणि, सुलोहानि, सुधाराणि, सुरूपाणि, सुसमाहितमुखाग्राणि, अकरालानि, चेति शस्त्रसम्पत् ॥८॥

Excellence consists in being easy to grasp, made of good metal, well-tempered, well-shaped, with well-set tips, and not fearsome in appearance.

Defects & the Karapatra Exception (9)

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तत्र वक्तं, कुण्ठं, खण्डं, खरधारम्, अतिस्थूलम्, अत्यल्पम्, अतिदीर्घम्, अतिह्नस्वम्, इत्यष्टौ शस्त्रदोषाः।

अतो विपरीतगुणमाददीत, अन्यत्र करपत्रात् ; तद्धि खरधारमस्थिच्छेदनार्थम् ॥९॥

Eight defects are: crooked, blunt, broken, rough-edged, too thick, too small, too long, too short. Choose the opposite qualities—except for karapatra, which should be rough/serrated for bone cutting.

Edge Thickness Standards (10)

तत्र धारा भेदनानां मासूरी, लेखनानामर्थमासूरी, व्यथनानां विस्नावणानां च कैशिकी, छेदनानामर्थकैशिकीति ॥०॥

For edges: piercing—masūra-thick; linear incising—half masūra; puncturing and letting out—hair-fine; cutting—half hairfine.

Hook, Tooth-Probe & Probe Tip (11)

बडिशं दन्तशङ्कुश्चानताग्रे।

तीक्ष्णकण्टकप्रथमयवपत्रमुख्येषणी (गण्डूपदाकारमुखी च) ॥११॥

The barbed hook and tooth-probe are bent at the tip. The searching probe has a very sharp thorn-like, barley-leafshaped mouth (also described as worm-shaped).

Threefold Quenching (12)

तेषां पायना त्रिविधा क्षारोदकतैलेषु।

तत्र क्षारपायितं शरशल्यास्थिच्छेदनेषु, उदकपायितं मांसच्छेदनभेदनपाटनेषु, तैलपायितं सिराव्यधनस्नायुच्छेदनेषु ॥१२॥

Tempering is threefold—in alkali, water, and oil: alkali-tempered for cutting arrow-foreign bodies and bone; watertempered for cutting muscle, piercing, and splitting; oil-tempered for venesection and cutting tendons.

Testing & Edge Maintenance (13)

तेषां निशानार्थं श्लक्ष्णशिला माषवर्णाः; धारासंस्थापनार्थं शाल्मलीफलकमिति ॥१३॥

Use a smooth stone of black-gram color to test sharpness; use a silk-cotton (śālmalī) board to set/maintain the edge.

Guiding Maxim (14)

भवति चात्र-

यदा सुनिशितं शस्त्रं रोमच्छेदि सुसंस्थितम्।

सुगृहीतं प्रमाणेन तदा कर्मसु योजयेत् ॥१४॥

"When the instrument is sharpened enough to cut a hair, properly set, and properly grasped, then it should be applied to procedures."

Auxiliary Implements (15)

अनुशस्त्राणि तु त्वक्सारस्फटिककाचकुरुविन्दजलौकोग्निक्षारनखगोजीशेफालिकाशाकपत्रकरीरबालाङ्गुलय इति ॥१५॥

Auxiliaries: tough hide, crystal, glass, kuruvinda (red stone), leeches, fire, alkali, the nail, and the leaves of gojī, śephālika, śāka, karīra, and the tender shoots of bālāngulī.

When to Prefer Auxiliaries (16)

शिशूनां शस्त्रभीरूणां शस्त्राभावे च योजयेत्।

त्वक्सारादिचतुर्वर्गं छेदो भेदो च बुद्धिमान ॥१६॥

For children, those fearful of instruments, and when instruments are lacking, the intelligent physician should use the four groups beginning with tough hide for cutting and piercing.

Use of Nail; Others Described Later (17)

आहार्यच्छेदाभेदोषु नखं शक्येषु योजयेत।

विधिः प्रवक्ष्यते पश्चात क्षारवहनिजलौकसाम ॥१७॥

For extractable, cuttable, or pierceable items, use the nail wherever feasible. The procedures with alkali, cautery, and leeches will be described later.

Oral & Eyelid Conditions (18)

ये स्युर्मुखगता रोगा नेत्रवर्त्मगताश्च ये।

गोजीशेफालिकाशाकपत्रैर्विस्नावयेत्तु तान् ॥१८॥

Diseases in the mouth and those in the eyelids should be made to discharge using leaves of gojī, śephālika, and śāka.

If Probe Is Unavailable (19-a)

एष्येष्वेषण्यलाभे तु बालाङ्गुल्यङ्कुरा हिता: ।१९।

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In explorations, if a probe is not available, the tender sprouts of **bālāṅgulī** are beneficial.

Forging & Metalsmith (19-b)

शस्त्राण्येतानि मतिमान् शुद्धशैक्यायसानि तु ।

कारयेत करणप्राप्तं कर्मारं कर्मकोविदम ॥१९॥

A wise person should have these made of pure steel and iron by a blacksmith skilled and properly equipped for such work.

Mastery Through Practice (20)

प्रयोगज्ञस्य वैद्यस्य सिद्धिर्भवति नित्यशः।

तस्मात् परिचयं कुर्याच्छस्त्राणां ग्रहणे सदा ॥२०॥

Success constantly attends the physician skilled in practice; therefore always cultivate familiarity with the grasp and handling of instruments.

Chapter End

इति सुश्रुतसंहितायां सूत्रस्थाने शस्त्रावचारणीयो नामाष्टमो ऽध्याय:

Thus ends, in the **Suśruta-saṃhitā**, Sūtrasthāna, the eighth chapter named **Śastrāvacāraṇīya** ("On the Handling of Surgical Instruments").

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