

Unit 2. Rutuchakra - Menstrual Cycle topics a, b

a. Shuddha Artava & Shuddha Shukra Lakshana

Śuddha Artava (normal menstrual blood)

Clinical features (Charaka):

- Not slimy, no burning, no pain; lasts ~5 nights; neither excessive nor scanty.
“मासान्निष्पिच्छदाहार्ति पञ्चात्रात्रानुबन्धि च । नैवातिबहु नात्यल्प मार्तवं शुद्धमादिशेत् ॥”
- Colour likened to **guñjā** fruit, **red lotus/alaktaka** solution, or **indragopaka** insect (various healthy reds).
“गुञ्जाफलसवर्णं च पद्मालक्तकसङ्काशम् । इन्द्रगोपकसङ्काशम् आर्तवं शुद्धमादिशेत् ॥”

Śuddha ārtava (healthy menstrual blood) — qualities

Additional classical marker (Suśruta):

- Resembles rabbit's blood or lac solution; **does not permanently stain cloth**.

“शासुकप्रतिमं यतु यद्या लाक्षारसोपमम् ।

तदार्तवं प्रशंसन्ति यद् वासो न विरञ्जयेत् ॥”

Why it matters: classical lakṣaṇas of pure ārtava/rājasrāva—rakta/tejas features here support the chart's pitta-association around bleeding and the immediate post-bleed transition.

One-line summary: normal artava = pain-free, burn-free, non-slimy flow for ~3-5 days, moderate in amount, healthy red shades, no lasting cloth stain (Charaka 30/225-226; Suśruta Śārīra 2/17).

Śuddha Śukra (normal semen)

Charaka's definition:

- Unctuous, dense, viscid, sweet, **non-caustic**, white and crystal-like.
“स्निग्धं घनं पिच्छलं च मधुरं चाविदाहि च । रेतः शुद्धं विजानीयाच्छ्वेतं स्फटिकसन्निभम् ॥” (Cikitsā 30/145-146)

Suśruta's description:

- Sphatikābha** (crystal-like), fluid yet unctuous, sweet, **honey-scented**; some also compare it to **ghee/honey/oil**.
“स्फटिकाभं द्रवं स्निग्धं मधुरं मधुगन्धि च ।”
“...शुक्रमिच्छन्ति केचित् तैलक्षोद्रवनिमं तथा ॥” (Śārīra 2/11-12)
Why it matters: the snigdha/ guru/ drava/ madhura profile aligns with the chart's kapha-leaning, fertility-supportive window.

Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya (concise lakṣaṇa):

- White, heavy, unctuous, sweet, **copious & thick**; resembling **ghee, honey or oil**.
“शुक्रं शुक्लं गुरु स्निग्धं मधुरं वहलं वहु । धृतमाक्षिकतैलाभं... ॥” (Śārīra 1/17)

One-line summary: normal śukra = white, heavy, unctuous, sweet, thick/copious, crystal-like; often said to have a honey odour and ghee/honey/oil resemblance (Charaka 30/145-146; Suśruta Śārīra 2/11-12; A.Hr. Śārīra 1/17).

Fertile “ṛtukāla” (post-menses window)

शुद्धे शुक्रात्वे सत्त्वः ... गर्भः संपद्यते युक्तिवशादग्निरिवारणे ॥ (Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya, Śārīrasthāna 1.1) — “When śukra and ārtava are pure, the (embodied) sattva, impelled by its own karma, becomes a garbha—like fire arising when fuel is rightly arranged.”

Why it matters: this is the core justification that conception occurs in the proper ṛtu when both reproductive factors are śuddha (the “mid-cycle / kapha-predominant” window in the chart).

ऋतुः स्वाभाविकः स्त्रीणां रात्रयः षोडशः स्मृताः ...” — “A woman’s natural ḫtu is remembered as sixteen nights ...” (Manusmṛti, cited in Garbhādhāna notes).

Why it matters: classical placement of the fertile span (supports locating the kapha-dominant, conception-favorable phase shortly after bleeding ceases).

A standard line summarizing kapha’s guṇa set is transmitted in AH-based manuals, e.g. “स्निग्धः शीतो गुरुः मन्दः श्लक्षणो ... स्थिरः कफः”

Why it matters: these guṇas (snigdha-guru-śīta-manda-ślakṣṇa-sthira) explain why the mucus-rich, building phase after menses is classically read as kapha-dominant.

Quick cross-checks (helpful for viva/MCQs)

- Artava quantity & duration (Charaka):** “pañcarātra-anubandhi... na ati-bahu na aty-alpa” (≈3-5 days; moderate).
- Cloth-stain test (Suśruta):** normal artava **does not** leave a lasting stain.

b. Tridosha & Panchamahabhoota in Rutuchakra

Phase-wise map (Ayurvedic framing, aligned to modern cycle)

Phase (Ayurvedic term)	Approx. modern phase	Tridoṣa predominance	Why (key guṇas / physiology)	Mahābhūta tilt
Rajahsarakāla (menses)	Menstrual flow (≈3-5 days)	Vāta (especially Apāna); supportive Pitta	Expulsive downward movement, cramping → vāyu; warmth/blood involvement → pitta	Vāyu + Agni, with Jala for fluidity
Rtukāla (post-menses fertile window)	Mid-late follicular → peri-ovulatory (classically nights 12-16 are garbhādhāna-śreyas)	Kapha (śleṣma)	Growth, lubrication, cervical mucus, endometrial proliferation → snigdha, guru, śīta	Jala + Prthvī (building, nourishing)
Rtuyatitakāla (post-ovulatory to pre-menses)	Luteal → premenstrual	Early luteal Pitta (secretory “cooking”); late luteal Vāta (pre-shedding)	Secretory changes/heat → tejas/pitta; later drying, restlessness, downward urge → vāta	Agni (early), then Vāyu (late), with Prthvī/Jala subsiding

- Apāna-vāyu drives artava excretion** (Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya, Sūtrasthāna 12: maruta-vibhāga—apāna’s role includes śukra-mūtra-purīṣa-ārtava niṣkramana and garbha-niṣkramana).
- Garbhādhāna is praised in the post-menses “ṛtu nights,” classically the 12th-16th**, i.e., the Kapha-dominant fertile window (Aṣṭāṅga Hṛdaya, Śārīrasthāna 1; also taught around Caraka Śārīra & Suśruta Śārīra in garbha-saṃbhava context).

Viva/MCQs

- “Which doṣa predominates in the fertile phase?” → **Kapha** (Jala-Prthvī, snigdha/guru).
- “What shifts just before menses?” → **Vāta** rises (dryness, irritability, cramps, downward urge).
- “Ovulatory ‘spark’ belongs to which doṣa?” → **Pitta/Tejas** moment within a Kapha background.