

Chapter 35. Ayurvedic Solutions for Hairfall, Dandruff & Premature Greying (Theory)

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Welcome to Day 54 of your Ayurveda Cosmetology course! Today, we'll tackle **three prevalent hair issues**—hairfall (khalitya), dandruff (darunaka), and premature greying (palitya)—through an **Ayurvedic** lens. By recognizing each condition's **dosha** or lifestyle connections, you can craft targeted regimens that address **root imbalances** rather than just symptoms.

1. Hairfall (Khalitya)

A. Ayurvedic Understanding

- **Khalitya** is often associated with **excess Pitta** (inflammation/heat) or **Vata** dryness in the scalp.
- Chronic stress, poor nutrition, or weak Agni can exacerbate hair thinning/loss.
- Balancing these factors internally and externally helps slow or stabilize hairfall.

B. Contributing Factors

1. **High Pitta**
 - Overconsumption of spicy, sour foods, plus stress.
 - Tends to cause scalp heat, potential inflammation.
2. **Vata Dryness**
 - Lack of nourishment to hair roots.
 - Might manifest as brittle hair strands, easy breakage.
3. **Lifestyle**
 - Late nights, excessive screen time, or emotional stress hamper digestion (Agni), culminating in nutrient deficiency for hair.

C. Ayurvedic Approaches

1. **Scalp Oil Massage**
 - Use **Bhringraj** or **Neelibhringadi** oil for Pitta-related hairfall.
 - Gently warm the oil and massage for 5–10 minutes, focusing on circular motions around the crown and scalp perimeter.
 - If dryness is prominent (Vata), choose heavier oils like **Balashwagandha** or **Sesame-based** blends.
2. **Herbal Cleansers**
 - Mild reetha + amla + shikakai combos keep scalp **unclogged** but not over-stripped.
 - Watch dryness—Vata hair might need fewer clarifying washes.
3. **Internal Support**
 - **Amla** or **Triphala** for mild detox and boosting hair-friendly nutrients.
 - Stress management, moderate daily routine (Dinacharya), and adequate rest.
4. **Dietary Tips**
 - Include **protein** (lentils, dairy if suitable), iron-rich greens, seeds (sesame, flax), and healthy fats.
 - Avoid overly spicy, sour, or processed foods that aggravate Pitta or dryness.



2. Dandruff (Darunaka)

A. Ayurvedic Interpretation

- Dandruff sometimes arises from a **Vata-Kapha** overlap: dryness plus oily/flaking buildup on the scalp.
- Alternatively, dryness alone (Vata) can create flaky scales, or Kapha's heaviness might yield greasy, clumpy flakes.

B. Etiological Clues

1. Vata-Kapha Disharmony

- Dry scalp shedding in a powdery manner, or sticky flakes if more Kapha.
- Occasional mild fungal aspects if scalp environment is excessively moist (Kapha).

2. Stress & Poor Diet

- Inconsistent meal timing, dehydration, or heavy, oily foods in diet can worsen scalp environment.
- Pitta might also show signs of inflammation or itching if the scalp is overheated.

C. Remedies & Routines

1. Herbal Rinse or Oil

- Neem-based infusions or oils can reduce microbial issues and clarify scalp.
- **Fenugreek** (methi) seeds soaked, then ground into a paste for mild anti-dandruff mask.
- Light oils if dryness is present (avoid too heavy if scalp is oily).

2. Regular Mild Cleansing

- Clay or soapnut-based cleansers help remove flakes.
- Avoid shampooing too frequently if dryness dominates.

3. Lifestyle

- Ensure enough water, balanced fats in diet.
- Manage stress to keep Vata in check—meditation or consistent sleep routine.

3. Premature Greying (Palitya)

A. Ayurvedic Perspective

- **Pitta** aggravation or overall heat in the body can hasten melanin depletion in hair follicles.
- Genetics also play a role, but Ayurveda aims to **slow** progression by cooling Pitta and supporting healthy hair pigments.

B. Common Triggers

1. High Pitta Diet

- Excess chili, sour foods, fermented items.
- Overly hot climates or external heat styling can accelerate the problem.

2. Stress & Agni Imbalance

- Chronic mental tension or poor digestive fire can hamper the assimilation of nutrients vital to hair pigment.

3. Inadequate Sleep

- Late nights, incomplete rest can tax the mind and hormones, sometimes reflecting in hair quality.

C. Suggested Measures

1. Cool Oils & Herbs

- **Bhringraj Oil**: Traditional remedy known to slow premature greying, supporting natural color.
- **Amla**: High vitamin C content fosters pigment maintenance; can be taken internally or used in scalp oil/rinses.



2. Diet & Lifestyle

- Emphasize **cooling** produce like cucumbers, melons, leafy greens.
- Avoid intense sun exposure on hair/scalp.
- Manage stress via yoga, pranayama, or mindful relaxation.

3. Mild Herbal Dyes (If Desired)

- **Henna + Indigo** combos for natural color coverage.
- Encourage minimal chemical interventions, aligning with a gentler, more Ayurvedic approach.

4. Dosha-Specific Summaries for Hair Issues

1. Vata

- **Hairfall**: Use heavier scalp oils, ensure balanced rest/diet.
- **Dandruff**: If dryness-induced, incorporate more scalp hydration.
- **Greying**: Generally slower if dryness is the main factor; address stress to avoid aggravation.

2. Pitta

- **Hairfall / Greying**: Overheated scalp—cooling oils (bhringraj, coconut) and reduce spicy foods.
- **Dandruff**: If redness or itchiness, also adopt soothing rinses (neem, sandalwood water).

3. Kapha

- **Dandruff** or sticky scalp is often the main issue, use clarifying cleansers.
- **Hairfall** typically less common, but can occur if scalp is overly congested.
- For greying, if any, maintain lighter, less oily diets and mild hair treatments to prevent buildup.

5. Indications & Contraindications

Indications

- Clients with **mild** to moderate **hairfall**, **dandruff**, or **early greying** seeking natural or integrative solutions.
- Those wanting to reduce chemical reliance on anti-dandruff shampoos, dyes, or harsh scalp treatments.

Contraindications

- **Severe scalp infections** or alopecia that might need advanced medical interventions.
- **Allergies** to certain herbal oils or cleansing powders—patch test recommended.
- **Excessive** or extremely rapid hair loss—possible deeper endocrine or nutritional assessment needed.

6. Practical Tips & Lifestyle Integration

1. Daily / Weekly Routines

- **Scalp Massage (Shiro Abhyanga)** once or twice weekly with dosha-suitable oils.
- Mild herbal washes, not overdone—1–3 times/week.
- Occasional hair masks (e.g., amla paste or fenugreek) for dryness/dandruff.

2. Dietary Reminders

- **Amla** or triphala for gentle cleansing & nourishment.
- Balanced consumption of seeds (sesame, pumpkin) for healthy fats and minerals.
- Limit **junk** or extremely spicy foods if hair issues persist.

3. Stress Management

- Encourage **yoga**, **breathing exercises**, consistent sleep patterns—especially crucial for Pitta or Vata aggravations.

4. Herbal Dyes

- **Henna + indigo** for natural coverage of greys, used carefully to match the client's preferences.

Conclusion

Ayurvedic management of **hairfall**, **dandruff**, and **premature greying** underscores the principle of **root-level** healing—balancing doshas, optimizing internal nourishment, and harnessing gentle, natural scalp treatments. By combining **internal** measures (diet, stress reduction) with **topical** herbal oils and cleansers, you can address these concerns **holistically**, fostering stronger, healthier, and more resilient hair over time.

End of Day 54: You've explored Ayurvedic remedies for three common hair ailments—tomorrow (Day 55), we'll examine **homemade Ayurvedic hair spa, Ayurvedic hair dyes, and hairpacks**, further enhancing your skillset for natural, customized hair care. Stay committed to these gentle yet powerful methods!

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