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A CLINICAL STUDY ON AYURVEDIC MANAGEMENT OF SANDHIGATVATA W.S.R. TO OSTEOARTHRITIS

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ABSTRACT

Sandhigata Vata is pathological condition of Sandhi, in which joints are affected by vitiated Vata leading to the many painful manifestations. It is articular disorder mainly found in elderly people, since this age witnesses Kshaya of Dhatus. This disease affects routine activities including sitting, walking and any functions involving joint movements, etc. The potential deformity of joints occurs in Sandhigata Vata mainly knee joints. The condition resembles symptoms of osteoarthritis according to modern science. Osteoarthritis is a degenerative disease which also affects weight-bearing joints. Vata Dosha plays a major role in the symptoms of disease amongst many features Shool Pradhana Vedana is the primary clinical feature of Sandhigata Vata. This article presents a study involving successful management of Sandhigatavata using Ayurvedic Neuro Therapy. Study aimed to improve the range of motion in the knee joint and alleviate the severity of the condition. Ayurvedic Neuro Therapy; administered twice daily which included Alabu, Ghatiyantra, Suksham Agnikarma, Janu Basti, Swedan and Abhyang. Therapy improved disease symptoms appreciably affirming the success of Ayurvedic Neuro Therapy in Sandhigatavata.

KEYWORDS: Ayurveda, Sandhigatavata, Osteoarthritis, Neuro Therapy, Joint.

INTRODUCTION

Sandhigata Vata is common Vyadhi which related to Vata can be correlated with osteoarthritis according to the clinical features. In Vridhavastha, Dhatus Kshaya is very common and when this condition associated with Vata Prakopa, then it produces various diseases like; Sandhigata Vata. The prevalence of Sandhigata Vata is very common since individuals of higher age groups mostly suffer by this condition especially in developing countries. Ayurveda provides effective management of this condition, in this context Ayurvedic Neuro Therapy play vital role to manage painful condition like Sandhigata Vata. [1-3]

Sandhigata Vata being Vataja Nanatmaja Vyadhi mainly involves depletion of Asthi Dhatu associated with vitiated Vata. Samprapti of Sandhigatvata mainly involves factors associated with Vata vitiation as depicted in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Samprapti of Sandhigatvata.

Vitiation of *Vata* in joints causes *Sandhigata Vata*, thus major symptoms arises which are associated with *Vata* vitiation like; pain, swelling and difficulty in movement. The major symptoms according to Ayurveda are as follows:

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- > Sandhi Shoola
- > Sandhi Shotha
- > Akunchana
- > Prasarana

Sandhigata Vata is more prevalent in women than men. Acharya Charaka mentioned common Hetus of Vatavyadhi, these can also be considered as causative factors for Sandhigata Vata. [4-7]

- ✓ **Aharaja:** Ruksha, Sheet, Alpa, Laghu and Abhojana.
- ✓ Viharaja: Atiprajagarana, Divasvapna, Ativyavaya, Vega Dharana and Atiadhva
- ✓ Manasika: Atichinta, Atishoka, Atikrodha and Atibhaya.

The causative factors of osteoarthritis may include age, trauma, such as fractures and injuries, occupation, heavy physical labor, postmenopausal women are more likely to develop symptoms of disease. Obesity also increases the risk due to the involvement of weight-bearing joints. Diet low in vitamin D may also develop osteoarthritis. [8, 9] Ayurveda offers variety of approaches including Neuro Therapy for managing this condition, present article described evidence based role of Neuro Therapy in *Sandhigatvata* W.S.R. to Osteoarthritis.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

 To evaluate the efficacy of Ayurvedic Neuro Therapy along with medicine in the management of Sandhigatvata W.S.R. to Osteoarthritis.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

♣ Study Design: Interventional clinical study

- ♣ Study Area: OPD of Ayurvedic Neuro Therapy Centre, Kota, India
- **♣** Sampling: Simple random method

Inclusion Criteria

- ♣ Patients have symptoms of knee pain, swelling, stiffness, cardinal symptoms of Sandhigatvata.
- ♣ Patient selected irrespectively without their religion, cast and occupation.

Exclusion Criteria

Any significant history of fracture, operational interventions & carcinoma.

Assessment Criteria

Parameter	Grading	
Sandhi Shool	Severe/Moderate/ Mild	
Stiffness (Grah)	Observed / Not Observed	
Range of Movement	Restricted/ Not Restricted	

THERAPEUTIC PROTOCOL (TREATMENT PLAN)

- 1. Nidan Parivarsan & Pathya-Apathya at initial stage.
- 2. Therapy includes *Alabu* (Hot Cupping), *Ghatiyantra* (Vacuum Cupping), *Suksham-Agnikarma* (Hot Needle Therapy), *Janu-Basti*, *Swedan* and *Abhyang*.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Osteoarthritis, being a *Vata* disease, can benefit from treatments that counteract the qualities of *Vata dosha*. Prescribed Ayurvedic Neuro Therapy relieved symptoms of disease by alleviating vitiated *Vata*. The improvement in symptoms was assessed on the basis of assessment parameters as follows:

Improvement in Assessment Parameters

Parameter	Before Treatment	After Treatment
Sandhi Shool	Severe	Mild
Stiffness (Grah)	Observed	Not Observed
Range of Movement	Restricted	Not Restricted

Janubasti with oil is an effective therapy for alleviating symptoms of Sandhigatavata. Iil has properties such as Snigdha and Guru, which counteract Ruksa and Laghu qualities of Vata dosha. Janubasti nourishes Mamsa, Asthi and Majja Dhatus, restores lubrication of joint and maintains integrity of the joint.

Abhyanga (oil massage) relaxes stiffness, enhances blood flow and strengthens muscles, etc. Hot cupping (Alabu), ease knee pain and relived stiffness associated with osteoarthritis.

Ghati Yantra reduced stiffness and pain in Vata condition, while needle therapy applied to reduce pain and improve joint function. These therapies together alleviate symptoms and rejuvenate Janu Marma. The Sukṣma, Sara, Snigdha, Picchil and Guru properties of drugs used in therapy counteract Rukṣa and Laghu

qualities of *Vata dosha*. Therapy provides nourishment to *Mamsa*, *Meda*, *Asthi* and *Majja Dhatus*.

Swedana provides a hypo-analgesic effect by diverting stimuli, thus alleviated pain, relaxing muscles and reduced joint stiffness. In present study *Vata* treatment principles were involved for managing *Sandhigatavata*. The protocol included mainly *Shodhana Chikitsa*, after the therapy significant relief and notable improvement in disease's symptoms was observed. [4-7]

CONCLUSION

In present study, the diagnosis of *Sandhigatavata* was established through Ayurvedic methods. The treatment involved a seven-day regimen of Ayurvedic Neuro Therapy, administered twice daily. The therapy included *Abhyanga*, *Ghatiyantra*, *Alabu*, *Raktamokshana*, *Agnikarma* and Traction. These all approaches appreciably improved symptoms such as; stiffness,

heaviness and swelling, etc. On the final day of the seven-day therapy, *Agnikarma* was applied, which provided relief from pain. *Agnikarma* balanced local *Vata* and *Kapha doshas* thus reduces intensity of pain remarkable without causing any adverse effects.

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