

Gridhrasi and Its Management through Panchakarma- A Case Study

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Abstract: *In this hectic life sciatic pain is a very common disorder that hampers people from doing their routine activities. Most of people suffering from this, complains about moderate to severe pain in buttock region which then radiate to thigh, calf and down to the foot and even toes. The main cause of sciatica can be a horizontal or slipped disc, piriformis syndrome, spinal stenosis, spondylolisthesis. In the starting stage people neglect this but later this becomes a major issue when the pain becomes unbearable. Classics of Ayurveda have references related sciatica, according to Ayurveda signs and symptoms of sciatica is much similar to "Gridhrasi-VaataRoga." Gridhrasi can be treated remarkably with procedures of panchakarma and internal medications. Here in the case study a female patient-presenting with clinical features of sciatica and MRI findings suggesting of disc bulge and prolapse at the level of lumbar vertebrae was given Panchakarmatreatment. The patient was treated with classical treatments like Kati Basti, and Kala Basti with certain conventional oral medication. The results of the study are highly encouraging.*

Keywords: Gridhrasi, KalaBasti, katibasti

1. Introduction

Gridhrasi (Sciatica) is one among 80 types of Nanatmaja Vatavyadhi. It is a disorder in which low back pain is found, that spreads through the hip, to the back of the thigh and down the inside of the leg. There are many causes for low back pain, however true sciatica is a symptom of inflammation or compression of the sciatica nerve. The sciatica nerve carries impulses between nerve roots in the lower back and the muscles and nerve of the buttocks, thighs and lower legs. Compression of a nerve root often occurs as a result of damage to one of the discs between the vertebrae. In some cases, sciatic pain radiate from other nerves in the body. This is called referred pain. Pain associated with sciatica often is severe, sharp and shooting. It may be accompanied by other symptom, such as numbness, tingling, weakness and sensitivity to touch.

Although low back pain is a common condition that affects as many as 80-90% of people during their lifetime, true sciatica occurs in about 5% of cases. Sciatica is more common between 30 and 50 years of age [1].

Pain in sciatica is very severe, which makes the patient difficult to walk; hampering the daily routine of the individual. No satisfactory treatment available in modern medical science, patients depends on pain killers which has temporary action.

Basti is the most important among panchkarma due to its multiple effects. Pitta and kapha are dependent on vata as it governs their functions. Basti is not only best for vata disorder but also equally effective in correcting the morbid pitta, kapha, rakta. (2) Charak has considered, Basti therapy as half of the treatment of all the disease, while some authors consider it as the complete remedy for all the ailments. (3)

2. Case Report

A female patient aged 42 years presented with the complaint of low back ache with dragging pain radiating to left limb associated with numbness and tingling sensation since

1 years. But from 15 days patient increase the severity of symptoms.

3. Observations

- **Signs:** -Tenderness in lumbosacral area. SLR test was positive. Lasagne's sign was positive.
- **Symptoms:** -Dragging type of pain radiating from lower back region to left limb, associated with numbness, tingling sensation and heaviness of the limb.
- **MRI report:** -
 - 1) Less than Grade-1 anterior listhesis of L5 over S1 due to bilateral isthmic defect in pars interarticularies. Straightening of lumbar curvature with severe degenerative changes at L5-S1.
 - 2) Pseudo protrusion of central, para central and lateral hard disc at L5-S1 causing mild reduction of central canal dimension and foraminal impingement upon exiting both L5 nerve root.
 - 3) Degenerative focal soft tissue canal stenosis at L3-4 and L4-5.
 - 4) Mild facet hypertrophy added with small symmetric para central disc bulge at L2-3 and right paracentral hard disc protrusion at L1-2 causing mild indentation upon right half of ventral thecal sac.
- Gait: - Slow, dragging slight twisting the left foot.
- Prakriti: - Vata-Pitta.
- Bala: - Madhyama
- Agni: - Madhyama
- Koshta: - Madhyama

4. Treatment Given

Kati Basti (Topical application of medicated oil): The procedure of applying heat to the sacral or lumbar region by retaining warm medicated oil with in a specially formed frame on this area is known as Kati Basti. It is indicated

in painful condition of low back region. [4] The procedure was done with Balaashwagandha Tailam for 30 minutes for duration of 16 days.

Basti Karma (Therapeutic enema):

Niruha Basti (Decoction enema): The composition of the medicine administered in the form of Basti contains Kwath (herbal decoction), Sneha (medicated oil), Madhu (Honey), Saindhava Lavana (rock salt) and Kalka (herbal powder). [5] Dashmool Kwath Niruha Basti was given in Kala Basti schedule (16 days) with the following contents.

- Madhu -60gms
- Saindhavalavana -05 gms
- Guggulutiktakaghrita -90ml
- Shatapushpa Kalka -30gms
- Dashmoolkwatha -240 ml

Drugs of Dashmool decoction:

Shalparni (Desmodium gangeticum), Prashniparni (Urariapicta), Kantakari (Solanum surattense), Bruhati (Solanum indicum), Gokshura (Tribulusterrestris), Bilva (Aegle marmelos), Agnimanth (Premnaintegrifolia), Sonapaatha (Oroxylum borea), Paatala (Sterospermum suaveolens) and Gambhari (Gmelina borea).

Anuvasana Basti: - Administration of medicated oil or other fat through the rectal route in a prescribed dose is called as Anuvasana Basti. In this case study Dashmoola Taila was used for anuvasana basti.

Shamana Aushadi: - Palliative treatment with Yograja Guggulu - 2 pills (500 mgm) three times a day. Rasna Saptaka Kwath - 40ml + Dashmool Kwath - 40ml two times a day. Ksheerabala 101 times Avartita - 10 drops with milk two times a day. Panchasakara Churna - 5gms at bed time.

The results observed after the treatment were:

Improvement in signs and symptoms of the patient. Relief was found in dragging pain, numbness and tingling sensation. Gait has improved.

- **Walking distance:-**
Before treatment: - Patient had severe pain after walking 100 mts.
After treatment: - Patient could easily walk without pain about 200 mts.

- **Walking time:-**
Before treatment: - Patient took around five minutes to walk 100 steps.
After treatment: patient took around three minutes to walk 100 steps.
No significant change was observed in MRI REPORT

5. Discussion

The Bulging and prolapse of disc causes obstruction to the movement of Vata resulting in Vata Prakopa. Basti is the best treatment for correcting Vata Dosha.

By virtue of the drugs of Dashmool Kwath Niruha Basti the Avarana of Vata may be reduced which in turn makes the free movement of Vata which may be reason for reduction in pain, numbness etc. and improvement in gait. Specially Guggulu Tiktaka Ghrita used as Sneha in Basti is specifically mentioned for Asthi Sandhigata Vikara due to its Tikta Rasa helps to reach Asthi Sandhi and corrects the degeneration that took place at the level of disc by virtue of Snigdha guna and Balya and Brimhana action.

Kati Basti is a combination of Snehana and Svedana which is the first line of treatment for Vata Dosha. The Bala Ashwagandha Taila is Brimhana and Snehan nature helps to overcome the accumulation of Vata at the site of pathology and may nourish the underlying tissue.

Shamana drugs: - Mainly Amapachana, Shothahara medicines which reduce the Shotha and Avartita Ksheera Bala Taila is Brimhana and Vatahara might have helped to overcome degeneration of disc and Vata Prakopa.

6. Conclusion

On the basis of this single case study it can be concluded that Panchakarma treatments like Kati Basti DASHMOOL Niruha Basti had been effective in the management of Gridhrasi (sciatica)

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