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**CASE REPORT** 

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# Basti as Ardha Chikitsa in the management of Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Grudrasi - A Case Report of Lumbar **Spondylosis**

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# ABSTRACT

Lumbar Spondylosis is the commonly observed chronic degenerative disorder especially in the geriatric age group. This signifies that disorder is majorly due to Dhatu Kshaya (~depletion of body building and sustaining factors). In the present case report of Lumbar Spondylosis, was diagnosed as Vata Pitta Samsrushta Grudrasi (~sciatica formed by Vata and Pitta Dosha in their equal dominance) with the application of Trividha Bodhya Samgraha (~cause, situation and nature of disease). A 53 year housewife hailing from rural sector of Jangala Desha (dry area) reported with severe burning sensation in right foot, low backache, referred pain in right calf associated with numbness. Vata and Pitta were elicited as Sthanika (~functional unit of its own place) and Agantu Dosha (~functional unit entered from other part) respectively through Samsarga Dosha Laxana. Yapana Basti (~Enema Therapy) schedule was designed to pacify Pakvashayagata Vata-Pitta (~Vata and Pitta situated in lower gut). Qualitative assessment done before and after treatment revealed successful outcomes where score reduced from 12 to 2 indicating improved quality of life. Basti acts as Ardha Chikitsa (~half treatment) when proper Yukti (planning) is applied in designing protocol, selecting appropriate formulations by incorporating multiple Chikitsa Siddhanta (~treatment principle) such as Sthanivat Chikitsa.

Key words: Lumbar Spondylosis, Pakvashayaqata Vata, Sthanivat Chikitsa, Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Grudrasi, Yapana Basti

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Ayurveda treatment principles are very specific and clinically reliable when applied appropriately. Thorough understanding of Vyadhi Samprapti (~disease pathology) helps in prioritizing the treatment modality depending on the components of Dosha Dushya Sammurchana (~start of disease pathology).[1]

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Hence the background knowledge of Ayurveda principles is the fundamental criteria to design successful treatment protocol. The principle of Trividha Bodhya Samgraha i.e. Vyadhi Prakruti (~nature of disease), Adhishthana (~disease affected site) and Samutthana (~cause of the disease)[2] is applied for the diagnosis and management of Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Grudrasi where it is considered as one of the Anukta Vyadhi. The Samsrushta Avastha of Vata and Pitta refers to the *Pradhanata* of both *Dosha* in manifestation of disease due to Svatantra Nidana (~independent cause for aggravation), Svatantra Laxana (~exhibition of specific features) and Svatantra Chikitsa (~getting pacified by the specific treatment) of each Dosha.[3] Hence the treatment for Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Avastha typically differs from the treatment protocol of individual Dosha. Treatment protocol designed by considering the Dosha involvement without analyzing the Dushya, Ashaya, Roga Marga, Agni and other components of Vyadhi

Samprapti often discourage the success rate of Ayurveda treatment modality. Encouraging the principle of Sthanivat Chikitsa which states that the treatment modality should be in accordance with Sthani Dosha to correct Vikruti (~derangement) by assessing Sthani Dosha and Agantu Dosha, provides successful outcomes.<sup>[4]</sup> The treatment modality through Basti is described as Ardha Chikitsa in any disease condition because of Vata Dosha being the initiator of Dosha Dushya Sammurchana and is the ultimate line of treatment in the Pakvashayagata Vyadhi irrespective of association of any other Dosha. [5] This case report is intended to throw light on background fundamental principles to be considered for clinical appreciation of Basti as Ardha Chikitsa in the management of Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Grudrasi.

#### **CASE REPORT**

#### **Patient information**

A female patient aged 53 years, not K/C/O DM and HTN, hailing from Jangala Desha, approached outdoor patient department on 3/7/2023 with OPD no. 289434 having complaints of severe burning sensation in the right foot, dragging type of pain in right calf region, low backache associated with numbness in right foot. Complaint of mild low backache was noted after few months of undergoing surgery of Pan Hysterectomy in the year 2015. Gradually pain aggravated since 2018 due to excessive physical exertion. Hence, she consulted allopathy doctor in her residential area and she was advised to undergo routine blood investigation. Then she was prescribed with analgesics and vitamin supplements. Dragging pain in right calf was eventually associated due to continued physical exertion in her lifestyle. In further clinical conditions, it was associated with limping gait and burning sensation in the right foot and hence restricting the movement and reducing walking speed. Even after internal medication, pain and burning sensation continued to aggravate especially in the mid night. Hence patient received medical aid from higher centre in which MRI-LS was done and advised to undergo Spine surgery. There were no other co-morbidities and relevant family history. Daily routine of patient was dominated

with Vatakara (~causes for Vata increase) and Pittakara Nidana (~cause for Pitta increase) such as Katu (~spicy), Ruksha Ahara (~dry food), Kshobha (~crisis of strength), Shrama (~tiredness), Kalatita Bhojana (~consuming food after long gap of hunger) etc. which contributed to Rasavaha, Asthivaha and Majjavaha Srotas (~channels of nourishment of plasma, bone and bone marrow). It is also supported by predisposing factors in terms of Desha, Kala, Prakruti.

#### **Clinical findings**

Patient had limping gait, uneasiness while walking. Systemic examination not revealed any abnormal findings. Vitals were normal. Different clinical examinations were done and recorded during the course of treatment as mentioned in the Table 1. Qualitative assessment done was scored (Table 3) according to the grading mentioned for different symptoms<sup>[6]</sup> shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Clinical examinations related to right leg conducted during course of treatment

Clinical examination	Before treatment	After Sadyovirec hana	After Anuvasana Basti	After Yapana Basti
SLRT	Positive at 40°	30°	40°	Negative
Coin pick test	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative
FABER's test	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative

1(a) SLRT- straight leg raising test; 1(b) FABER- Flexion, Abduction and External Rotation

**Table 2: Grading of symptoms** 

Visual analogue scale	No Pain (0)	
	Mild (1-3)	1
	Moderate (4-6)	2
	Severe (7-10)	3
Low backache	No Pain	0
	Mild pain with no difficulty in walking	1

	Moderate pain with slight difficulty in walking	2
	Severe pain with severe difficulty in walking	3
Stiffness	No Stiffness	0
	Stiffness of mild grade, need no intervention	1
	Stiffness relieved by topical medicaments	2
	Stiffness not relieved by topical medicaments	3
Difficulty in walking	No pain, normal movements	0
	Mild pain with normal gait	1
	Moderate pain with limping gait	2
	Severe pain with limping gait	3
	Complete restriction of movements	4
Burning sensation in foot	No burning sensation, no Sparsha Asahishnuta, no need of intervention	0
	Mild grade burning sensation, no Sparsha Asahishnuta, no need of intervention	1
	Moderate grade of burning sensation, no <i>Sparsha Asahishnuta</i> , needs intervention	2
	Severe burning sensation, Sparsha Asahishnuta, subsides with topical medicaments	3
	Most severe burning sensation,  Sparsha Asahishnuta of air, not subsided by topical medicaments	4

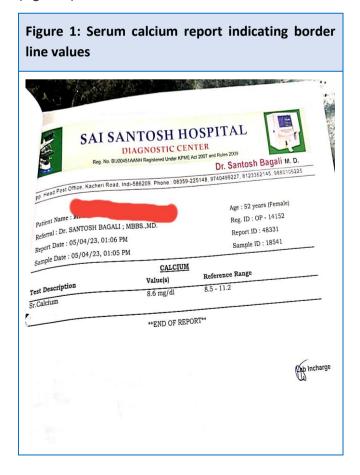
Table 3: Changes observed in different symptoms during treatment

Features	Before treatment	After Sadyovirechan a	After Anuvasana Basti	After Yapana Basti
Visual analogue scale	3	3	2	0

Low backache	3	3	2	1
Stiffness	2	3	2	1
Difficulty in walking	3	4	3	0
Burning sensation	2	4	3	0
Overall	13	17	12	2

#### **Investigations**

Blood investigation done on 5/4/2023: Serum calcium value noted 8.6 mg/L (Figure 1). This can be interpreted border line serum calcium level which indicates the initiation of Calcium depletion in body or poor nourishment of body. Serum titre of CRP test was noted as 1.74mg /dl (Figure 2) which shows negative remark for CRP analysis. Blood routine investigation findings were within normal range (Figure 3). Patient had MRI- Lumbar spine recently dated on 30/5/2023 (Figure 4).



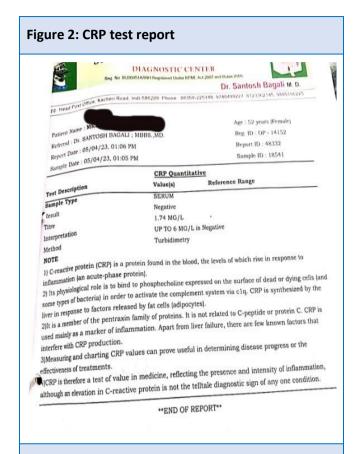
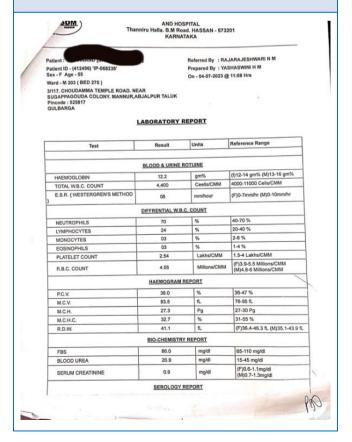
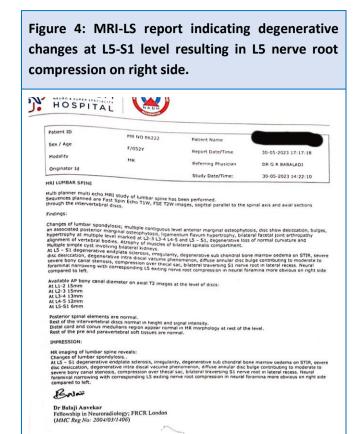


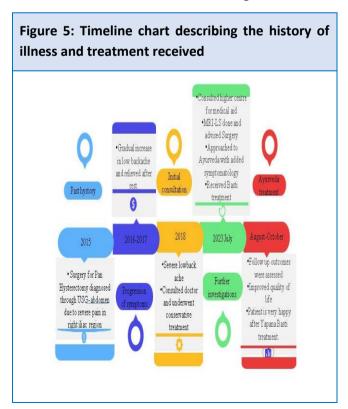
Figure 3: Blood routine report exhibiting normal values





#### Time line

The timeline for the case is shown in Figure 5.



Organ Donation, Saves Lives.

#### **Diagnostic assessments**

Dosha predominance in the clinical condition was ascertained where Svatantra Laxana of Vata and Pitta Dosha were exhibited by the patient. Its retrospective analysis was done by eliciting Svatantra Nidana of Vata and Pitta in her lifestyle through history taking. Hence the Dosha Avastha was decided as Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Avastha. Limping gait with reduced walking speed elicited in clinical findings along with SLRT positive in right leg was comparable with classical reference of Laxana of Grudhrasi i.e. Grudhravat Gati and Dhruta Vilambita Gati respectively.[7] The degenerative changes noted from MRI report are also suggestive of Dhatu Kshaya that causes Vata Prakopa.[8] Hence the Ayurveda diagnosis of Vyadhi is suggestive of Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Grudrasi. Another classical diagnosis Vata Rakta was considered for diagnosis of the condition because of having more common clinical features. Differential diagnosis was done as the Svatantra Nidana for Rakta Dushti was not elicited in patient but is the major criteria to diagnose Vata Rakta.[9]

#### **Therapeutic interventions**

It is mentioned in Table 4. Total 12 days of treatment was given in IP admission which included *Sadyo Virechana* and *Yapana Basti* treatment. Drugs and dose of *Basti* medicines are mentioned in Table 5. Qualitative assessment of the patient condition was done and score was noted. *Mahatiktaka Ghruta* external application to foot was advised SOS and no internal medications were prescribed during IP admission. Table 6 describes the plan of *Yapana Basti*.

**Table 4: Therapeutic intervention** 

Duration	Procedures and medicines Dose	Observations
July,03,2023	-	-
July, 04, 2023	Sarvanga Abhyanga (~oil massage) with Mahavishagarbha Taila <sup>[10]</sup> , Nadi Sweda (Sudation), Sadyovirechana (~instant	Condition exacerbated leading to general weakness

	purgation) with <i>Avipattikara</i> <i>Churna</i> 40g+ honey	after total 16 Vega.
July, 05, 2023	Samsarjana Krama with Peya (~porridge) for 1 Annakala (~food time) and Mudga Yusha (~horse gram soup) for next two Annakala	General weakness increased, Uneasiness
July, 06, 2023	Sarvanga Abhyanga, Sarvanga Pariseka (~ medicated water sprinkling over) with Dhanyamla + Dashamula Kwatha, Kati Basti with Mahavishagarbha Taila, Anuvasana Basti with Panchatiktaka Guggulu Ghruta <sup>[11]</sup> 45ml+ Sahacharadi Taila <sup>[12]</sup> 45ml	Basti retained for 90 minutes. SLR-positive at 40degree in right leg.
July, 07, 2023- July, 14, 2023	Kati Basti, Sarvanga Abhyanga, Sarvanga Pariseka, Yapana Basti (one administered before food <sup>[13]</sup> and other administered after food <sup>[14]</sup> )	Burning sensation and pain reduced after complete treatment

Table 5: Ingredients of Yapana Basti

Administered morning in empty stomach					
Madhu (honey)	50ml				
Saindhava (rock salt)	10g				
Gudapaka (jiggery syrup)	50ml				
Panchatiktaka Guggulu Ghruta	60ml				
Sahacharadi Taila	60ml				
Balamula Churna (powder of Sida cordifolia)	10g,				
Kapikacchu Churna (Mucuna prurita)	5g				
Yashtimadhu Churna (Glycerrhiza glabra)	5g				
Ksheera (Cow milk)	200ml				
Administered after food					
Madhu (Honey)	50g				
Saindhava (rock salt)	6g				

Panchatiktaka Guggulu Ghruta	50g
Shatapushpa Kalka (powder of Anethum sowa)	12g
Ksheera (cow milk)	50g

## Table 6: Plan of Yapana Basti

Da Y	Dos e (ml)	Time of administrati on	Retenti on period	Observatio ns	Complicati ons if any
1	420	9.16 am	1min	Nausea, pt. is hesitant towards procedure, significant reduction in burning sensation, two bowel evacuation	None
	150	2.20 pm	1 min	Single bowel evacuation , good sleep, SLRT- positive at 60 degree	
2	420	9.02 am	1min	A bowel evacuation , lightness of body present, mild relief in low backache	
	120	1.37 pm	6 min	A bowel evacuation , lightness of body present, burning sensation reduced by 60%, referred pain in calf increased, Appetite	

				reduced and disturbed sleep.	
3	400	9.50 am	7min	Pt. became comfortabl e with procedure, feeling lightness of body, mild relief in calf pain	
	120	2.35 pm	30 min	Only medicine evacuated, after 2 hours bowel passed, Sheeta Kamita (desire of having cold item) noted.	
4	350	9.30 am	5 min	Referred pain and stiffness reduced	
	120	1.50 pm	20 min	Two bowel movement s, pain in right foot, occasional burning sensation, sleeplessn ess	
5	350	9.01 am	6 min	Single bowel	
	120	2.04 pm	8 min	evacuation , lightness of body, mild reduction in foot pain	

6	350	9.00 am	7 min	Two bowel evacuation s, considerab le relief in stiffness, walking speed improved and no limping gait.	
	120	3.00 pm	7 min	Mild stiffness in right toe	
7	350	9.30 am	5 min	Pain and stiffness in right toe reduced by 40 %, no burning sensation	
	120	2.40 pm	7 min	Pain in foot reduced by 60%	

#### Medicine on discharge

Panchatiktaka Guggulu Ghrita 5ml once in empty stomach with warm milk at 7am, Rasnaerandadi Kashaya<sup>[15]</sup> 10ml with warm water after food at 9am and 8pm, Gokshuradi Guggulu<sup>[16]</sup> and Ossigen capsules each 2 tablets after food at 10am and 9pm, Anuloma tablet 1hs 2hours after dinner and Vishagarbha Taila for external application SOS advised along with Pathya. Follow up visit is advised after 1 month.

#### Follow-up and outcomes

First follow up assessment was conducted on August 10, 2023. The sufficient gap provided was to nourish *Dhatu*, resolve the remaining symptoms and to arrest the progression of symptoms. During the assessment, grading of features was done and total score was noted as 1 due to low backache during long duration of sitting. Next follow up assessment was done after 2 months of first follow up assessment i.e., on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Within two month gap patient had no

fresh complaints and quality of life was considerably improved. Patient totally gained 5kg weight within 3 months.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The case of Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Grudrasi diagnosed by considering the Ayurveda principle of Trividha Bodhya Samqraha<sup>[2]</sup> and Chikitsa planned by considering the principle of Sthanivat Chikitsa<sup>[4]</sup> proved successful. The quick relief in the burning sensation of foot after administration of "Yapana Basti" proved the clinical effectiveness of Basti as Ardha Chikitsa. Textual references mention that Basti is the ultimate line of treatment for Vata Prashamana.[17] In present study, the clinical applicability of principle of Basti as Ardha Chikitsa is appreciated because the drugs and formulations used for *Basti* administration are selected by considering the Dosha, Dushya, Ashaya, Rogamarga and other constituents of Vyadhi Samprapti. The multidimensional action of Basti line of medicine administration is due to the nature of Vata which gets involved in the initiation of Dosha-Dushya Sammurchana of every disease. It is due to its role in the Samyoga and Vibhaga. When Vyadhi is Pakvashaya Samuttha and involves Vata Dosha as Pradhana Dosha either alone or Samsrushta with other Dosha, Basti is the only line of treatment.<sup>[5]</sup> Hence the precise diagnosis of the disease done in present case study through eliciting Sthanika Dosha and Agantu Dosha provided guideline to design treatment protocol. The initial treatment plan involved Virechana to get the effect of Vatanulomana and Pitta Rechana was failed to yield expected results because of not eliciting Sthani Dosha and Agantu Dosha. Instead of relief it exacerbated the condition of patient even though Virechana is the best to treat Pitta Dosha. The retrospection of case history helped to elicit Vata as Sthanika Dosha and Pitta as Agantu Dosha. Then treatment was modified by incorporating the principle of Sthanivat Chikitsa<sup>[4]</sup> eventually including Basti Chikitsa in the protocol.

Yapana Basti were selected from the text with specifications to Phalashruti to rectify the Vikruta Gati of Vata and to counteract the condition of Dhatu

Kshaya.<sup>[18]</sup> Yapana Basti selected to administer in empty stomach is indicated in Vruddha<sup>[11]</sup> to do Vikruta Dosha Nirharana and Yapana Basti administered after food addressed the condition of Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Doshavastha.<sup>[12]</sup> Hence Dhatu Kshaya due to Sthavira and Vata Prakopa controlled through Brumhana Karma. The control over Vikruta Vata automatically helped to suppress the excessive Pitta Laxana which were due to Yogavahi Guna of Vata.<sup>[19]</sup> It provided immediate relief to patient by reducing Daha in her right foot and other complaints. The Rasayana effect of Yapana Basti helped her to cope up her strength eventually enhancing her quality of life.<sup>[20]</sup>

The ultimate success of treatment is due to the *Yukti* of *Vaidya* where he plans treatment by considering *Matra, Kala, Dosha, Desha, Prakruti, Satmya, Satva* and other factors. [21] Hence the integrated approach of fundamental principles in management of *Vata-Pitta Samsrushta Grudrasi* through *Basti* proved speedy recovery of disease condition through Ayurveda management. Its clinical reliability can be more appreciated through studies involving case series which finds scope for further researches.

## **CONCLUSION**

Basti acts as Ardha Chikitsa in every disease condition when appropriate drugs and formulations are selected based on the Dosha, Dushya and other factors involved in Vyadhi Samprapti. Vata Dosha being the Anubandhya Dosha along with any other Dosha should be managed through Basti Chikitsa when Samutthana is Pakvashaya. It signified the role of Sthanivat Chikitsa principle in clinical effectiveness of Basti as Ardha Chikitsa. Hence the fundamental principles of Ayurveda are mutually cohesive and their integrated approach leads to clinical success. In reciprocation, the studies of clinical successful cases enhance the knowledge of fundamental principles and their clinical utility.

#### **Conflict of interest**

All the authors declare that there is no known conflict of interest in publishing the case report and the informed consent for the treatment and publication of the case report was obtained by the patient and submitted to the editors.

#### Patient's perspective

In July month of 2023 I visited the physician with severe burning sensation in right foot, low backache associated with other complaints. I was in humble condition as it got progressed in spite of continuous medications. I was suggested to undergo Spine surgery to get relief from my complaints. But I and my family were not willing to undergo surgery and enquired for the better options in Ayurveda system of medicine. Then my local doctor recommended me to visit this Physician and he gave surety of improvement. With hope and optimistic thoughts, I visited the Ayurveda Physician after travelling 12 hours journey.

Ayurveda physician counseled me about medical history and time duration. I confirmed the better quality of life with 0 side effects after consuming medicines. I got irritated after receiving purgation therapy as my complaints increased. But physician and her team managed to console and continue the treatment. Initially I was hesitant to receive the enema therapy. But I was very comfortable after experiencing immediate relief provided by enema therapy. Gradually I could feel the improvements in my behaviors and my ability to conduct routine activities. During my discharge I could walk without any pain and burning sensation. During my further follow-up visits I was very happy and more comfortable than previous to illness.

#### **Declaration of patient consent**

Authors certify that they have obtained patient consent form where the patient has given her consent for reporting the case along with the images and other clinical information in the journal. The patient understands that her name and initials will be made to conceal her identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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