



Management of Symptoms of Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc, Polyarthrititis by Panchakarma and Marma Therapy in Spiritual Environment – A Case Study

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Abstract. A case report about a female patient has been presented here, who was suffering from various symptoms associated with Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc (PIVD) and Polyarthrititis, as well as some other ailments. Based on the principles of Ayurveda, an integrative approach including Panchakarma and Marma Therapy, was administered to the patient, in a Spiritual Environment, over a period of 11 days (wherein no therapy was administered on the 7th day). The patient experienced notable relief in various symptoms associated with PIVD and Polyarthrititis, such as lower back pain which radiated to the left leg (80% relief); pain in B/L calf muscles with excess stiffness with swelling (almost complete relief); pain in left elbow with stiffness (90% relief); pain in B/L wrist joints (almost complete relief). There was no body pain, and there was notable relief in the pain in B/L soles. Overall, the patient was feeling light and relaxed. Thus, integrative approach including Panchakarma and Marma Therapy, administered in a Spiritual Environment, showed encouraging results in the management of symptoms associated with Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc (PIVD) and Polyarthrititis, as well as some other ailments, in a short duration of time.

Keywords. Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc (PIVD), Polyarthrititis, Panchakarma, Marma Therapy, Spiritual Environment

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PUBLISHED BY

Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya
Gayatrikunj-Shantikunj, Haridwar,
India

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Introduction

This case report is about a female patient (age 44 years) who had symptoms of Polyarthrititis, and some other complaints including:

- Lower back ache (which radiates to left leg, with tingling sensation) (since more than 15 years)
- Pain in B/L calf muscles, with excessive stiffness, with swelling
- Pain aggravates after exertion/ long standing/ long walking
- Pain in left elbow joint, with stiffness
- Node present at right neck region (pea size node)
- No menses (since about 20 years)
- Pain in B/L wrist joints
- Fingers get swollen and severe pain, during winter season
- The patient had past history of Typhoid – 1 year back
- The patient had no past history of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, asthma, ischemic heart disease (IHD), hypothyroidism.
- The patient had on and off constipation and gastric upset.
- The patient had allergy of more sensitivity towards exposure to cold.
- The patient had no acidity, no weakness; had normal appetite, and normal sleep.

Based on the above mentioned medical history, and further discussion with the doctor, the diagnosis for the patient was Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc (PIVD), with Polyarthrititis, with Cold Allergy.

Methodology

The prescribed therapeutic interventions were as follows:

Therapeutic Intervention

As mentioned above, the diagnosis of the patient was Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc (PIVD), with Polyarthrititis, with Cold Allergy. Furthermore, the patient had come to the Out Patient section, and had limited time to take the therapy; hence, the therapeutic intervention was planned accordingly.

Based on Ayurvedic principles, the therapeutic intervention included Panchakarma and Marma Therapy, which was administered to the patient, in a Spiritual Environment, over a period of 11 days (wherein no therapy was administered on the 7th day) (See Table 1). Details about the method of administration of different therapeutic procedures (See Table 1), can be found in these references [1–25]. Botanical names of medicinal plants used in the present study can be found in these references [9, 11–19].

Some other associated methodologies that were administered, and the advice that was rendered along with the above therapeutic procedure, are as follows.

Dietary restrictions were prescribed. Other behavioral regimen were also prescribed, such as, do not indulge in fear, anxiety, stress, anger, and any other negative thought; do not roam around too much; do not obstruct your natural urges like hunger, thirst, sleep, yawning, tears, etc. Try to keep your mind calm and happy, try to be silent, go early to bed and wake up early in the morning.

The doctor regularly talked to the patient about her condition, and provided both clinical and motivational guidance, i.e. did regular counseling with positive thoughts. Gayatri Mantra was chanted before the start of each therapeutic procedure, as well as played continuously during the therapy. The therapy was administered within the spiritual environment of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar.

Results

In this case report, the outcomes were assessed in a qualitative (subjective) manner based on the doctor's pre and post examination, and patient's experiential feedback (See Table 2).

Overall, the patient was feeling light and relaxed after the completion of the therapy.

Discussion

The present study illustrates the potential of an integrative approach including Panchakarma and Marma Therapy, administered in a Spiritual Environment, for the management of symptoms associated with Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc (PIVD) and Polyarthrititis, as well as some other ailments.

According to Ayurveda, a healthy human body is supposed to have a relatively stable equilibrium (congenial homeostasis) of Dosha (psycho-biological rhythm - Vata, Pitta, Kapha), Dhatu (body tissues and their nourishing elements) and Mala (excreta) [9,26]; Acharya Sushruta defines health as an equilibrium of Dosha (psycho-biological rhythm), Agni (digestion and metabolism), Dhatu (body tissues),

Malakriya (excretory function), as well as the well-being of soul, senses and mind [9, 26]. Imbalance in this equilibrium leads to disease, and the aim of the therapy is to restore this balance [9–11]. In view of these Ayurvedic principles, clinical diagnosis of the patient was made, and the integrative approach including Panchakarma and Marma Therapy, was administered to the patient, in a Spiritual Environment.

The results (See Table 2) indicate that the integrative approach including Panchakarma and Marma Therapy, administered in a Spiritual Environment, gives encouraging outcomes, even in short duration. These results may be attributed to the therapeutic action of various Ayurvedic procedures adminis-

tered to the patient, as well as the effect of Spiritual practices and environment. The mode of action of the Ayurvedic therapeutic procedures have been described in detail in the following references [1–25, 27–30].

Each therapy was started with the chanting of Gayatri Mantra, which causes beneficial effects with regards to various physical and mental conditions like attention, concentration, etc. [31–36]. The patient must also have benefited from the spiritually charged environment (which induces constructive inspirations and immense enthusiasm within an individual [37–40]) of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar.

Therapeutic Intervention	Days										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Deepan Pachan (Shankh + Chitrakadi Vati)	Y	Y	Y								
Abhyangam (Sarvanga) (Full Body Massage) with Kot-tamchukyadi Taila + Prasari Taila + Dhanvantar Taila	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y			
Abhyangam (Ekanga) (Local Massage) of the above oils					Y						
Vashpa Sweda (Sarvanga) (Full Body Steam) of kwath of Dashamoola + Erandamoola	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y			
Nadi Sweda (Local Steam) of kwath of Dashamoola + Erandamoola					Y						
Shastikashali Pinda Sweda (Sarvanga) (Full Body) with Sathi Chaval (rice) + Bala moola (roots) + Milk									Y	Y	Y
Koshtha Shuddhi through Virechan Gulika + Avipattikara Churna (at night)				Y							
Basti - Anuvasana with Bala Taila						Y			Y		Y
Basti - Asthapana with Dashamoola + Erandamoola + Nirgundi + Rasna + Nagaramotha + Bala + Giloy + Ashvagandha + Yashtimadhu + Daruharidra + Amalki								Y		Y	
Nasya with Bala Taila (numbers represent the number of drops in each nostril)	6	7	7	8	8	8		8			
Kati Basti with Bala Taila	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			
Shirodhara with Karpooradi Taila + Ksheerabala Taila + Til Taila									Y	Y	Y
Dhoomrapan			Y	Y	Y						
Lepa (on calf and left elbow) with paste made from Dashamoola + Eranda - moola (roots), patra (leaves), beej (seeds) + Prasari Taila		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			
Kwatha of Dashamoola + Bala + Giloy + Nirgundi + Rasna + Nagaramotha + Yashtimadhu + Ashvagandha + Daruharidra + Kachanar + Kalamegh + Amalaki + Go-Mutra Arka	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
Marma Therapy Marma points stimulated - (Upper Extremity - Anukshipra, Kshipra, Manibandh, Indravasti, Koorpara) (Lower Extremity - Kshipra, Gulpha, Indravasti, Janu) (Back - Ansa) (Head region - Fana, Seemant, Adhipati) Marma Bhramari Pranayama - 5 times	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y

Table 1: Therapeutic intervention administered to the patient over a period of 11 days (wherein no therapy was administered on the 7th day). The letter 'Y' indicates that the therapeutic procedure mentioned in that row, was administered on that day.

Pre Therapy Observation	Post Therapy Observation
Lower backache	Almost 80% relief (slight pulling during flexion movement)
Pain in B/L Calf muscles, with excess stiffness, with swelling	Almost 100% relief
Pain in left elbow, with stiffness	Almost 90% relief
Pain in B/L wrist joints	Almost 100% relief

Table 2: Pre Therapy and Post Therapy Observations

Almost daily the doctor talked to the patient about her condition, and provided both clinical and motivational guidance; the purpose was to instill confidence in the patient that her condition can be improved, and she has to herself take responsibility of bringing about this change by diligently following the prescribed treatment and guidelines.

During Panchakarma therapy, it is advised to avoid Ashta-Maha-Doshkar-Bhav (eight types of behavioral and dietetic practices that cause obstructions in micro-channels, srotas, leading to aggravation of the diseases) so that better results can be observed. The following of these practices must also have contributed in providing the observed relief.

In place of using a single therapy, a combination of different therapeutic procedures, along with multiple herbs, were used, in order to achieve simultaneous management of the symptoms associated with multiple ailments. Based on Ayurvedic principles, the administered therapeutic procedures and medicinal herbs also had tissue nourishing (vrinhan), strengthening (balya), and rejuvenating (rasayan) effects [2–9, 11–15], which must have caused the amount of relief experienced by the patient in such a short duration of therapy.

Although the results are qualitative in nature, yet the degree of benefit attained in addressing the chronic ailments is noteworthy, especially considering the fact that the patient was an Outdoor Patient, had genuine limitations in following the dietary restrictions, and the therapy was administered for quite short duration.

Further in-depth quantitative study would definitely be worthwhile to establish the mode of operation of the administered therapeutic procedure in the light of modern scientific understanding.

Conclusions

In the present study, an integrative approach including Panchakarma and Marma Therapy, was administered in a Spiritual Environment, for the management of symptoms associated with Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc (PIVD) and Polyarthrititis, as well as some other ailments. A single case study involv-

ing female patient was presented. Various therapeutic procedures were administered to the Out Patient section patient over a period of 11 days (wherein no therapy was administered on the 7th day). Qualitative analysis showed encouraging results, with the patient experiencing notable relief in various symptoms associated with chronic complaints, in a short duration of time.

Acknowledgements: Authors would like to acknowledge the subtle guidance of their spiritual guide, Revered Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya awgp.org, who founded the organization - All World Gayatri Pariwar. The authors thank the faculty and staff of the Department of Ayurveda and Holistic Health, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar for their support in conducting this study. This paper is available as a Preprint from - Mishra A, Mishra S. An Integrative Approach including Panchakarma and Marma Therapy, administered in a Spiritual Environment, for the Management of Symptoms Associated with Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc (PIVD) and Polyarthrititis - A Case Study (Case Study 11) 2025 [\[DOI\]](#).

Compliance: Informed consent was obtained from the patient before the start of the therapy.

Conflict of Interest: None.

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