

Effect of External Application of AshthamulikaTaila in the Symptomatic Treatment Shleepada (filariasis)

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Abstract

The disease Shleepada is very common in Vijayawada and surrounding villages. The chronic filarial patients used to suffer from acute periodic episodes. During these acute periodic episodes majority of the filarial patients develop lymphangitis (inflammation of lymphatic vessel), wounds and ulcers in affected parts, most often the legs. Some of the patients develop oozing blisters and pustules. Patients with these acute symptoms suffer from severe pain and tenderness and unhygienic conditions lead often to secondary bacterial infections. These periodic episodes often end with fibrosis and permanent swelling (lymphedema). Many Ayurvedic herbal and herbo-mineral drugs were successfully used internally to reduce chronic filarial swelling (lymphedema), but there is an ultimate need to find an external application to reduce the acute symptoms and also to reduce the chronic swelling. Ashthamulika taila was traditionally used by Dr. Amaranath in Diabetic foot ulcers and successful results were observed. Observing the similarity of wounds in diabetes and filaria this Anubhutayoga of Dr. Amaranath was used by Dr. G. P. Prasad, R.O (Ay), to evaluate the efficacy in filarial lymphangitis, ulcer, pain, tenderness and lymphedema on scientific lines. For this study 76 cases were studied at R.R.I. (Ay.), Vijayawada. Encouraging results were observed during and after 30 days of treatment. Out of 76 cases, 37 (48.68%) got good response, 24 (31.58%) got fair response, 8 (10.53%) got poor response and 7 (9.21%) cases did not show any response. 73.13% relief was found on over all acute clinical parameters. Parameter wise 72.04% of relief in lymphangitis, 68.87% in pain, 71.43% in tenderness, 85.71% relief in wound/ ulcer were found. Statistical analysis of the mean difference in relief on acute symptoms like lymphangitis, pain, tenderness, wound were found highly significant ($p<0.001$). Effect of treatment on chronic lymphedema was also found highly significant ($p<0.001$).

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