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Research Article

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EFFECTIVENESS OF LOHARASAAYANA AFTER LEKHANA VASTI IN CENTRAL OBESITY: A CASE STUDY Mrudula J^{1*}, Miharjan K², Parvathy S.P³, Arun Pratap⁴, Lekshmi R⁵

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ABSTRACT

Obesity is defined as a body fat content of more than 20% in average adult males and over 30% in females. Central obesity in which fat accumulates in the trunk and abdominal cavity is associated with much higher risk for several diseases such as metabolic syndrome and carcinomas etc. Obesity can be compared to Sthoulya in Ayurveda. The aim of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of Loharasaayana after Lekhana Vasti (decoction Enema) in Central Obesity. A 50 years old male patient visited to Kayachikitsa OPD, Pankajakasthuri Ayurveda Medical College & Hospital Kattakada, Thiruvananthapuram on 11/08/2017 with well demarcated weight gain, increased abdominal size, heaviness of abdomen and breathing difficulty since 2 years. His untimely food habit, night awakening and increased day sleep (nature of job) lead to this condition. Treatment was given as Lekhana Vasti in Yoga Vasti pattern followed by intake of Loharasaayana for a period of 45 days. After the whole course of treatment, marked reduction in subjective and objective parameters were observed. This effective treatment protocol can prove as a noninvasive safe therapy for the management of Central obesity.

Keywords: Central Obesity, Sthoulya, Lekhana Vasti, Loharasaayana.

INTRODUCTION

Obesity is defined as a body fat content of more than 20% in average adult males and over 30% in females¹. Central Obesity or Visceral Obesity in which fat accumulates in the trunk and in the abdominal cavity (in the mesentery and around viscera), is associated with a much higher risk for several diseases than it's excess accumulation of fat diffusely in subcutaneous tissue. An ICMR published study in 2015 reveals that, where prevalence of generalized Obesity found in Northern India was 50.1% and in Tamil Nadu was 45.9% while in Abdominal obesity was 68.9% and 46.6% respectively. Overall four region (India) studies showed that prevalence of abdominal obesity was higher than generalized obesity. This prevalence could be attributed to the increasing urbanization, use of mechanized transport, increasing availability of processed and fast foods etc.². Subjects with abdominal obesity are at a greater risk for developing Type 2 Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension, Cardiovascular disease, Metabolic Syndrome and Carcinomas³. Modern system provides solutions like Nutritional counseling, weight reduction program, behavioral therapy, Bariatric surgery and Pharmacotherapy⁴. In Ayurveda Sthoulya (obesity) is considered as one of Santarpanotha vikaaraas (diseases caused by taking of excessive nourishing diet). According to Bhavaprakasha, those who resort to improper lifestyle practices Medas (fat) gets deposited in abdomen⁵. Charakacharya in Sutrasthana states, Athisthoola (too

corpulent) person with excessive accumulation of Medas and Mamsa (muscle) leading to flabbiness of hips, abdomen and breast and has been categorized as one of the Ashta Ninditheeya Purusha (8 types of undesirable constitutions) and is at risk of developing various complications⁶. Vata Kaphamedohara Oushadha along with Rooksha (dry) Ushna (hot) Teekshna (sharp) Vasti is the treatment principle ⁷ mentioned. So in this context Vasti (enema) especially Lekhana Vasti mentioned by Acharya Sushrutha⁸, as a Shodhana (purificatory) measure for removing Margavarodha (Stagnation of passages) and thus helps in Anulomagathi of Vata which immensely cause Vighatana of Sthoulya samprapthi9 (Pathogenesis). Loharasaayana is best to mitigate Vata, Kapha (bodily humors) and Medas(fat) and is effective in making a stout person lean and helps in greatly reducing the big size of abdomen. This also acts as a Rasaayana (rejuvenation) which helps in Dhatu samatva (equilibrium state of body constituents).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Case study

A 50-year-old male patient, security officer by occupation, reported to Kayachikitsa OPD, Pankajakasthuri Ayurveda Medical College & Hospital Kattakada, Thiruvananthapuram on 11/08/2017 with well demarcated weight gain, increased

abdominal size, heaviness of abdomen and breathing difficulty while speed walking and even during talking since 2 years. On examination, his BMI was 36kg/m². His Waist circumference was 113cm, Hip circumference was 108cm and waist Hip ratio was 1.04. On GIT examination, striae and borborygmi detected, other systemic examinations and Laboratory investigations such as FBS, LIPID PROFILE, LFT, RFT.ROUTINE TEST was found to be normal. Subjective and objective parameters were assessed.

Treatment

The patient was administered Lekhana Vasti in yoga Vasti pattern followed by Loharasaayana. The details of the procedures are described in Table 3.

Yoga Vasti¹⁸

Anuvasana Vasti (Oil enema)- carried out with Moorchita Tila taila- 150 ml (5 Anuvasana vasti given)

Niruha Vasti (Decoction enema)- Vitals were recorded prior to procedure, after that patient made to lie comfortably on his left lateral side and Vasti administered; Samyak Lakshana was observed. Later patient was advised hot water bath and light diet.¹⁹⁻²² (3 Niruha Vasti given)

After completion of Lekhana Vasti i.e. from 9th day onwards Loharaasyana was given followed by milk as Anupana (Adjuvant) for 45 days and allowed to continue usual Diet and Exercise.

Special note: Loharasaayana prepared under consideration of AFI^{28} and Lohabhasma (Calcinated iron) added in that on the basis of AFI view regarding dosage²⁹ (200 mg/day).

Ethical clearance Number-The study has been cleared by the IEC vide approval reference no- PKAMC|PG001|EC|2015-2016. The study is carried out as per International conference of Harmonization-Good Clinical Practices Guidelines (ICH-GCP).

Table 1: Objective Assessment¹⁰

Objective	Assessment Body mass index BMI > 30 Kg/ m² and < 40 Kg/ m² Waist circumference > 35.5 inches (90cm) and <45 inches (114cm) for male and > 31.5 inches (80cm) and <40 inches (102cm) for female Waist hip ratio >0.90 for males and >0.85 for females	
Body mass index		
Waist circumference		
Waist Hip ratio		

Table 2: Subjective Assessment¹¹

Subjective Features		Score (Grade)	
Angachalatva	Angachalatva Absence of Chalatva-0		
(Body movement)	Little visible movement after fast movement	1	
	Little visible movement even after moderate movement	2	
	Movement after mild movement	3	
	Movement even after changing posture	4	
Kshudra Shwasa	No Dyspnoea	0	
(Dyspnoea)	Dyspnoea after heavy works but relieved soon and up to tolerance	1	
	Dyspnoea after moderate works but relieved later and up to tolerance	2	
	Dyspnoea after little works but relieved later and beyond tolerance	3	
	Dyspnoea in resting condition	4	
Gatrasada	No fatigue-0	0	
(Fatigue)	Little fatigue in doing hard work	1	
	Moderate fatigue in doing routine work	2	
	Excessive fatigue in doing routine work	3	
	Excessive fatigue even in doing little work	4	
Atikshudha	Person not at all taking food	0	
(Excessive desire for food)	Person taking food in less quantity once a day	1	
	Person taking food in less quantity twice in a day	2	
Γ	Person taking food in moderate quantity twice in a day	3	
Γ	Person taking food in excessive quantity thrice in a day	4	

Table 3: Lekhana Vasti

S.N.	Ingredients of Lekhana Vasti	Quantity
1	Moorchita Tila Tailam ¹² (Processed Gingelly oil)	200 ml
2	Makshikam (Honey)	200 ml
3	Saindhava Lavana (Rock salt)	15 gm
4	Yavaanyaadikalka ¹³ (Paste of Yavanyadi drugs)	30 gm
5	Thriphala Kashayam ¹⁴ (Decoction of Haritaki, Vibheetaki & Amalaki)	300 ml
6	Dhanyamlam ¹⁵ (Fermented cereal)	200 ml
7	Yavaksharam ¹⁶ (Alkaline preparation of Hordeum Vulgare Linn)	10 gm
	Total	950 ml ¹⁷

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Table 4: Loharasayana²³

Serial No	Ingredients	Botanical Name
1	Shodhita Guggulu ²⁴	Commiphora mukul
2	Talamuli	Curculigo orchioides gaertn
3	Triphala	Terminalia chebula, Terminalia bellirica, Emblica officinalis
4	Khadira	Acacia catechu
5	Vrusha	Adhatoda vasica
6	Trivrut	Operculina terpethum
7	Alambusha	Biophytum sensitivum
8	Shunti	Zingiber officinale
9	Nirgundi	Vitex negundo
10	Shodhita Chitraka ^{25,26}	Plumbago zeylanica Linn.
11	Lohabhasma	Calcinated iron
12	Purana Ghrita	Clarified old ghee
13	Sarkara	Jaggery
14	Madhu	Honey
15	Shodhita Shilajathu	Black Bitumen
16	Ela	Elettaria cardamomum maton
17	Twak	Cinnamomum verum persl
18	Vidanga	Embelia ribes burm
19	Maricha	Piper nigrum Linn.
20	Anjana (Daruharidra taken) ²⁷	Berberis aristata
21	Krishna	Piper longum
22	Shodhita Kaaseesa	Ferrous Sulphate

Table 5: Dose and time of intake of medicine

ſ	Medicine	Quantity	Time	Anupana
ľ	Loharasaayana	5 gm	8am and 8 pm	Milk (25 ml)

RESULT

Table 6: Objective assessment

Objective	Before treatment	After treatment
Body mass index	36.2 kg/m ²	35.07 kg/m ²
Waist circumference	113 cm	97 cm
Hip circumference	108 cm	96 cm
Waist Hip ratio	1.04	1.01

Table 7: Subjective assessment

Subjective	Score – Before Treatment	Score – After Treatment
Angachalatva	4	1
Kshudra Shwasa	3	1
Gatrasada	4	1
Atikshudha	4	3

DISCUSSION

Central Obesity is a fast growing problem in developing countries as a result of changes in life style, genetic factors etc. It is an extremely important condition as may lead to cardiovascular diseases, Diabetes Mellitus, Dyslipidemia and further leads to death.

This study is meant to evaluate the combined effect of Lekhana Vasti and Loharasaayana in Central obesity. The study emphasizes the effectiveness by evaluating the changes in subjective and objective criteria.

a) Interpretation of Data Related to Demography

Age: patient belonged to the age of 50 years.

Domicile: Patient was in U.A.E after came back to Kerala he developed these conditions. This may be because of change in lifestyle due to urbanization.

Nature of work: He works as a security officer now. His job demands long time standing, sitting, night work, untimely diet,

day sleep, easy fatigues, knee joint pain and decreased physical activity. This shows positive relation between Central obesity and sedentary lifestyle.

b) Interpretation of data related to Dietary habits

Diet& Predominant Rasa in food - Patient is a Non – vegetarian, prefers fried items, Fond of sweet, sour, salty and pungent foods. Excess intake of these Rasa in food is a Nidana for Kapha Vridhi.

Appetite: Patient had increased appetite, irregular food pattern like using excess quantity of food at improper timings

Agni: patient had Teekshnagni (increased digestive fire).

c) Interpretation of Data Related to general condition

Sleep: Patient having increased day sleep and reduced night sleep.

Exercise: Nil. Decreased physical activity increases the incidence of Central obesity.

III healthy habits: Alcohol consumption but stopped before lyear.

Prakriti(Constitution): Patient having Pitta Kapha Prakriti.

d)Interpretation of Data Related to Response to treatment There was significant reduction found in Subjective and Objective criteria of Central Obesity during the study period. After 1 month of study period also found significant reduction.

No side effect was reported even after the study period also. In a nutshell, drugs showed significant changes in Central Obesity.

Probable mode of action

In Lekhana Vast, Vasti Veerya (potency) gets absorbed from the colon and reaches at the cellular level. After reaching at cellular level, performs the action of Samprapti Vighatana (breaking of pathogenesis). The drugs of Lekhana Vasti and Loharasaayana have dominance of Katu (pungent)-Tikta (bitter) Kashaya (astringent) Rasa (taste), Laghu (light)-Teekshna (sharp)-Sukshma (subtle) Guna (properties), Ushna (hot) Veerya (potency) and Katu Vipaka (state of food/drug after digestion). All these properties normalize Guru (heavy), Snigdha(unctous), Seeta(cool), Pichila (slimy) Guna Pradhana Kapha, Ama (undigested food) and Meda. Katu, Tikta, Kashaya Rasa reduces Kleda (moistness) hence they cause depletion of the Meda Dhatu (adipose tissue). It also reduces Kapha-Meda-Sweda (sweat) Dushti (vitiation) and thus helps in Lekhana Karma (scrapping therapy). Laghu Guna is a Vayu, Agni and Akasha Mahabhuta Pradhana. Reduction of over nourished Meda Dhathu is the main aim of Lekhana Karma which helps in Sthoulya. Among drugs, Guggulu is considered as Agryaoushadha (most wholesome drug) for Meda and Vata (one of the body humors). Vata Kapha Medohara properties of Guggulu indisputably corrects the Samprapti and it has specific action on lipid metabolism. Lohabhasma is considered as a Shreshta Rasaayana(best rejuvenative) in Sthoulya and has a good Lekhana property. Rasayana Guna (rejuvinative property) helps in Dhatu Poshana (nourishment of tissues) and Sthiratwa (stability), thus preventing the instinct for secondary diseases also. Thus the total effect of Loharasaayana after Lekhana Vasti are Thridoshahara (alleviation of aggravated bodily humours) especially Kapha Vatahara, Rasaayana, Medohara, Deepana (Appetizer), Amapachana (digestive), Rechaka (cathartics) and Lekhana in action. In this way drugs reduces Kapha-Vata Dushti, increases Agni (digestive fire), digests the Ama, correct the Medodhatvagni Mandya, remove obstruction in Medovahasrotas (channels of adipose tissue).

The formulation includes drugs for which modern researches have proved hypolipidemic, hypoglycemic, hepatoprotective, anti - inflammatory, carminative, antioxidant and both immuno and cardiac stimulant in action.

With the help of all, patient got reduction in big size of abdomen as due to the depletion of deposition of Medas in Udara Pradesha (abdominal region). Also, no side effects were noted during the study period and follow up period. The study drug was reported to be palatable by the patients. Therefore, Loharasaayana after Lekhana Vasti (Decotion Enema) can be used safely as a treatment of choice in Central Obesity.

CONCLUSION

Sthoulya is a disease which is a Santarpanottha janya vyadhi (diseases caused by taking excessively nourshing diet) can be easily tackled with proper assessment and Panchakarma (5 types of purifcatory therapies) treatment plan along with appropriate Shamana Oushadhi (palliative medicines). It is caused by excessive indulgence in oily and fatty food and sedentary life style. The treatment of Panchakarma like Lekhana Vasti followed with Loharasaayana is best way to manage such condition along with Nidana Parivarjana (avoidance of causative factors). In above case this treatment resulted marked reduction in all the criteria's of Sthoulya (Obesity). So, it can be concluded that, Ayurvedic line of management gives satisfactory answer as well equally beneficial for the promotion and preservation of health in a centrally obese person by removing toxic wastes, by balancing morbid humors and by correction of Agni (digestive fire) which results in marked relief for a Patient of Sthoulya leading to the healthy life.

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