‘Arthrox’ an Advanced Ayurvedic Detox Program for Knee Osteoarthritis- A Case Report

By Smita Naram, Deepak S. Mahajan, Hemang Parekh & Ronak naik

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Abstract- Reported case was a 68 years old Male with Early-stage Osteoarthritis of both knees (Sandhigata Vata), accompanied by reduced medial joint spaces bilaterally, marginal osteophytes. Initially, VAS scale rating was poor. Proven herbal formulations like Painmukti MJ, Painmukti Sandhical, Painmukti cream along with Advance Virechana (Arthrox), Knee Dhara, Yogbasti, and Matrabastitwice a week was given for 16months. Visual analog scale for knee pain and an Ayurveda clinical assessment criteria used to evaluate the effects of Treatment and Herbal remedies monthly basis. After a treatment of 30 days of Advance Virechana (Arthrox), Knee Dhara and Yogbasti, Pain, movement, and stability of the joint was improved at an excellent level. During follow up visit with the help of Matrabasti twice a week, Pain, movement of joint and stability, and even X-ray reading were change. In conclusion, this knee osteoarthritis patient’s quality of life improved by Advance Virechana (Arthrox).

Keywords: osteoarthritis, arthrox, sandhigatvata, virechana.

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I. Background

Pain have been regarded as a symptom of an underlying condition. Pain is the main causative factor that forces a person to visit a doctor immediately. The most common symptom as joint pain and stiffness is a diseased condition called Osteoarthritis. Initially, symptoms may occur only following exercise, but over time may become constant. Other symptoms may include joint swelling, decreased range of motion. Osteoarthritis is also erroneously called degenerative joint disease, which mostly affects cartilage. Cartilage is the slippery tissue that covers the ends of bones in a joint. Healthy cartilage allows bones to glide over each other, absorb the shock of movement. In osteoarthritis, the top layer of cartilage breaks down and wears away. This breakdown of cartilage allows bones under the cartilage to rub together. The rubbing causes pain, swelling, and loss of motion of the joint.

The management of Osteoarthritis includes Lifestyle management, Physiotherapy, and Medication. The effectiveness of NSAIDs varies substantially. Paracetamol is clinically in effective in symptomatic the treatment of Osteoarthritis, nsaid such as naproxen, while more effective in severe cases, are associated with greater side effects, such as gastrointestinal bleeding. Another class of NSAIDs, COX-2 selective inhibitors (such as celecoxib) are equally effective, and have lower rates of adverse gastrointestinal effects, but higher rates of cardiovascular disease such as myocardial infarction. Because oral medication often does not lead to an adequate clinical response in OA, non-pharmacological therapies such as exercise, weight reduction, and physical therapies play role in the long-term management of osteoarthritis and are recommended. In addition, complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) treatments such as acupuncture or herbal medicines are used frequently by OA patients.

Acharya Charaka mentioned Sandhigatavata, which can be compare with Osteoarthritis. Shula (pain) is the cardinal feature of the disease associated with Sandhishtostra (joint inflammation), Vatarupna-dratrisparsha (edema palpable as air-filled sac), Prasaraṇa-akuncanasavedana (painful movement of the joints), and in the later stage Ḥartisanandhi (restricted joint movements).

II. Case Report

Reported case was a 68 years old Male with Early-stage Osteoarthritis of both knees (Sandhigata Vata), accompanied by reduced medial joint spaces bilaterally, marginal osteophytes, Tibia spiking and Patellar breaking. When the patient was 65 years old, they developed pain in the right knee, at the age of 65.6 years in the left knee. At the age of around 66 years, he had an X-ray with a diagnosis early-stage osteoarthritis. Therefore the patient took NSAIAds and received conservative treatment and Physiotherapy. However, knee pain increases progressively along with weight; on the other hand, his daily living activities stared decreasing with age. At the age of 68 years, this patient visited Ayushakti Ayurveda Pvt Ltd outdoor unit in Thane, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India branch with a complaint of both knee pain while walking and climbing. The patient got his self-reported visual analog scale (VAS) pain score in-between 8 and 9. On clinical examination, both knees showed mild detectable effusion. As per clinical symptoms and X-ray reporting patient diagnosed as having Osteoarthritis of both knee joints. The patient was convinced to undergo Advance Virechana (Arthrox), Knee Dhara, Yogbasti, and Herbal formulations for 20 days, followed by matrabasti (60 ml) oil enema twice a week for 12 months along with Herbal formulations. All the test drugs (table-01) Pain Mukti MJ 400 mg twice a day after food, Pain MuktiSandhical 720
mg twice a day after food, Pain Mukti Cream for local Application were prepared by Ayushakti Ayurveda Pvt Ltd pharmacy, Plot number 78, Stice, Musalgaon, Sinnar, Nashik- 422112.

**Table 1: Formulas for the test drug shown in table-01**

| Formula                  | Quantity | Ingredients                  | Quantity | Ingredients | Quantity |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| NirgundhiGhan (Vitexnirgundo) | 50 mg   | Guggul (Commiphoramukul)     | 150 mg  | Mahanarayan oil | 10%     |
| Rasna Ghan (Pluchealanceolata) | 100 mg  | Asthishrunkhiaghas (Cissusquadrangularis) | 100 mg | Lavang oil (Eugenia aromatica oil) | 0.5 % |
| ShalakGhan (Boewelliaiserrata) | 100 mg | Lajaguhana (Mimosa Pudica) | 30 mg  | Twak oil (Cinnamonum Zeylanicum oil) | 0.5 % |
| RaktaPunnarnavaghan (Boehraviaadi) | 40 mg | Lakha (Lacciferalacca) | 20 mg  | Pudinaphool (Menthespica) | 5 % |
| Shunthi powder (Zinziberofficinalea) | 25 mg | Aswagandha (Withaniasominfera) | 20 mg | ShuddhaGuggul (Balsamodendronmukul) | 1 % |
| Musta powder (Cyprus rotandus) | 75 mg | Mukta | 400 mg | Marich ark (Capsicum extract) | 0.1 % |
| Gandhapurapo oil (Winter green oil) | | | | | 10 % |

The first regimen of Advance Virechana (Arthrox) was started for the patient after his informed written consent for the procedure, all the do’s and don’ts, all the possible complications during Advance Virechana (Arthrox) procedure explained thoroughly.

**III. Treatment Plan Advance Virechana (Arthrox)**

The procedure of Advance Virechana (Arthrox) performed in three steps.

1. *Poovakarma, i.e. Preparatory procedures* - This was performed before therapy, which includes Deepana (Appetising drugs) and Pachana (Digestive drugs), which was then followed by Snehapana, i.e. Oral administration of medicated ghee for 4 days, planned after the examination of Kostha (nature of bowels) of the patient until achieving the symptoms of Adequate oleation (Internal consumption of medicated ghee). Simultaneously Abhyanga (external application of Oils) and Swedana (Steam) was given for five days.

2. *Pradhanakarma, i.e. Main procedure* - This was the actual administration of Advance Virechana (Arthrox) herbs, as per Bala (Strength) Kostha (nature of bowels) of the patient. The herbal combination used was tablet virechana four tablets, manufactured by Ayushakti Ayurveda.

3. *Paschatkarma, i.e. Post main procedure* - As per the number of bouts of bowel evacuated after giving Advance Virechana (Arthrox), Sansarjanakrama with Mand, Peya, and Vilepee advised for three days.

The overall improvement observed with symptoms like Pain (table-3), Swelling (table-4), Akunchana Prasarane Vedana (table-5) difficulty in Walking (table-6) and difficulty in climbing (table-7) and were grades like following-

| Days   | Treatment                  | Drug                                      | Duration |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1-5 days | Dry pindsweda             | Shunthi powder (Zinziberofficinalea), Ajwain powder Trachispermummanmani | 20 mins  |
| 6-10 days | Internal and external snehana (Oleation), Swedana (Steam) | Internal- Mahatiktaghruta External- Mahanarayan oil | 20 mins  |
| 12th day | Virechana (Detox)        | Special virechana tablet                  |          |
| 13-15 days | Sansarjankrama          | Mand, Peya, Vilepee                      |          |
| 13-20 days | Yogbasti Knee dhara      | Knee dhara- Mahanarayan oil              | 20 mins  |
| Onwards | Matrabasti               | (Mahanarayan oil-20 ml, Balada oil-20 ml, Jivanyakruth-20 ml) | Twice a week |

The test drugs Pain Mukti MJ 400 mg twice a day after food, Pain MuktiSandhical 720 mg twice a day after food, Pain Mukti Cream for local Application was kept continue after that for 16 months. Matrabastitotal of 60 ml (Mahanarayan oil-20 ml, Balada oil-20 ml, Jivanyakruth-20 ml) twice a week advised for 16 months.
Table 3: Pain scale

| Symptom                                          | Grade |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|
| No Pain                                          | 0     |
| Mild pain of bearable nature, comes occasionally  | 1     |
| Moderate pain- Slight difficulty in joint movements due to pain , requires medication and may remain throughout the day | 2     |
| Severe Pain- More difficulty in moving the joints and disturbing sleep and requires strong analgesics | 3     |

Table 4: Swelling scale

| Symptom                                      | Grade |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| No Swelling                                  | 0     |
| Minimal edema only in joint Capsule          | 1     |
| Edema in dependant parts                     | 2     |
| Massive edema in the limb                    | 3     |

Table 5: Akunchana Prasarane Vedana

| Symptom                                      | Grade |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| No Pain                                      | 0     |
| Pain without wincing of face                 | 1     |
| Pain with wincing of face                    | 2     |
| Prevent complete flexion                     | 3     |
| Does not allow passive movement              | 4     |

Table 6: Difficulty in Walking

| Symptom                                      | Grade |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| No Effect                                    | 0     |
| Needs Minimal Assistance / Can Stand or walk for 1 Hour | 1     |
| Needs Maximum Assistance / Can Stand or Work for less than 30 Minutes | 2     |
| Almost Not Standing or Walking or Bed Ridden | 3     |

Table 7: Difficulty in climbing

| Symptom                                      | Grade |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| No Effect On Climbing                        | 0     |
| Needs Minimal Assistance                     | 1     |
| Needs Maximum Assistance                     | 2     |
| Almost No Climbing or Bed Ridden             | 3     |

IV. RESULTS

During the treatment of the first 30 days, patient experienced gradual improvement. All the symptoms were around 50 % reduced except climbing in first 30 days only (table-8). After the successful completion of all the arthrox treatment patient experienced 100 % relief in all the symptoms. His VAS scale reading was improved significantly. When the patient had his both knee X-ray after 13 months, it showed no abnormality except mildly reduced joint space in medial compartments of both knees (image-1 and image-2).

Table 8: Showing difference in symptoms in the first 30 days

| Symptom                                      | BT | AT | Relief in % |
|----------------------------------------------|----|----|-------------|
| Pain scale                                   | 3  | 2  | 33.33333    |
| Swelling                                     | 2  | 0  | 100         |
| Akunchana Prasarane Vedana                   | 3  | 1  | 66.66667    |
| Difficulty in Walking                        | 2  | 1  | 50          |
| Difficulty in climbing                       | 2  | 2  | 0           |

V. DISCUSSION

Osteoarthritis (Sandhigatvata) is commonly known as wear and tear arthritis. In this natural cushion between the joints, cartilages wears away⁷. There may be inflammation in the joint spaces, which causes symptoms like Pain initially,later Swelling. Due to lack of this cushion and absorption material, inflammation, in Sandhigatvata the mobility of joints is restricted at the initial stage, and later it is aggravated by anatomical changes in the articular surfaces and joint capsule and the ligaments⁸. When the patient wants to move his knee...
in his regular daily activities, he experiences the pain, which may cause wincing of the face. All the signs and symptoms noted for the patient, and the assessment was done. The symptoms assessed before starting treatment, after one month, three months, six months and final visit were after twelve months.

The two main events in any degenerative disease described by our Achary as are Ashthidhatukshayya and Vataporakopa, and according to Samhitas, Vata and Asthi have Ashrayaashrayisambandh(connection) in which the herbs are causing Kshaya of Vata are responsible for Ashthidhatuvirddhi and vice versa. Bastichikitsa is the best panchakarma treatment for vitiated Vata. According to Acharya CharakPanchakarma procedure of Basti is called Ardchikitsa (Half treatment) for Vata. Virechana increases the absorption of basti to achieve a target of pain relief in a short period. Virechana evacuates all morbid Doshas from all micro to macro Dhatu channels and regulates Vata, thus decreasing all symptoms of on Srotasa level. Painmukti MJ and Painmukti Sandhical are moderately effective and safe herb in chronic arthritic conditions along with painmukti cream for local application and used as an alternative to NSAID’s without side effect. Cissus quadrangularis present in Painmukti Sandhicalcan stimulate osteoblastogenesis. Boswelliaserrata blocks an enzyme 5-lipoxygenase that plays a role in the formation of leukotrienes, which stimulates inflammation.

VI. Conclusion

Arthrox plan can be used successfully in knee osteoarthritis for the long term; it can give better relief in Symptoms of Osteoarthritis as well as can reverse the early degenerative changes in X-ray readings.

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