ISSN: 2322 - 0902 (P) ISSN: 2322 - 0910 (0)



Research Article

CLINICAL EVALUATION OF VRISHADI VASTI IN GRIDHRASI

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ABSTRACT

Gridhrasi comes under 80 types of *Nanatmaja* (different) *Vatavyadhis* (disorders due to *Vata*) and frequently encountered in clinical practice. In this condition the patient become incapable to do his daily routine works because of severe pain from *Kati Pradesa* (Lumbar region) to *Padanguli* (foot). No definite choice of treatment available in modern medicine except symptomatic treatment and surgery.

The present study was designed to study *Vrishadi Vasti* in *Gridhrasi* in *Yoga vasti* protocol, comprising 3 days *Kashaya Vasti (Nirooha)* with *Vrishadi Vasti* and 5 days *Anuvasana Vasti* with *Sahacharadi Tailam Chikkana Pakam*. A total of 30 patients in the age group of 20-70 years of either sex were selected for the study. Before commencing *Yogavasti*, all patients were subjected to *Rooksha Sweda* with *Kolakulathadi Choorna*, *Gandharvahastadi Kashaya* and *Vaiswanara Choorna* for *Deepana* and *Pachana* followed by *Patrapotali Sweda*. The demographic data and data related to cardinal symptoms of *Gridhrasi* were analysed by using the most appropriate statistical tests. The patients were assessed before treatment, after treatment, and after 15 & 30 days of follow up period. *Vrishadi Vasti* along with other *Agnideepana*, *Anulomana* drugs, *Rooksha Sweda* and *Patrapotali Sweda* was found to be significantly effective in reducing the signs and symptoms of *Gridhrasi* like *Ruk*, *Toda*, *Stambha* and *Gourava*. After treatment there was marked improvement in straight leg rising, but it was found to be statistically insignificant in twitching (*Spandana*). There was marked improvement in all patients after the second follow up, shows the long term effect of *Vasti*.

KEYWORDS: Gridhrasi, Vrishadi Vasti, Yoga vasti.

INTRODUCTION

In *Gridhrasi* the patient's gait become altered as his legs become tense and slightly curved due to pain resembling walk of vulture, hence the name *Gridhrasi* to this pain dominant disease [1]. As per data available 80% of population in society experience back pain at some time during their life, fortunately some of these subside within a month. But unfortunately 70% of these pains recur, out of these many of them converts into sciatica patients as time passes. Compression of nerve root is one of the most common causes of sciatica; herniated disc compressing the root in 90% of cases. Other possible causes of sciatica pain include lumbar spinal stenosis, piriformis syndrome, obturator internus syndrome, cauda equine syndrome, degenerative disc diseases, spondylolisthesis, sacroiliac joint arthritis etc.

Pain starting from *Sphik* (gluteal region), *Kati Prushta* (low back region), *Uru* (thigh), *Janu* (knee), *Jangha* (foreleg) and *Pada* (foot) in successive order is the cardinal symptoms of *Gridhrasi*. In *Gridhrasi Sthanasamsraya* (localisation) takes place in *Sphik* (gluteal region), *Kati* and *Prishta* (low back region), affecting the *Kandara* (tendon) of leg. Symptoms like *Tandra*, *Gourava* (heaviness) etc. are seen in *Vatakaphaja* type of *Gridhrasi* [2].

In modern medicine for management of sciatica conservative management, epidural steroid injection, periradicular infiltrations etc. are indicated. All these are having their side effects and complications. On the other hand, particularly in developing countries like India, all these managements are not affordable for the poor.

Gridhrasi is a Vatika disorder and Vasti (medicated enema) is the prime treatment for controlling Vata^[3]. Innumerable Vasti (medicated enema) can be formulated using various drugs in different proportions for various diseases and for different patients. Vrishadi^[4] Vasti (medicated enema) is such a Vasti (medicated enema) described by Sushruta^[5], indicated for Gridhrasi.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1. Scientific study of preparation, administration, observation and probable mode of action of *Vrishadi Vasti*.
- 2. To study *Vrishadi Vasti* in reducing the signs and symptoms of *Gridhrasi*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 30 patients in the age group of 20-70 years of either sex, diagnosed as *Gridhrasi* from OPD and IPD of *Panchakarma* Department, Government *Ayurveda* College Trivandrum, were selected for the study after getting their consent.

Inclusion criteria

- Patients with *Gridhrasi* in the age group of 20-70 years of either sex.
- Low back pain radiating along the course and distribution of sciatic nerve.
- Patients fit for Vasti.
- Patients with written consent.
- SLR test positive.

Exclusion criteria: Diagnosed cases of following diseases with treatment records.

- Low back pain due to congenital or developmental anomaly.
- Low back pain due to fracture or traumatic history.
- Referred pain into low back region due to abdominal or urological or gynaecological problem.
- Low back pain associated with any type of malignancy or neoplasm.
- Patients contraindicated for Vasti.

ASSESSMENT

Pain: By using Visual Analogue Scale

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Table 1: Assessment chart with scoring pattern

Parameters	Severity of signs and symptoms	Scores
Toda (Pricking pain)	No pricking sensation	0
	Occasional pricking sensation	1
	Mild pricking sensation	2
	Moderate pricking sensation	3
	Severe pricking sensation	4
Stambha (Stiffness)	No stiffness was diaprin	0
	Sometimes for 5-10 minutes	1
	Daily for 10-30 minutes	2
	Daily for 30-60 minutes	3
	Daily more than 1 hour	4
Spandana (Twitching)	No twitching	0
	Sometimes for 5-10 minutes	1
	Daily for 10-30 minutes	2
	Daily for 30-60 minutes	3
	Daily more than 1 hour	4
Gaurava (Heaviness)	No heaviness	0
	Mild heaviness	1
	Moderate heaviness	2
	Severe heaviness	3
SLR test	> 90 degree	0
	71 - 90 degree	1
	51 - 70 degree	2
	31 - 50 degree	3
	Up to 30 degree	4

Treatment Protocol

After admitting the patients, base line clinical data was collected and the patients were subjected to conservative treatment in the following way. Initially all patients were subjected to *Rooksha Sweda* with *Kolakulathadi Choorna* for 3-5 days according to the condition of the patient. During this period

Gandharvahastadi Kashaya (96ml.) and Vaiswanara Choorna (5g) as Deepana and Pachana were given twice daily internally. After proper Rookshana, Snigdha Sweda was done as Patrapotali Sweda for 7 days. Snigdha Sweda was followed by Yogavasti comprising 3 days Kashaya Vasti (Nirooha) with Vrishadi Vasti and 5 days

Anuvasana Vasti with Sahacharadi Tailam Chikkana Pakam. The results were assessed with regards to improvements in clinical findings. The patients were assessed before treatment, after treatment, and after 15 & 30 days of follow up period. Assessment is planned at baseline, on completion of treatment, after treatment, after 15 days and 30 days after treatment.

Table: 2 Yoga Vasti Schedule

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Vasti	A*	N**	Α	N	Α	N	Α	Α

^{*}Anuvasana Vasti

Gandharvahastadi Kashaya^[6]

This *Kwatha* preparation has got action on *Koshta*. It brings about *Anulomana* to *Vayu* and vitalizes *Agni*. It is mentioned in *'Sahasrayoga'*. It is prepared as per *Kwathavidhi* and administered along with *Saindava* and Jaggery.

Vaiswanara Choorna^[7]

It is mentioned in *Ashtangahridaya Gulma Chikitsa*. It is famous for its *Anulomana* and *Agnideepana* properties. Its main ingredient is *Hareetaki* which is famous for its *Anulomana* action. It is given along with hot water.

Kolakulathadi Choorna^[8]

It is described in *Charaka Samhita Sutrastana* in the contest of *Pradehas*. Due to its *Rooksha Guna* and *Vata Samaka* properties it is used for *Rooksha Sweda*.

Patrapotali Sweda with Vatahara leaves [9]

It is a common type of *Swedana* procedure used for treating *Vata Vyadhis*. It is a type of *Sankara Sweda*, where *Vatahara* leaves are used. Fresh clean leaves of *Arka*, *Eranda*, *Nirgundi*, *Sigru*, *Karanja*, *Dattura* were fried in sesame oil along with grated coconut kernels and small pieces of lemon, made into *Pottalis* and used.

Vasti

Vrishadi Vasti is mentioned in Sushruta Samhita Chikitsa Stana 38th chapter. It is indicated for Gridhrasi, Sarkara, Ashteela, Gulma etc. ^[10]

Table 3: Kashaya vasti - Ingredients

	0
Saindhava	1 Karsha (12g)
Madhu	2 Prasrita (200ml)
Sahacharadi Taila Chikkana Pakam	3 Prasrita (300ml)
Kwatha	4 Prasrita (400ml)
Kalka dravya	1 Prasrita (100g)
Avapa (milk)	2 Prasrita (200ml)

Saindhava^[11]

Rasa	Lavana, Madhura				
Guna	Sookshma, Snigdham, Teekshnam				
Veerya	Seetha				
Vipaka	Madhura				
Karma	Tridoshagna, Vishyandi, Srishtamala, Agnideepana				

Madhu [12]

Yoga Vahitva (catalystic action) and Sookshma Marganusaritwa (potency to penetrate into minute channels) of the body helps Madhu to play an important role in the actions carried out by Nirooha. Honey helps to produce Doshotklesha and expels Doshas immediately. Saindhava along with honey is having a major role in producing emulsion form of Vasti Dravya.

Sahacharadi Taila^[13]

Sahacharadi Taila mentioned in Vata Vyadhi Chikitsa Prakarana of Ashtanga Hridaya. Main ingredient is Sahachara. It is indicated for Vata Rogas. This Yoga is said to having Stanika Prabhava in lower limbs.

Milk (Avapa Dravya) [14]

Cow's milk is selected as *Avapa Dravya*. Its properties are similar to *Ojus*. It is very useful in conditions where *Soumya Bhavas* of the body are in *Kshayavastha*. Cow's milk posses all elementary nutrients for the growth of the body. It is rich in minerals like calcium, which is most important substance for the formation of bone cells.

Kwatha Dravya for Vasti:^[15] 8.5 g each of the following drugs were taken. It is added with16 times (3500ml) water and is reducedto1/8 i.e. approx. 400ml.

Drug	Botanical name
Vrisha	Adathoda vascica
Asmabheda	Rotula aquatica
Varshabhu	Boerhavia diffusa
Dhanyaka	Coriandrum sativum
Gandharvahasta	Ricinus communis
Saliparni	Desmodium gangeticum
Prisniparni	Uraria picta
Brihati	Solanum indicum
Kantakari	Solanum xanthocarpum
Gokshura	Tribulus terrestris
Vilwa	Aegele marmelos
Kashmarya	Gmelina arborea
Bharngi	Clerodendrum serratum

^{**} Nirooha Vasti

Patala	Stereospermum colais
Dunduka	Oroxylum indicum
Bala	Sida cordifolia
Moorva	Chonemorpha fragrance
Yava	Hordeum vulgare
Kola	Ziziphus mauritiana
Nisaschada	Kaempferia galanga
Kulatha	Macrotyloma uniflorum
Bhoonimba	Andrographis paniculata

Kalka Dravya:[16] The fine powders of below said drugs are triturated in hot water to form a fine paste. Approximately 4.5 g of the powder can make 100 g of *Kalka* when triturated with water.

Sanskrit name	Botanical name
Madana	Randia dumetorum
Yashtimadhu	Glycirrhiza glabra
Shadgrantha	Acorus calamus
Amara	Lablab purpureus
Sarshapa	Brassica juncea
Pippalimoola	Piper longum
Yavani	Cuminum cyminum
Misi	Anethum sowa
Vatsaka	Holarrhoena antidysentrica

Procedure of Nirooha Vasti

Patient was advised to take light food early in the morning on the day of *Nirooha*. At around 10.30 am, the patient was anointed over the regions of low back, abdomen, buttocks and good fomentation (*Bashpa Sweda*) was given. The *Vasti* ingredients in the mentioned quantities were mixed well in the order of *Saindhava, Makshika, Taila, Kalka, Kashaya* and milk. It is well filtered through a double layered cotton cloth, heated over a water bath to luke warm condition and was churned with the help of a churner for few minutes this mixture was put into a clean and sterile plastic cover (*Vasti Putaka*) which was tied to *Vasti Netra*/nozzle and tip of *Vasti Netra* was plugged with cotton. The patient was then made into left lateral

position. The nozzle was well anointed with oil. Per rectal examination was done with a gloved finger anointed with oil to rule out any obstructions in the passage. Holding the nozzle in the left hand, Vasti Netra was unplugged and its tip was closed with left index finger after evacuating the air. The nozzle was introduced into the anus slowly. The Vasti Putaka containing the medicine was squeezed slowly and steadily with the right hand. Patient was asked to count up to 30 and breathe deeply through the mouth during introduction. Vasti Netra was withdrawn with a little amount of Vasti Dravya remained in the Putaka. Patient was asked to lie in supine position till the urge of defecation occurs. After evacuation of the drug along with the stool, the patient was made to take bath in luke warm water and was allowed to take rice with Yusha. Blood pressure, pulse rate, time of evacuation, number of evacuations and discomforts were observed. Patient was asked to take rest and light food was given at night. The regime was followed for all *Niroohas*.

Procedure of Anuvasana Vasti

Sahacharadi Taila was added with fine powder of Satapushpa Choorna 6 g and Saindava 6 g each, and stirred properly. It was filtered through a clean cloth and filled in Vasti Putaka. The mode of administration was same as that of Nirooha. Other regimens described in the context of Anuvasana Vasti were followed.

Diet: On the day of *Nirooha* patient was advised to take rice with *Mudga Yusha* after *Vasti*. During the course of *Vasti*, strict vegetarian diet with limited use of fats and oils was advised. Curd, pulses, and grains (except green gram) were avoided.

Life style: patients were advised to follow the regimes of *Snehapana*.

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Out of total 30 patients, maximum 56.7% were female which shows the involvement of posture i.e. prolonged standing, sedentary life styles, weight gain etc. as these are mainly seen in females. 26.7% belongs to age group more than 50 years, shows degenerative changes which occurs usually after 50 years of age and it is one of the predisposing factor for low back ache, 30% were labourers, shows weight lifting of heavy objects is a predisposing factor for *Gridhrasi*, 53.3% belongs to *Vatha Kapha Prakriti*, 33.3% belongs to *Vatha Pitha Prakriti*, 13.3% belongs to *Pitha Kapha Prakriti*, 80% having *Kroora Koshta* shows involvement of *Apana Vayu*.

Effectiveness of treatment at different stages

Table 4.1: Pain

Pain		Count	Percentage
BT	Mild	0	0.0
	Moderate	2	6.7
	Severe	28	93.3
AT	Mild	24	80.0

	Moderate	6	20.0
	Severe	0	0.0
AFU1	Mild	29	96.7
	Moderate	1	3.3
	Severe	0	0.0
AFU2	Mild	30	100
	Moderate	0	0.0
	Severe	0	0.0

Before treatment 93.3% of patients had severe pain, after treatment 80% had mild pain, after follow up 1, 96.7% had mild pain and after follow up 2, all the patients had only mild pain, showing the long term effect of *Vasti*.

Table: 4.2

Stage	Mean	SD	N	Group	Mean difference	Paired 't'	p
BT	7.3	0.9	30	-	-	-	-
AT	3.2	0.9	30	BT Vs AT	4.1	29.17**	0.000
AFU1	1.9	0.6	30	BT Vs AFU1	5.4	38.41**	0.000
AFU2	1.8	0.6	30	BT Vs AFU2	5.6	33.97**	0.000

**:-Significant at 0.001 level

Table: 4.3

Pricking pain	Mean ±SD	Pair	Z#	p
BT	0.67 <u>+</u> 0.8	of Ayurveda	-	-
AT	0.2 <u>+</u> 0.41	BT Vs AT	2.89**	0.004
AFU1	0.13 <u>+</u> 0.35	BT Vs AFU1	3.18**	0.001
AFU2	0.13 <u>+</u> 0.35	BT Vs AFU2	3.18**	0.001

#Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test **Significant at 0.001 level

Table: 4.4

Stiffness	Mean ±SD	Pair HAPR WALL	Z#	p
BT	1.6 <u>+</u> 0.89	-	_	-
AT	0.07 <u>+</u> 0.25	BT Vs AT	4.72**	0.000
AFU1	0.07 <u>+</u> 0.25	BT Vs AFU1	4.74**	0.000
AFU2	0.07 <u>+</u> 0.25	BT Vs AFU2	4.74**	0.000

#Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test **Significant at 0.001 level

Table: 4.5

Twitching	Mean ±SD	Pair	Z#	p
BT	0.33 <u>+</u> 1.03	-	-	-
AT	0.07 <u>+</u> 0.25	BT Vs AT	1.86	0.063
AFU1	0.1 <u>+</u> 0.31	BT Vs AFU1	1.63	0.102
AFU2	0.07 <u>+</u> 0.25	BT Vs AFU2	1.6	0.109

#Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test, p>.01 (shows study is statistically insignificant in reducing twitching)

Table: 4.6

Heaviness	Mean ±SD	Pair	Z#	p
BT	0.73 <u>+</u> 0.69	-	-	-
AT	0 <u>+</u> 0	BT Vs AT	3.95**	0.000
AFU1	0 <u>+</u> 0	BT Vs AFU1	3.95**	0.000
AFU2	0 <u>+</u> 0	BT Vs AFU2	3.95**	0.000

 $\hbox{$\#$Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test **Significant at 0.001 level}$

Table: 4.7

SLR - Rt Leg	Mean ±SD	Pair	Z#	p
BT	2.13 <u>+</u> 1.33	-	-	-
AT	0.9 <u>+</u> 0.66	BT Vs AT	4.28**	0.000
AFU1	0.87 <u>+</u> 0.68	BT Vs AFU1	4.29**	0.000
AFU2	0.77 <u>+</u> 0.63	BT Vs AFU2	4.27**	0.000

#Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test **Significant at 0.001 level

Table: 4.8

SLR-Lt Leg	Mean ±SD	Pair	Z#	p
BT	0.87 <u>+</u> 1.48	-	-	-
AT	0.4 <u>+</u> 0.72	BT Vs AT	2.64**	0.008
AFU1	0.37 <u>+</u> 0.67	BT Vs AFU1	2.59**	0.010
AFU2	0.23 <u>+</u> 0.5	BT Vs AFU2	2.56*	0.011

#Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test, **Significant at 0.01 level, *Significant at 0.05 level (BT-before treatment, AT-after treatment, AFU1-after follow up 1, AFU2-after follow up)

- The average retention time of *Sneha Vasti* was observed to be 5.61 hours and that of *Kashaya Vasti* was 1.66 minutes.
- Retention time of Kashaya Vasti was comparatively less on first day and that of Sneha Vasti was more on first day.
- Average number of *Vegas* in *Sneha Vasti* was found to be 2.22 within 6 hours of administration of *Sneha Dravya* and that of *Kashaya Vasti* was 4.75 within half hour of administration.

DISCUSSION

Gridhrasi comes under 80 types of Nanatmaja Vatavyadhis. In Ayurveda it is said that "Rogah Sarve Api Mandhe Agnou" i.e. the treatment principle is Amapachana followed by disease specific management. For correcting Agni, Deepana Pachana is needed. Gandharvahastadi Kashaya and Vaiswanara Choorna given internally will help to correct Agni and brings Vatanulomatva. Rooksha Sweda helps to remove Amanubandha externally and helps to clear Srotases, removes Tandra, Gourava and Arochaka ("Neete Niramatam Same Sweda Langhana Pachanai Rookshaichalepa Sekadyai: Kuryat Kevala Vatanut"). After proper Rookshana Vatavyadhi Chikitsa i.e., Sneha Sveda and Samsodhana was given.

Probable mode of action of Vasti

Vasti is the superior Sodhana procedure for Vata. In the Samprapti of Gridhrasi, Vata especially Apana and Vyana Dushti along with Kapha Dushti is present. Vrishadi Vasti which contains drugs like Asmabheda, Kulatha etc having Lekhana action helps to pacify Kapha, drugs like Dasamoola, Bala etc brings Vataanulomana. Vasti stays at Pakwasaya and starts its action from there. Pakwasaya is the natural abode of Vayu. Vasti conquers the vitiated Vata in its Prakrutha Stana by which Vata dwelling in other parts of the body is automatically conquered. Vasti removes

Malasanghata and thus maintains the Anuloma Gati of Apana Vayu. This further helps in the regulation of Samana Vayu and Vyana Vayu. Vata is vitiated by Gunas like Rooksha, Laghu, Seetha etc. Vasti with Snigdha Guna destroy Rookshata (here Sneha Dravya in Kashaya Vasti and Sneha Vasti will help to remove Rookshata of Vayu), with Guru Guna Laguthwa and with Ushna Guna Seethava of Vata. Specifically Doshas clinging at Kati, Prushta and Koshta, where Stana Samsraya takes place in *Gridhrasi* are scrapped off and diverted to the exterior. The Adhishtana of Vasti is Pureeshadhara Kala. Dalhana states that Pureshadhara Kala is Asthidhara Kala, also Asthi and Vata have Ashraya Asrayi Sambandha. Hence Vasti Dravyas with their Madhura, Thikta Rasa and Ushna Verrya pacify Vata and act on Asthivaha Srotas. According to Kasyapa, Majja is the habitat of *Vata*, also *Pithadhara Kala is Majjadhara Kala*. Vasti Dravya comes in contact with Grahani where *Pithadhara Kala* lies. So they directly act on *Majjadhara* Kala, nourishing Majja Dhatu. Sneha Dravya given at *Guda* which is considered as the *Moola* of body reaches the whole body and nourishes all Dhatus upto Sukra. Also Sneha Vasti will give strength to Kati, Prushta and Pada etc. Thus Vasti nourishes and replenishes all the Dhatus there by combating Dhatukshaya. Vasti is known to potentiate Agni. Vasti rectifies Agnimandhya and prevent the formation of Ama. Vasti also aid in accomplishing the task of Srotosodhana. It scavenges Doshas and Malas from the body and purifies the channels. Ushna Teekshna and Rooksha Gunas of Vasti bring Amapachana, Kapha Visoshana Srotovisodhana. Madhu added in Vasti scrapes out Doshas which producing Upalepatva in the Srotases by its Lekhana Karma. Saindhava with its Sookshma Guna carries the drug to minute channels and destroys Avarodha, Kalka helps in Dosha Sravava and the Sneha used in Vasti alleviates Vata. Thus all the therapy removes the Srothorodha and brings Vatha

Kaphasamanatva. Vasti is also seen to act upon the main Lakshana of the disease i.e. pain which is produced by Vata, Vasti mitigating Vata relieves the symptoms. Also it acts on other symptoms as it is specifically indicated in patients having Stambha, Toda, Vatakrita Soola etc. Thus Vasti acts on the Dosha, Dushya and Srotases involved in Gridhrasi. This undoubtedly proves the efficacy of Vrishadi Vasti in the management of Gridhrasi.

CONCLUSION

- Vrishadi Vasti along with other Agnideepana, Anulomana drugs, Rooksha Sweda and Patrapotali Sweda was significantly effective in improving the signs and symptoms of Gridhrasi like Ruk, Toda, Stambha and Gourava.
- After treatment there was marked improvement in straight leg rising, but it was found to be insignificant in twitching (*Spandana*).
- There was marked improvement after the second follow up shows the long term effect of *Vasti*.
- Since it is administered in large quantity, the retention time of *Nirooha* was less.
- Only milk was used as Avapa Dravya, which can be replaced by other Dravyas like Dhanyamla.

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Cite this article as:

Aswani P.S, A.S.Lila. Clinical Evaluation of Vrishadi Vasti in Gridhrasi. International Journal of Ayurveda and Pharma Research. 2017;5(8):42-48.

Source of support: Nil, Conflict of interest: None Declared

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