



Stress Relaxation Through Ayurveda

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Abstract

The review of the study ayurveda in general, is used to mean a healthy balance of the mind and body in an overall feeling of well being to describing the existence of positive health of stress in an individual as exemplified by quality of life, Ayurveda, meditation, yoga, physical exercises and a balanced diet. It is like rejuvenation and clean up process on all levels physical, mental and emotional. Ayurveda systems of medicine are over 5000 years old. The concept of Stress Problems of mind and these determine Ayurveda is guided best treatment. Ayurveda is highlighted as a holistic system with its concern for prevention and promotion of stress and mental health.

Key Words: Stress, effects of stress, Psychology in Ayurveda, Health in Ayurveda.

Introduction

Ayurveda in India—the science of life, the origin of most forms of natural and alternative its mention in one of the oldest (about 6,000 years) philosophical texts of the world, the Rig Veda. The *Sutrasthana* of *Charaka Samhita*, a much referred Ayurveda text, says; "The three—body, mind and soul—are like a tripod, the world stand by their combination; in them everything abides. It is the subject matter of Ayurveda for which the teachings of Ayurveda have been revealed." (*Charaka Samhita*, 1.46-47)."Life is the combination of body, senses, mind and reincarnating soul. Ayurveda is the most sacred science of life, beneficial to humans both in this world and the world beyond." —*Charaka Samhita, Sutrasthana*, 1.42-43.

Brahma the Creator, a part of the holy trinity of gods, first professed it and educated it to his son, *Daksha Prajapati*. Subsequently, *Lord Dhanwantari*, the god of healing and the teacher of the medical sciences passed it on to the prominent sages *Atreya, Bharadvaja, Kashyapa, Sushrut, Parashara, and Charaka*. *Charaka Samhita* text is considered an authoritative pronouncement of Ayurvedic doctrine. Its present form goes back to the seventh century BC.

The study of mind is called as Psychology. The profounder of Ayurveda were probably the first who gave detailed description of mind and body relationship. They clearly stated that, the concept of mind and body

are two separate entities. The word *Manas* is came out from the *Dhatus* and it forms the meaning of this is through which we are collecting the knowledge and objects that is called as *Manas* (Shri Kanta Murthy).

Stress

Stress is basic elements of various human diseases and mental illness .Stress is a term that refers to the sum of the physical, mental, and emotional strains or tensions on a person. Stress is the “wear and tear” our mind and body experiences as we attempt to cope with our continually changing environment. Stress is also called as anxiety, tension etc. Psychosocial stressor is defined as "any life event or life change that may be associated temporally (and perhaps causally) with the onset, occurrence, or exacerbation [worsening] of a mental disorder (Joshua Cowa et al.)

Feelings of stress in humans result from interactions between persons and their environment that are perceived as straining or exceeding their adaptive capacities and threatening their well-being. The element of perception indicates that human stress responses reflect differences in personality as well as differences in physical strength or health.

Stressor: A stressor is defined as a stimulus or event that provokes a stress response in an organism. Stressors can be categorized as acute or chronic, and as external or internal to the organism (Prakash Bet al).

Causes of Stress

One significant source of stress in modern life is the cumulative effect of various toxic waste products in the environment. Our personality, behavior, and lifestyle all have important influences on our stress level. Much stress occurs through emotions such as aggression, impatience, anger, anxiety, and fear, all of which kindle the body’s stress responses. Eating an unhealthy diet, smoking, drinking, and taking drugs can also contribute further to physical strain. Stress may be generated through work, at home, within relationships, as a result of internal emotional conflict, through environment, diet, ill-health, and financial insecurity as well as through major life events such as marriage death, divorce etc. Man facing number problems in the modern society, these problems thrown the man in to mental stress. Mental stress causes the number of psychosomatic disorder like hypertension, migraine and severe headache etc.

How does stress affect you?

The initial stage of arousal remains the same whether we are faced with a major or minor. But under extreme, prolonged, or persistent pressure the body continues to manufacture extra quantities of stress

chemicals, triggering further processes to maintain energy. **If arousal continues, the adrenal glands manufacture anti-inflammatory chemicals that simultaneously speed tissue repair while depressing the body's immune defense system** (Dr. David Frawley) and (Sundaram, K. Dr) if all these changes continue, the body goes on trying to adapt under increasing strain and pressure. Eventually it breaks down. Exhaustion, variety of illnesses and even death may be the outcome of uninterrupted, excessive stress.

Stress & Mental Illness

Primary psychological conditions caused purely by mental disorders are kama (lust), krodha (anger), lobh (greed), moha (delusion), irshya (jealousy), mana (pride), mada (euphoria), shoka (sorrow, grief), chinta (anxiety), udvega (neurosis), bhaya (fear), harsha (happiness). The psychiatric conditions caused by a combination of physical and mental (psycho-physical) disorders are unmada (psychosis), apasmara (convulsive disorder), apatantraka (hysteria), atattvabhinvesha (obsession), bhrama (illusion, vertigo), tandra (drowsiness), klama (neurasthenia), mada-murchha-sanyasa (loss of sensory perception leading to coma), madatyaya (alcoholism), gadodvega (hypochondriasis), (M.G. Ramu and B.S. Venkataram)

Ayurvedic Psychology Charaka in his treatise Charaka Samhita, describes eight essential psychological factors that are negatively affected in various ways in all psychiatric disorders. The psychopathological condition is a function of these factors, which are manas (mind), buddhi, smriti (memory), sajna jnana (orientation and responsiveness), bhakti (devotion), shila (habits), cheshta (psychomotor activity) and achara (conduct). Compared to other major ayurvedic texts like Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga Hridayam, Charaka Samhita gives more emphasis to the view of life as a self-aware field of pure consciousness and natural intelligence where the knower and the known are one. Ayurveda is very effective for stress management and to encourage body and soul to achieve composure of the mind (Ramesh U and Kurian Joseph)

Signs of Mental Health as per Ayurveda

Good memory

Taking the right food at the right time

Awareness of one's responsibilities

Awareness of the self and beyond self

Maintaining cleanliness and hygiene

Doing things with enthusiasm

Cleverness and discrimination

Being brave

Perseverance

Maintaining cheerfulness irrespective of the situation

Fearlessness in facing situations

Sharp intellectual functioning

Self-sufficiency

Following a good value system

Ability to proceed steadfastly against all odds.

Ayurveda Treatment Methods

The pancha karma measures (L V Vithalani et al) and (Astanga Sangraha) used are:

1. **Vamana**-induced therapeutic vomiting.
2. **Virechana**-purgation through therapeutic laxative, providing symptomatic relief of mental illness.
3. **Vasti**-enema therapy. Nirooha Vasti cleanses toxins from the dhatus and removes naturally accumulated body wastes from the colon. Anuwasana Vasti is to be retained in the body for a longer period for effectiveness.
4. **Nasya**-Nasal medication acts as a purificatory aid to the head where major sensory faculties are located. The clarity of these faculties(indriya prasada) leads to clarity of mind. Special Techniques used Include:
5. **Shirodhara**-medicated water, herbal oils and medicated milk are poured on the forehead through a special method for 30 to 45 minutes. It reduces anxiety, depression and mental stress and rejuvenates the central nervous system.
6. **Shiro Vasti**-keeping herbal oil in a cap fitted on head.
7. **Panchakarma** therapy is followed by samana or purification treatment with oral medicines including herbal powders.

Ayurveda Medicines for Stress

Ayurveda classifies herbs with a stabilizing effect on the mind as 'medhya rasayanas'. These herbs promote the intellect and deeply nourish the neurological tissues (N.Srikanth et al.). They are nervine tonics. These medicines act as specific molecular nutrients for the brain, promoting better mental health that leads to the alleviation of behavioral disorders (I.P.V Sharma) . The medhya rasayanas enhance biological nourishment of the brain, producing tranquility of mind, concentration and improved memory. Ashwagandha & Brahmi and shankha pushpi have a secondary mild sedative effect. Others like calamus have a mild stimulating effect.(Jyoti Shankar Tripathi)

Stress is relaxation with compound herbal formulation consisting of Tagar (Valeriana wallichii), Shankhapushpi (Convolvulus pluricaulis), Brahmi (Bacopa monnieri), Musta (Cyprus rotundas), Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera), Jatamansi (Nardostachys jatamansi), Munakka (Vitis vinifera), Raktachandana (Pterocarpus santalinus), Parpataka (Fumaria indica), Kutaki (Picrorhiza Kurroa), Dashmula, Amaltas (Cassia

fistula). This has been given in the dose of 20 gm twice a day as coarse powder to prepare decoction by 'Chaturthavashesh' method mentioned by Sharangadhara (Vansh Bina & Chandola H.M)

Anti-stress effect against stress related changes in immunoglobulin in the body due to the battery of stresses encountered at Antarctica (Bansal P et al.), Rasayana therapy has an advantage over the conventional Kayachikitsa treatment in such conditions, as it is capable of counteracting the stress, promote the adaptogenic abilities of the body, enhance mental endurance(K. Indrajith et al),(Yogesh Shamrao Deole et al)

Conclusion

Actually Ayurveda is to control stress. Ayurveda provides a combination of benefits such as Pancha karma and Madya Rasayanas (Medicines) practice and guided Herbal Remedies. That is powerful, Even for people who have fallow Nutrition and Diet , Good Dinacharya and Physical Exercises Just by doing this you can have great benefits with the practice of Stress and Health. So in conclusion yes Ayurveda can be a great remedy for stress and can offer some stress relief.

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