

Integrative treatment on Crohn's disease: A case report

K. S. Nibedita¹, Reshma P. Jogdand², Bhavit Bansal³, Amit Singh⁴ and R. Nagarathna⁵

¹Arogyadhama VYASA Bangalore, India

^{2,4,5}Department of Life sciences, SVYASA University, Bangalore, India

³The School of Yoga and Naturopathic Medicine, SVYASA University, Bangalore, India

KEY WORDS

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*Corresponding Author:

Reshma P. Jogdand
Department of Life sciences,
SVYASA University, Bangalore, India
Contact no: +91-9449164937
E-mail: reshma@svyasa.edu.in

ABSTRACT

A 27 year old female patient with multiple symptoms like pain in the abdomen, loose motions vomiting, headache, fatigue presented at a residential integrative medicine facility at Bangalore, India. The patient was a known case of Crohn's disease since 3 years. The patient was administered with an individualized tailored Integrative medicine protocol for duration of 8 weeks. The protocol included yoga sessions, Diet therapy and individualized Ayurveda and Naturopathy therapies as prescribed by the treating physician with an objective of a holistic approach. The results showed significant reduction in her symptoms and medication scores following the individualized protocol. Moreover, the patient reported satisfaction to therapy and improved overall quality of life at the semi-structured interview. The present case study underscores the effect of integrative medicine practices and advocates its effect as a standalone therapy for Crohn's disease.

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Introduction

Crohn's disease is a chronic inflammatory bowel disease characterized by transmural inflammation that can affect the entire gastrointestinal tract from the mouth to the anus (1). Crohn's disease can affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract with variety of symptoms including diarrhea, constipation, bloating, pain abdomen and malena (2). The prevalence of Crohn's disease is annually ranging from 3 to 20 cases per 100,000 (3). Crohn's disease is more common in industrialized areas (4). Introducing side effects are variant from person to person, which includes loose motion, stomach pain, reduction in weight, fatigue, Fever, and cold (5). On average of 1.17 million grown-ups inside the US had Irritable Bowel Disorder. As per a study from 2013 in the local area, 565,000 were tortured by Crohn's, and 593,000 were going through internal gastrointestinal disorders, such as IBD. As per the NIDD (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases), regional enteritis appears to be more predominant. Specialists say that 3.1–14.6 of Crohn's new cases are analyzed by doctors per 100,000 men a very long time in Disease Control and Prevention Centers. They additionally notice that in agricultural nations, IBD is more predominant. Anyone can get affected by Crohn, yet in youthful people, especially somewhere in the range of 20 and 29 years of age, it's more normal. Smoking may increase two-fold the probability of building up Crohn's (6) indeed, even in individuals with a top to bottom relative with IBD.

Sage Patanjali first portrays yoga practices thorough Yoga sutras. He explained that Yoga is a mind-body medicine, which includes physical activity as Asana, Loosening Practice, Kriya and Mental awareness through Meditation, Pranayama, Breathing practices as well as Dharana and Dhanya. Yoga is

perceived as a type of medicine that links Physical, Mental, Social wellbeing and has a significant impact on stress-induced ailments (7). As per Yogavasistha, diseases are of two types, Adhija vyadhi or Anadhija vyadhi. Adhija Vyadhi is explained as the diseases caused by stress. Psychological stress plays a pivotal role in the development of IBS. Therefore here, IBS can be considered as adhija Vyadhi and yoga therapy can play an important role in IBS. Previous literature have also highlighted the effect of Yoga on IBS symptom reduction. However, no study yet has reported the effect of an integrative medicine protocol among crohn's disease patient. The current case study is an attempt to highlight the efficacy of the same in the desired population.

Case presentation

A 28-year-old female participant, Miss. XXX, approached a residential integrative medicine facility at Bangalore with the presenting complaints of weakness and sudden drop in weight since two months and loose motion with abdominal pain since 15 days. She also presented with headache with vomiting. She was finding it difficult to perform day today activities as well as low confidence in work. As per her the quality of life was really low and she had low self-esteem. She was admitted in the holistic healthcare center and was posted in the gastroenterology section. Initially a personalized 3 week integrative medicine based protocol was tailored for her. The intervention was planned after a discussion on her health status among a panel of doctors from various streams i.e. Yoga, Ayurveda, physiotherapy and naturopathy. A integrative protocol including yoga session, diet counselling, yoga and Ayurveda was planned for 3 weeks. After the

end of first 3 weeks the patient extended her stay looking at the improvement of the health status for 4 more weeks. She became regular for therapy and her symptoms were gradually reduced. Table 1–4 depicts the detailed intervention with the duration. Following a detailed case history, initial counseling and obtaining signed informed consent, the intervention was planned by a team of consultants that included a physician, a naturopathy and yoga expert. Keeping a daily watch on the vital and blood parameters, the medications were tapered by the physician. We also conducted a semi structured interview to evaluate the satisfaction to therapy and quality of life.

Intervention

After a thorough evaluation, the integrative medicine protocol was planned. The Ayurveda and naturopathic therapies

included a combination of matra vasti with external medication and oil application, therapeutic fasting and calorie restricted diet, hydrotherapy, mud therapy and manipulative therapies, with a focus on the detoxification. The therapies administered were modified based on the patient's response assessed in the daily visit of the physician. Considering the involvement of the mind-body complex in the pathogenesis of the disease, an integrated yoga program was designed including asanas, pranayama, meditation, relaxation techniques, kriyas, educative lectures and yoga based counseling sessions (Table 1). Table 2 & 3 depicts the dietary modification and table 4 depicts the integrative medicine protocol and daily routine.

IAYT protocol

Treatment regimen

Table 1: Yoga therapy protocol

| Practices | Duration of Practice | Frequency | Duration of Intervention |
|--|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| Loosening Practice (8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suryanamaskara • Butterfly • Loosening of Fingers & wrist • Loosening of elbow • Loosening of shoulder joint • Loosening of toe and Ankle • Ankle movement • Hip rotation • Waist rotation • Neck movement (sidewise, Forward, Backward, Rotation) | 15 min 5 min 4 rounds with breathing 4 rounds with chanting 4 rounds with hold 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min 2 min | Twice in a day | 8 weeks |
| Breathing Practices (9) Standing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ankal stretch breathing • Hands in and out breathing Sitting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shashankasana breathing • Tiger breathing Supine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • straight leg raising breathing • Lumbar stretch Prone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhujangasana Breathing | 10 Min 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min 1 min | | 8 weeks |
| Yogasana (10) Standing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tadasana • Trikonasana Sitting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardha matsyendrasana Gomukhasana Prone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triyakabhujangasan (Improves inner awareness and improves massaging effect to internal organs.) • Shalabhasana Supine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardha matsyasana • Trikonasana | 15 min All the asana procedure with breathing awareness, Holding with chanting and maintain final position with normal breathing pattern | | 8 weeks |

| Practices | Duration of Practice | Frequency | Duration of Intervention |
|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| Pranayama (10) • Nadishuddhi pranayama • Bhramari Pranayama • Nadasandhana | 20 Min 10 min 4 min 6 min | 2 times in a day | 8 weeks |
| Meditation • Mind Sound Resonance Technique (11) | 30 min | 2 times in day • Morning • Before Bed | 8 weeks |
| Relaxation Technique • Deep Relaxation Technique (12) | 15 min | After every session of Practice | 8 weeks |

Total (105 min) includes yoga practice (60 min) + deep relaxation techniques + Meditation (30 min)

Diet protocol

The participant was encouraged to take a naturopathic diet for the sequentially for 48 days of her visit in Prashanti kutiram. The schedule was as per the following.

Table 2: Diet plan

| 8:00 am | 10:00 am | 12:00 pm | 5:00 pm | 7:30 pm |
|--|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Sprouts salad = Boiled green gram + Groundnuts + Horse gram/Fruits (watermelon + papaya + Apple + Pomogranate)/Vegetable juice | Carrot juice/Cucumber juice | 2 Chapati + 1 cup brown rice + 1 cup day + 1 cup boiled mixed vegetables+Buttermilk/ Curd | Cooked carrot salad/ carrot + beatroot soup without spices | Vegetable khichadi (10./' rice+20./' rice+70 ./' vegetables)/Vegeatble Daliya/Vegetable Oates |

Table 3: Diet guidelines

| Diet Guidelines | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Low fibre food | Boiled food, Boiled sprouts |
| More probiotic | Curd, buttermilk |

Table 4: Treatment protocol

| Ayurveda and Naturopathy Treatment protocol for 20 days | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|
| 1 st -10 days | Mode | Therapy | Duration/Dose |
| Ayurveda Protocol | External application | Nabhimandal Basti with sahacharadi tailam followed by Murdu Abhayangam and Patra panda swedana these procedure reduces pain, increases the strength of muscle and improves generalised weakness | |
| | Internal usage | Hinguashtak choorna (it improves appetite and reduces the blotting) Kamadughha Ras Swarna Sootahesekhar Rasa | ½ tsp thrice/day with 1 tsp ghee Before Breakfast 1-1 After food |
| Naturopathy | External application | 7:00 am | 2:00-3:00 pm |
| | | Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen with | Gastro hepatic pack + partial msg to foot Kidney pack + partial msg to neck and head Cold abdomen pack + full body msg Full body msg Gastro hepatic pack + Foot msg Kidney pack + partial msg to head and neck Neutral Under water msg |

| 1 st -10 days | Mode | Therapy | Duration/Dose |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| 2 nd -10 days | Internal Treatment | Neutral Enema Juice Therapy | alternative days |
| Ayurveda | Internal | Matra basti with yastimadhu tailam Nalaparmadi tailam | 60 ml } 40 ml } 100 ml For 10 days |
| | Internal | Drashadi kashayam 10 ml + guduchyadi kashayam 10 ml + 20 ml water: Ashwagandharistham 10 ml + Balaristham 10 ml + 20 ml water | 80 ml twice a day Before Food 40 ml twice a day After food |
| Naturopathy | External application | 7:00 am | 2:00-3:00 pm |
| | | Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen Mud pack to eye and Abdomen with | Gastro hepatic pack + partial msg to foot Kidney pack + partial msg to neck and head Cold abdomen pack + full body msg Full body msg Gastro hepatic pack + Foot msg Kidney pack + partial msg to head and neck Neutral Under water msg |
| | Internal Treatment | Neutral Enema Juice Therapy | alternative days |

Diagnosis

Table 5: Vital parameters

| Parameters | DOA | DOD |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pulse Beats/min | 86 bpm | 70 bpm |
| BP in mmHg | 110/70 mm/Hg | 120/76 mm/Hg |
| Respiratory Cycles/min | 16 cpm | 16 cpm |
| Bhramari Time (Sec) | 9 sec | 12 sec |
| Symptoms score | 5 | 2 |
| Medication score | 5 | 0 |

At the end of 8 weeks, the post symptom checklist was filled. The comparison between pre and post data revealed a reduction in the symptoms and medicine scores. Table 5 and Figure 1 highlights the changes between pre and post data set. At the end of 8 weeks a semi structured interview was also conducted which revealed that the patient was highly satisfied by the therapy as there was a reductions in the symptoms. She also reported improved quality of life as well as faster return to day to day work schedule.

Discussion

Over one and half month of IAYT (integrated approach of yoga therapy) Naturopathy and Ayurveda treatment, the female participant was able to maintain a healthy living and shown improvement in the medication score. During her stay in prashanti kuteram she had undergone yoga technique practices, pranayama, cleansing practices, meditation, relaxation

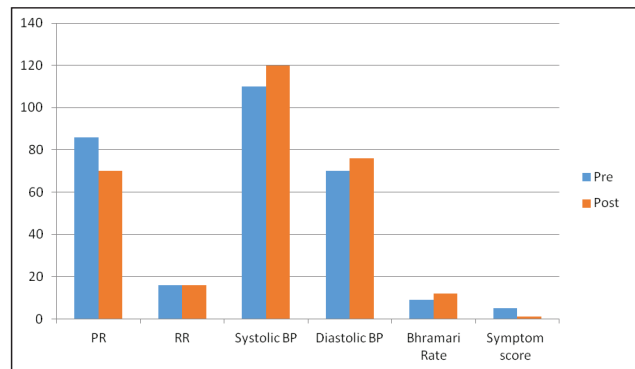


Figure 1: Pre post changes of vital parameters in graphic presentation

techniques and she followed the naturopathic diet which has effective in reducing symptoms related to gastro intestinal system by promoting alkalinity in blood and reducing acidic levels in blood. Ayurveda treatment is beneficial to reduces pain, increases the strength of muscle and improved generalized weakness. Overall treatment and Mind-body approach through yogic practices may have regulated the brain-gut axis and may have helped the participant for improving the digestive system, reduces stress level and to maintain a better quality of life.

Conclusion

Our findings show the importance of a simplified yoga intervention, Naturopathy treatment and Ayurveda treatment is a safe and effective complementary treatment in individuals with Chron’s disease.

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Authorship contribution

Dr. K. S. Nibedita, Dr. Reshma P. Jogdand, and Bhavit Bansal have written this article.

Dr. R. Nagarathna guided to write the article.

Dr. Amit Singh has contributed to treatment planning.

Informed consent

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Conflict of interest

Nil.

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