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Research Article

A CONCEPTUAL STUDY OF ANIDRA w.s.r. TO INSOMNIA

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ABSTRACT

Insomnia is among the most prevalent complaints brought to the attention of primary-care physicians. Approximately 20% of patients seen by primary-care physicians report significant sleep disturbances. Insomnia affects all segments of the population, including children and the elderly. While precise estimates vary as a function of definitions and methodology, approximately 40% of adults (\geq 18 years of age) report at least 1 symptom of insomnia 3 times per week, 20% are dissatisfied with their sleep, and about 10%-13% meet criteria for an insomnia disorder. Anidra is pathological state of sleep where a person does not get proper sound sleep which may be due to Vata vitiation.

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INTRODUCTION

Insomnia is an inability to obtain a sufficient amount of sleep to feel rested. It can be characterized either by difficulty falling or staying asleep. In addition, the sleep itself may be chronically of poor quality. In order to term that, the above difficulties must occur despite adequate opportunity to have sleep. In addition, the impairment must lead to problems with daytime functioning.⁶

Insomnia is the feeling of inadequate or poor quality sleep because of one or more of the following: trouble falling asleep (Initial Insomnia), trouble remaining asleep through the night (Middle Insomnia), waking up too early (Terminal Insomnia); or unrefreshing sleep for at least one month. These can all lead to daytime drowsiness, poor concentration and the inability to feel refreshed and rested upon awakening.⁷

Synonyms for Anidra

In Ayurvedic classics different words have been used to denote sleeplessness in different contents like Asvapna, Alpanidra, Akalanidra, Avyavahita Nidra, Ratri Jagarana, Prajagarah, Mandanidra, Nidranasha, Nidraviparyaya or Nidrabhigata.

Nidana (Etiology) of insomnia/Anidra

Ayurveda follows psychosomatic approach of health. According to Ayurveda, Psychic factors are involved in almost

all the disease processes along with physical disturbance as both are inter dependent. While describing psychological disorders, *Acharya Vagbhata* has quoted word *Chittodvega* along with *Kama, Krodha, Moha* and has mentioned these as cause for *Anidra*. *Ashtanga Hridaya* has stated that due to excess of *Kama, Nidrakshaya* occurs. §

According to *Acharya Charaka* excessive purgation, evacuation of head, emesis, fear, anxiety, anger, smoking, excessive physical exercise, excessive blood-letting, fasting, uncomfortable bed, predominance of *Satva* and suppression of *Tamas* can be consider as *Nidana* of *Anidra* along with over work, *Vatika* disorder, *Vatika* constitution and aggravation of *Vata* itself.⁹

Insomnia may present as a disorder on its own, but more frequently it presents in association with another medical or psychiatric disorder. Psychiatric co morbidity is particularly high with anxiety, mood, and substance abuse disorders. In the 2002 United States National Health Interview Survey, individuals with insomnia were more than 5 times as likely to present with anxiety or depression as individuals without insomnia. There is also evidence of high rates of co morbidity between insomnia and medical conditions such as pain, hypertension and congestive heart failure, diabetes, and obesity. ¹⁰

Prakriti and sleep

The sleep according to *Prakrti* may be divided in to two groups according to *Sharirika Prakrti* and according to *Manasika Prakrti*. An individual of *Kapha Prakrti* gets good quality and quantity sleep, while *Vata Prakrti* person gets less and disturbed sleep. Similarly sleep is related to the age also, in *Balavastha Kapha* is dominant and in *Vrddhavastha Vata* is dominant so child sleeps more time and old aged gets less sleep.

Mind is always flickering by virtue of being governed by *Pranavayu*. It is subjected to moods, principally *Rajas* and *Tamas*. *Rajasika* and *Tamasika Prakritis* are more prone to psychosomatic disorders due to excess of *Rosha Ansha* and *Moha Ansha* respectively.¹¹ In the same way *Paittika* and *Vatika Sharirika Prakritis* are more prone to psychosomatic disorders as *Manasa* is easily affected by *Krodha*, *Kshobha* etc. in comparison to *Kaphaja Prakriti*.¹² There is direct relationship with psychosomatic disorders and insomnia, according to modern researches 50% of causes for insomnia is psychological origin.

Anidra Samprapti

Anidra is not explained as a separate disease in Ayurveda, thus no where the Samprapti is available. Depending upon the Dosha, dushya involvement Anidra is emphasized. Anidra is mentioned as Vata Vikara with Pitta Vriddhi. 13

Retrospectively one can postulate the *Samprapti* of *Anidra* from the definition of *Nidra* as explained in *Charaka Samhita*. Whenever there is increased *Rajo Guna* of *Manasa*, increased *Vata* and *Pitta Sharira Dosha*, *Rasa Dhatukshaya* persistently provokes for continuous thinking and prevent the break in *Gnyana Pravritta* of *Indriya* and *Mana* then it leads to 'Insomnia'.

When the person feels threatened (*Bhaya* like condition), the brain reduces the availability of the opiod neurotransmitters and also the neurotransmitter GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid). This makes us feel a sense of urgency as well as anxiety (*Udvega*). Then the brain releases neither dopamine which gives a feeling of invincibility and also a neurotransmitter called nor epinephrine. It also causes adrenaline to be released which causes oxygen and energy to be sent from the internal organs to the muscles to assist with the "fight or flight". The norepinephrine causes the neurotransmitter serotonin (that enables sleep), to be less available and this is what allows you to stay awake for extended periods of time when under stress. The reduction of serotonin causes a further reduction in the opiod neurotransmitters and there he has a cycle which is known as the Stress Cycle.

CONCLUSION

Nidra is one of the Trayoupastambha i.e. basic supporting foundation or pillar of the life. As pleasure and sorrow, health and disease, strength and weakness, capacity to take knowledge and ultimately life of an individual is concentrated at Nidra. Nidra is very essential to replenish the energy level, to relieve the mental stress and settle down the physiological function in the rhythm or harmony. Anidra losses this rhythm of all physiological and psychosomatic process of person and produces various disease condition like very simple body ache

to severe like neurological complication. *Nidra* increases the *Prakrita Shleshma*, reduces the *Raukshya* and *Chalatva* of *Vayu* and regulates the *Pitta Udirana* in *Koshtha* at *Doshika* level. *Nidra* replenish the all *Dhatus* in fact essential for *Dhatu parinamana* and increase in the bulk of being. Hence the *Pushti Karshya*, *Bala Abala*, *Sukha Dukha*, *Gyana*, *Agyana*, *Vrishta Klaibya* and *Ayu* or *Jivita* is depending on the *Nidra*.

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