

Management of Lumbar Canal Stenosis (Katigraha) with Ayurvedic Modalities: A Case Report

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Abstract

Background: Lumbar canal stenosis (LCS) is a degenerative spinal condition causing narrowing of the spinal canal, leading to nerve compression. Symptoms include pain, stiffness, tingling, numbness, and difficulty walking, which worsen with standing and improve with sitting. Conventional treatments offer symptomatic relief, while surgery carries risks and a high recurrence rate. Ayurveda provides a holistic, non-surgical approach through Shodhana (purification) and Shamana Chikitsa (palliative care).

Purpose: This study evaluates the effectiveness of Ayurvedic therapies, including Panchakarma and oral medications, in managing lumbar canal stenosis.

Methods: A 68-year-old male presented with lower back pain radiating to both legs, tingling, numbness, and difficulty walking for nine months following a road traffic accident. He underwent an 8-day Panchakarma therapy, including Sarvanga Snehana and Swedana, Kati Basti, and Yoga Basti, which included Matra Basti and Niruha Basti along with oral medications.

Results: After 8 days treatment, the patient experienced significant symptom relief, improved mobility, and enhanced ability to perform daily activities independently.

Conclusion: This case highlights the effectiveness of Ayurvedic therapies in managing LCS, suggesting Panchakarma and oral medications as a viable non-surgical alternative. Further research on larger populations is needed to validate these findings.

Keywords

Katigraha, lumbar stenosis, Shodhana, Shamana Chikista, Katibasti

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Introduction

Due to the changing nature of work and lifestyles, low back pain is a prevalent condition in the modern world. Most people suffer from lower back discomfort that radiates to the foot and restricts their spine's motion. When the spinal canal narrows and compresses the nerves and blood vessels at the level of the lumbar region vertebrae, a medical condition known as lumbar canal stenosis results.¹ Lumbar spinal stenosis symptoms include low back or buttock pain, numbness in the legs, thighs, feet, or buttocks, as well as loss of control over one's bladder and bowels.² Possible causes of the disease include aging, trauma, spinal arthritis, spondylolisthesis, local tumors, and in rare instances, the disease's congenital origin.³ Common signs of the condition include pain, compressive sensations, and difficulty walking. It is determined by the patient's medical history, physical examination, and imaging tests. In the

conventional medical system, it is treated with physiotherapy, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and surgical laminectomy.⁴ According to reports, there are five incidents of lumbar canal stenosis per 100,000 individuals yearly, four times more than the cases of cervical canal stenosis.⁵ According to a community-based cross-sectional survey conducted in Wardha, the majority (82%) of brick-making employees reported having musculoskeletal complaints at some point in

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the previous year in their shoulders, followed by their lower backs (71%).⁶ Research studies show that 10–30% of patients experience recurrent symptoms after surgical treatment for lumbar canal stenosis, highlighting the need for effective non-surgical alternatives like Ayurvedic therapies.⁷ While conventional pharmacological treatments can manage pain and inflammation, they often result in side effects such as gastrointestinal issues and dependency. Ayurvedic treatments focus on restoring balance and enhancing overall wellness, employing techniques like *Panchakarma* to detoxify the body and potentially offer more sustainable outcomes. Integrating Ayurvedic methods with conventional treatments could provide a comprehensive strategy for managing lumbar canal stenosis, improving patient quality of life while reducing recurrence rates.

The classics do not describe *Katigraha* as a separate entity. *Charaka Samhita* mentions it as one of the *Vatavyadhi*. Eighty *Nanatmaja Vatavyadhi* has been stated in *Charaka Samhita*.⁸ It comes from two terms, *Kati* and *Graha*. The disease causes pain and stiffness as the vitiated *Vata* becomes localized in the *Kati Pradesha*.⁹ Since the lumbar spine is one of the primary seats of the *Vata Dosha*, it becomes vitiated in its seat, including the *Sphik* (buttock), *Kati* (waist), *Uru* (thigh), *Janu* (knee), *Jangha* (calf), and *Pada* (foot).¹⁰ The cardinal symptoms of the disease are *Ruk* (pain), *Toda* (pins and needles), *Stambha* (stiffness), and *Muhuspandana* (twitching and cramping).¹¹ *Snehana* (oleation therapy), *Swedana* (sudation therapy), and *Vatahara Shamana Yogas* (palliative care) are among the Ayurvedic treatments.¹² The major treatment for the vitiated *Vata* is the *Basti* procedure (medicated retention enema). Acharya Charaka indicated that “*Kshir Basti*” and “*Sneha Basti*” were in charge of managing “*Asthi Prodoshaj Vyadhi*.”¹³ Hence, this case study describes how the *Vatavyadhi* principle has been applied to treat lumbar canal stenosis effectively.

Case Report

A male patient of 68 years visited the outpatient department of MGACH & RC with chief complaints of pain and stiffness in the lower back, radiating to both legs, associated with a tingling sensation, numbness, and difficulty in walking for the past 9 months. He had a history of a road traffic accident and developed these symptoms as a result. The patient was diagnosed with lumbar canal stenosis at MGIMS, Sevagram, Wardha, and was treated with Cap Pregaba 75 1 BD for 8 weeks, Tab Flexon MR 1 BD, and Tab Pantop 40 1 OD for 10 days, but did not get total relief. He experienced partial relief from the prescribed medication but had concerns about side effects and was dissatisfied with the overall effectiveness. Motivated by the desire for a more holistic and effective treatment, he decided to pursue Ayurvedic therapy, hoping to alleviate his symptoms and improve his quality of life. So, he approached our institution for further management. His magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) LS Spine reports suggested lumbar stenosis at L3-L4 and L5-S1 due to a diffuse disc

bulge with a posterior-central annular tear, as shown by the MRI (Figures 1 and 2). All vital signs were normal (Table 1).

Specific Examination

The central nervous system, respiratory system, and cardiovascular system examinations were all normal. Upon inspection, no swelling, scar, or deformity was observed on the bilateral examination of the sacroiliac joint. However, palpation revealed mild tenderness of grade 2. The compression test was positive, and the range of motion (ROM) was restricted and painful. On inspecting and palpating the lumbar spine, specifically the L3-L5 region, no deformity, scar, or swelling was observed, though mild tenderness of grade 2 was present. The straight leg raising test (SLRT) yielded a negative result, indicating no significant nerve tension. In terms of the nervous system, the motor system of the right lower limb showed reduced muscle tone, which is classified as hypotonic. Muscle bulk in both lower limbs was symmetrical and equal. However, coordination was impaired, as the individual could not perform tandem walking (heel-toe walking). The examination of the spine's ROM revealed a forward flexion of 10° and an extension of 0°. Lateral flexion was limited to 5° on both the right and left sides. Additionally, the visual analog scale (VAS) score for pain was recorded at 9, indicating a high level of pain and discomfort.

Investigations

(03/08/2023) MRI LS spine suggested lumbar stenosis at L3-L4 and L5-S1 due to diffuse disc bulge with postero-central annular tear. All routine hematological tests were within normal ranges.

Diagnosis

From the above symptoms and findings of investigations, the patient was diagnosed as having lumbar canal stenosis (*Katigraha*).¹³

Treatment Objective

The treatment objective is to eliminate aggravated body humors and reduce the symptoms of lumbar canal stenosis (*Katigraha*). Treatment given is *Shodhana* and *Shamana Chikitsa* mentioned in Tables 2–4.

The *Yoga Basti* schedule consists of eight number of *Basti*. The first *Basti* was *Matra Basti* (oil enema) followed by alternate administration of three *Anuvasan Basti* and three *Niruha Basti* (decoction enema), and lastly, one *Matra Basti* as shown in Table 3. The *Basti Pratyagamana Kala* for *Niruha Basti* was 15–20 min.

The assessment was done on the following parameters. The pain (VAS) scale¹⁴ which is shown in Figure 3.

	MARATHWADA 3T DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE PVT. LTD.	CIN : U74999MH2018PTC314717 "Rizwani Tower", Ground Floor, Opp. Toshniwal Hospital, Near SBI Bank, Doctor's Lane, Nanded - 431601. (M.S) 02462-241999 / 9130096001 maralhwada3t@gmail.com										
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Ref. Phys: DR S CHAKKARWAR SIR	Study: L SPINE+WSS											
MRI LUMBO-SACRAL SPINE WITH WHOLE SPINE SCREENING												
Protocol: MRI of spine was performed in the sagittal & transverse planes using T1 & T2 weighted turbo spin echo sequences & MR Myelogram on MRI. Screening of entire spine was also performed.												
Observations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal spine curvature and vertebral alignment is observed. • Spondylosis changes noted in the form of perivertebral osteophytes and endplate marrow changes at places. • The vertebral bodies are normal in height and signal intensity. Their posterior elements are normal. • Multilevel lumbar discs show are dehydrated. • Mild to Moderate canal and foraminal stenosis noted at L3-4 to L5-S1 level due to diffuse disc bulge with postero-central annular tear and mild to moderate protrusions of disc along with perivertebral osteophytes .Compression on intrathecal and exiting nerve roots seen , most marked at L4-5 level • Sagittal narrowest canal dimensions at disc levels are as follows (disc level -in mm) :- 												
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">L1-2</th> <th style="width: 20%;">L2-3</th> <th style="width: 20%;">L3-4</th> <th style="width: 20%;">L4-5</th> <th style="width: 20%;">L5-S1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">11.84mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10.57mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6.8mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8.3mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9.08mm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			L1-2	L2-3	L3-4	L4-5	L5-S1	11.84mm	10.57mm	6.8mm	8.3mm	9.08mm
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visualized cord is normal in signal and morphology. • There is no abnormal pre or paraspinal soft tissue. • Visualized sacro-iliac joints shows , no significant abnormality • Screening of cervical spine shows loss of cervical lordosis with degenerative changes. • Mild annular bulges of C4-5 to C6-7 discs noted effacing thecal sac with no significant nerve root compression or canal narrowing. • Screening through dorsal spine shows no significant pathology 												
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Dr. SANJAY S. MARAKWAD MD (Mumbai), FRCR (UK) Reg No 2003041709 Telereporting <small>Investigations have their limitations. Solitary pathological/Radiological and other investigations never confirm the final diagnosis. Conclusion is markedly affected by input provided at that time. They only help in diagnosing the disease in correlation to clinical symptoms and other related tests. Please interpret accordingly.</small>												
Dr. Mukesh Bangale M.B.B.S, D.M.R.D, Mumbai. (Consultant Radiologist)												
Dr. Sanjay S. Marakwad MD (Mumbai) FRCR (UK) (Consultant Radiologist)												

Figure 1. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Report.

Results

The therapeutic outcome and improvement in the patient's symptoms before and after treatment are mentioned in Table 6.

Discussion

Lumbar canal stenosis is where the spinal canal narrows, compressing nerve roots and causing pain, numbness, or weakness in the lower back and legs.¹⁵ Degenerative changes like disc herniation or arthritis often cause it. This constriction can lead to compression of spinal nerves, resulting in symptoms like pain, numbness, and weakness in the lower

extremities. It typically affects people over 50 and results in severe pathological alterations to the locomotor system. It is due to genetic variables in younger individuals.¹⁶

Management of lumbar canal stenosis typically involves non-surgical treatments such as physical therapy, medications (like steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (SAIDs)), and lifestyle modifications. If these measures fail, surgical options like laminotomy or discectomy are considered.¹⁷

Surgical treatments for lumbar stenosis may provide immediate relief, but they carry risks of complications and recurrence rates between 10% and 30%. Despite their effectiveness, the invasive nature raises concerns about recovery time and potential adverse effects.¹⁸ Similarly, pharmacological options like NSAIDs can manage symptoms but often



Figure 2. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) LS Spine.

Table 1. Ashtavidha and Dashavidha Parishka.

Ashtavidha Pariksha	Dashavidha Parishka
Nadi—Vata-Pittaj	Prakriti—Vata Pradhan Kaphaj
Mala—Samyak	Vikriti—Pittaj
Mutra—Samyak	Sara—Rakta, Asthi
Jivha—Niram	Satva and Samhanan—Madhayam
Shabda—Spashta	Pramana—Madhayam
Sparsha—Anushnasheet	Satmaya—Katu Rasa
Druk—No Pallor or Icterus	Ahara Shakti—Madhyam
Akritis—Madhyam	Vyayam Shakti—Alpa
—	Vaya—Vriddhavastha

Table 2. Shodhana Chikitsa (Purificatory Treatment).

Shodhana Chikitsa				
Sl. No.	Treatment	Drug	Dose	Duration
1.	Sarvanga Snehana	Dashmoola Taila	Q.S.	30 min daily for 8 days
2.	Sarvanga Swedana	Patrapinda Swedana	Q.S.	10 min daily for 8 days
3.	Kati Basti	Dashmoola Taila	Q.S.	30 min daily for 8 days
4.	Yoga Basti			
	Matra Basti	Sahcharadi Taila	50 mL	5 days
	Niruha Basti	Saindhava	10 g	3 days
		Madhu	100 g	
		Til Taila	100 mL	
		Shatpushpa Churna	20 g	
		Erandmool Kwath	200 mL	

come with side effects, including gastrointestinal issues, dependency, and long-term tolerance.¹⁹ This highlights the need for non-invasive alternatives that address underlying issues without these drawbacks. Ayurvedic approaches, particularly *Panchakarma*, emphasize detoxification and systemic balance, offering sustainable health benefits without the risks associated with surgery or medication. Combining these Ayurvedic methods with conventional treatments could improve efficacy and patient satisfaction while minimizing recurrence rates.

When vitiated *Vata Dosha* settles in the *Kati Pradesha*, it causes “*Katigraha*,” which results in “*Stambha*” (stiffness) and *Shoola* (pain).²⁰ According to Acharya Sushruta, *Shoola* cannot develop if *Vata* is not vitiated. Furthermore, *Gada Nigraha* makes it very clear that *Shoola*’s results from *Stambha* were caused by the migration of *Sama* and *Nirama Vayu* into *Kati Pradesha* (the lumbar region).²¹ In this case, trauma and *Jara* (aging) are the causes of *Dhatukshaya*. Another pathognomonic component is *Atichinta* (stress) at the first stages of the illness. The *Vata Dosha* was vitiated by all the factors and resulted in *Kshaya Janya* (degenerative) and *Sankocha* (compression) related symptoms.²² Untreated lumbar stenosis can result in morbid ailments, incontinence, and paralysis. *Vata Vyadhi* is treated in Ayurveda via *Shodhana* (*Snehana*, *Swedana*, and *Vasti*), *Shamana* (drugs having *Madhura-Amla-Lavan-Snidhga* qualities), and *Nidana Parivarjana* (noting etiological factors).²³

Mode of Action of Shodhana Chikitsa

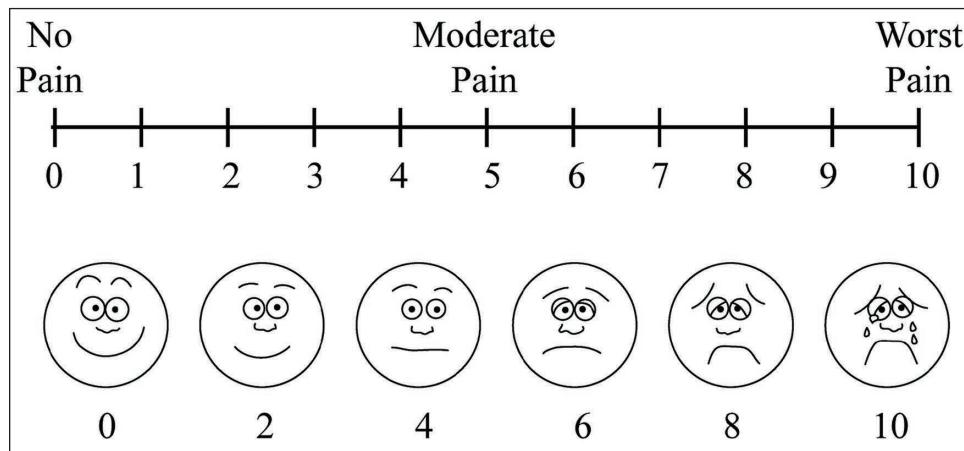
Abhyanga, categorized under external (*Snehana*) oleation therapy, affects muscles and enhances their strength. The root of *Mamsavaha Srotas* is *Snayu* (ligaments), *Tvacha* (skin), and *Raktavahini* (blood vessels). *Abhyanga* is performed on the skin and tendons, and it involves the blood vessels.^{23,24} The direct benefit is attained in *Mamsavaha Srotas*. *Abhyanga* also softens and relaxes the muscles and tissues, reducing stiffness, alleviating pain, and nourishing the deeper *Dhatus*. *Abhyanga* strengthens the muscles, hence stabilizing the joints.²⁵

Table 3. Showing *Basti* Chart.

Days	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Type of <i>Basti</i>	M	M	N	M	N	M	N	M

Table 4. Showing *Shamana Chikitsa*.

<i>Shamana Chikitsa</i>				
Sl. No.	Medicine	Dose	Anupana	Duration
1.	<i>Yograj Guggul</i>	2 tabs twice daily after meals	Lukewarm water	8 days
2.	<i>Cap. Palsineuron</i>	1 tab thrice daily after meals	Lukewarm water	8 days
3.	<i>Rasnasaptak Kashaya + Sahcharadi Kashaya</i>	10 + 10 mL twice a day before meals	Lukewarm water	8 days
4.	<i>Gandharva Haritaki Churna</i>	5 g at bedtime	Lukewarm water	8 days
5.	<i>Gandha Tail</i>	10 drops twice a day after meals	Half a cup of lukewarm water	8 days

**Figure 3.** Showing Pain Scale. Stiffness and Tenderness Scale Grading is shown in Table 5.**Table 5.** Showing Gradation for Stiffness and Tenderness.

Stiffness	
Normal flexion/no stiffness	0
Mild restriction (occasional stiffness, minimal interference with daily activities)	1
Moderate restriction (frequent stiffness, moderate interference with daily activities)	2
Severe restriction (persistent stiffness, significant interference with daily activities)	3
Very severe restriction (constant stiffness, significantly limits daily activities)	4
Incapacitating stiffness (stiffness prevents any daily activities)	5

Tenderness	
No tenderness	0
The patient complains of pain	1
The patient complains of pain and winces	2
Patient withdrawal joint on touch	3
The patient is not allowed to touch the joint	4

Table 6. Therapeutic Outcomes.

Symptoms	Before Treatment	After Treatment	First Follow-up (15th Day)
Pain (VAS scale)	09	02	00
Stiffness	Grade 2	Absent	Absent
Tenderness	Grade 2	Absent	Absent
ROM spine			
Forward flexion	10	30	40
Extension	0	10	20
Lateral flexion			
Right	5	10	10
Left	5	10	15
Heel-to-toe walking	Unable to perform tandem walking	Able to perform tandem walking	Normal

Note: ROM: Range of motion; VAS: Visual analog scale.

The properties of *Dashmool Taila* (oil) used for *Abhyanga* are *Snigdha* (unctuous), *Guru* (heavy), and *Mridu* (soft), which are opposite to the qualities of *Vata*. *Abhyanga* alleviates the aggravated *Vata*, which is responsible for the deterioration of *Dhatus* and the manifestation of symptoms such as pain and stiffness.²⁶ *Dashamoola Tail* can slow the onset of degenerative processes, and analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties mitigate inflammation and nerve compression, promoting improved blood circulation.²⁷ This enhanced circulation helps remove metabolic wastes and nourish spinal tissues. These properties help reduce the clinical symptoms of lumbar stenosis.

Swedana is *Sandhichestakar* (improves joint movements), *Agni Deepaka*, *Kapha Vata Nirodhana* (the opposite of *Kapha*), and *Sroto Shuddhikar* (clears out the microchannels).²⁸ It lessens stiffness or *Stambha*. *Patra Pinda Swedana* is an unmatched remedy for painful illnesses mostly brought on by *Vata Dosha*, particularly in the case of degenerative disorders. *Patra Pinda Swedana* is mostly done to relieve pain, inflammation, edema, and rigidity related to bone, joint, or skeletal discomfort.²⁹

Kati Basti (oil pooling therapy) involves pooling warm *Dashmool* oil on the lower back to treat lumbar stenosis. The warmth of the oil promotes vasodilation, enhancing blood circulation and nutrient delivery to the affected area.³⁰ The *Dashmool* oil, known for its anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties, penetrates deeply into the tissues, reducing inflammation and pain.³¹ This therapy helps in softening and relaxing the surrounding muscles and tissues, alleviating nerve compression.

Basti is thought to be the most effective remedy for managing *Vata*. It is *Vata Shamaka*, which strengthens tissues, revitalizes the body, and prevents recurrence. The vitiation of *Vata* is eliminated with the help of *Matra Basti*.³² According to Ayurveda, the *Virya* of the *Basti*'s ingredients is absorbed, travels to the affected site via circulation, and cures the condition. *Sahacharadi Tail* is indicated for the treatment of *Vata* disorders. The constituents of this oil are *Sahachara*, *Devdaru*,

Nagara, and *Til Tail*. All drugs possess high potency and serve as pacifiers for *Kapha* and *Vata Doshas*. *Sahachara*, *Nagara*, and *Devdaru* possess *Vedanasthapak* (analgesic) and *Shothara* (anti-inflammatory) qualities that alleviate pain and inflammation. *Matra Basti* with this oil alleviates discomfort, stiffness, and pricking sensation, and improves lumbar mobility.³³

Erandmooadi Niruha Basti, an Ayurvedic enema therapy, utilizes a decoction comprising *Saindhava* (rock salt), *Madhu* (honey), *Til Taila* (sesame oil), *Shatpushpa Churna* (dill seed powder), and *Erandmool Kwath* (castor root decoction) to treat lumbar stenosis. This combination helps balance *Vata Dosha*, which lumbar stenosis aggravates. *Saindhava* and *Madhu* aid in the elimination of toxins and improve the absorption of medicinal compounds. *Til Taila* lubricates and nourishes tissues, reducing dryness and stiffness. *Shatpushpa Churna* provides anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects; when combined with *Erandmooladi Basti*, it aids in promoting the smooth flow of *Vata* and helps in reducing nerve-related pain and stiffness, complementing the other components of the *Basti*, like *Eranda*, which has strong *Vatahara* (*Vata*-alleviating) effects and enhances bowel movement, aiding in detoxification.³⁴ *Erandmuladi Niruha Basti* is *Deepana* (appetizer) and *Lekhana* (scraping), which helps to calm *Kapha* and lessen symptoms like stiffness and heaviness.³⁵ The primary component of *Erandmuladi Niruha Basti*, *Eranda* (*Ricinus communis* Linn.), has anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, analgesic, and bone-regeneration qualities.³⁶

These ingredients reduce inflammation, alleviate nerve compression, and enhance circulation, thereby mitigating pain and improving mobility in lumbar stenosis patients.

Mode of Action of *Shamana Chikitsa*

Yograj Guggul helps reduce inflammation and pain in the lower back, improves joint mobility, and supports the detoxification process by aiding in the removal of metabolic wastes. Its regular use can alleviate stiffness and enhance overall

spinal health.³⁷ Cap. Palsineuron is composed of *Mahavata Vidhwansak Rasa*, which enhances the central nervous system and PNS metabolic functions. It makes neuromuscular communication active.³⁸ *Sameerpannaga Rasa* controls blood flow and enhances tissue oxidation in afflicted areas.³⁹ *Ekangveera Rasa* aids in the repair of damaged blood vessels and nerves.⁴⁰ *Sootshekhara Rasa* helps injured organelles recover more quickly by providing nutritional support. *Lajjalu* heals neuro-lesions. *Ajamoda* is *Nidrakaraka*, *Vatahara*, and *Shoolahara*.

Rasnasaaptak Kwatha has a great *Vata Shamaka* property. In addition to *Aampachana*, *Rasna*, *Gokshura*, and *Eranda* are all recognized for their analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and anti-arthritis properties. Some of them, such as *Guduchi* and *Aragvadha*, are even well-known for their immunomodulatory abilities.⁴¹ *Sahcharadi Kashaya* is *Vatakaphahara*, *Vedanashamaka*, *Avaranahara*, and acts on *Adhakaya*. It also supports musculoskeletal health and improves circulation.⁴² Together, they work synergistically to alleviate symptoms of lumbar stenosis by reducing inflammation, enhancing mobility, and relieving pain. *Gandharva Haritaki Churna* helps pacify *Vata Dosha* and has *Vrishya*, *Agnideepana*, *Anulomana*, and *Snigdha Virechaka* properties.⁴³ It also regulates bowel movements, which can reduce the pressure on the lower back. This, in turn, can alleviate discomfort and support spinal health.

Gandha Taila, a formulation referenced by Acharya Sushruta and Vaghbhatta, is used primarily to enhance bone strength (*Asthidhatu*).⁴⁴ It possesses properties such as *Vatahara*, *Brahamaana*, and *Asthidhatu Vardhaka*, making it effective in treating conditions like osteopenia, osteoporosis, and osteonecrosis. Key ingredients include *Sesamum indicum*, cow milk, *Madhuka*, and several herbs and minerals. This formulation acts on *Asthidhatu*, the bone tissue, and helps counteract *Vata Dosha* imbalances, which can lead to bone degradation and associated pain.⁴⁵ Regular intake of *Gandha Taila* can strengthen bones and alleviate symptoms related to bone deficiencies.

Conclusion

In *Katigaraha*'s patient, there was a marked reduction of symptoms like pain and stiffness in the lower back, radiating to both legs and associated with a tingling sensation, numbness, and difficulty walking. No unwanted effect of therapy was observed during the treatment and follow-up period. So, it can be concluded that these herbal medicines and *Panchakarma* procedures are very effective in the management of *Katigaraha*, but to establish this effect, further study of longer duration and larger sample is required.

Limitations and Recommendations

A limitation of this case study is its small sample size, which limits the generalizability of the results. Furthermore, the

absence of a control group prevents the evaluation of placebo effects. A longer follow-up period would provide important information regarding the long-term efficacy of the Ayurvedic treatments and any possible recurrence of symptoms. It may be beneficial to propose further studies, such as randomized controlled trials (RCTs) involving a larger sample size to validate findings.

Abbreviations

Bd: Bis in Die (twice a day); **Cap:** Capsule; **MRI:** Magnetic resonance imaging; **OD:** Once a day; **OPD:** Outpatient department; **ROM:** Range of motion; **SLRT:** Straight leg raise test; **Tab:** Tablet; **VAS:** Visual analog scale.

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Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Ethical Approval

This case study was conducted on a single patient and hence, ethical committee approval was not done.

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Informed Consent

A written informed consent form was obtained from the patient before starting treatment and for publication in an esteemed journal. The patient was fully informed about the study's objectives, procedures, potential risks, and benefits. Confidentiality was assured, and participation was voluntary. The patient agreed and signed the consent form, with a copy provided for their records.

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