Ayurvedic Management of Facial Paralysis - A Single Case Study

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ABSTRACT:

Bell's palsy or acute idiopathic lower motor neuron facial palsy are similar to *Ardita vata* presenting with palsy on one side of the face. Sudden paralysis or weakness of the muscles on one side of the face controlled by the facial nerve characterizes this condition. Bell's palsy is an idiopathic, immune-mediated condition that is thought to be triggered by an infection. In today's science, steroid medication is the preferred treatment for full facial palsy. A 66-year-old person was diagnosed with *Ardita vata* as a result of a nor bearing pain in left ear and was treated with *Mahamasha taila Nasya* and oral *Ayurvedic* medicines, as well as two *Panchakarma* sessions. The treatment lasted four months in total, but significant benefits were shown after just one month, indicating practically complete recovery without the use of any additional drugs. The patient had the identical ailment in the right side of his face 5 years ago, and he received complete relief after 2 years of allopathic treatment. This instance serves as proof of the efficacy of *Ayurvedic* treatment in the treatment of *Ardita vata* (Bell's palsy) and as a proposal for more research on a larger number of patients.

Keywords - *Ardita*, Bell's palsy, *Mahamasha tail*, *Nasya*, *Ksheerdhooma*.

INTRODUCTION

Facial nerve dysfunction can have a significant impact on a patient's overall happiness. The human face serves as a meeting point for correspondence and appearance. Because the face nerve carries motor, sensory, and parasympathetic fibres, facial palsy affects both function and appearance. On clinical examination, facial nerve paralysis is found to cause face muscular weakness. Idiopathic, traumatic, infective, neoplastic, innate, and immune system factors should all be evaluated when one-sided facial paralysis occurs. The inability to completely seal the mouth and eye on the influenced side of the face causes problems with eating and communicating, as well as corneal dryness and disintegration. Agony around the ear, sometimes spreading to the back of the head or neck, altered taste, synkinesis, facial spasm, facial contractures, dysfunctional lacrimation, and voice intolerance are some of the later signs. Bell's palsy can cause severe mental discomfort due to the ensuing impairment of oral fitness, verbal correspondence, and social connection.

Without treatment, around 71% of patients with Bell's
paralysis recover their motor function completely within a half year.\textsuperscript{9,10} Approximately 33\% of patients may have insufficient recovery and residual effects. Post incapacitated hemifacial spasm, co-contracting muscles, synkinesis, and perspiring while eating or exerting physical exertion are among the residual effects.\textsuperscript{11,12} Lacrimation of the ipsilateral eye during eating (crocodile tears) and closure of the ipsilateral eyelid when the jaw expands are the two most basic atypical regeneration patterns (jaw-winking). This indication can be compared to \textit{Ardita Vata} in Ayurveda based on symptomatology.\textsuperscript{13,14}(Table 1)

**CASE REPORT**

A 66-year-old middle-class male with recurrent Bell's palsy presented to the Panchkarma outpatient department (OPD) in Dr. sarvepalli Radhakrishnan rajasthan ayurveda university jodhpur with complaints of mouth deviation to the Right (Vakreekaroti nasa bhru lalata akshi hanustatha), inability to blink (Stabdha netram, Ekasya aksho nemeelanam) nor bearing pain in left ear and left temporal region and left zygomatic bone area, left maxillary region area.

For his left side discomfort, the patient did not take any medication. According to the patient, he was asymptomatic for 5 years until one day when he noticed a slight deviation of his face to the Right, as well as modest difficulty speaking, eating, and drinking. Patient improved entirely after two years of allopathic medication and physiotherapy. In the next five years, there will be no complaints of this nature. When he was woken up from his bed in March 2018, he saw a deviation of the mouth to the Right (Samutkshipteti atitwaritah), inactivity of the left eyelid movement, trouble speaking (Vaak sanga) and escaping water from the lips. There were no previous diagnoses of diabetes, hypertension, dengue fever, malaria, or any other infectious disease. According to the patient's report, therapy was started with steroids for 5 days and continued for another 5 days. Due to the lack of satisfactory outcomes, the patient stopped taking steroids against medical advice before one month of Ayurvedic treatment and sought Ayurvedic management.

**On Physical Examination**
The patient's physical examination revealed a body temperature of 98.8°F, a pulse rate of 72 beats per minute, a respiratory rate of 18 times per minute, a blood pressure of 120/80 mmHg, and normal oxygen saturation at the time of his hospital admission. The lungs were found to be clear on auscultation, and there was no further sound. With regular tachycardia, a heart examination revealed a nondisplaced point of maximal impulse. No whispers, rubs, or gallops could be heard. There was no organomegaly in the abdomen, which was soft and nontender. All regular investigations were normal at the time of the initial appointment. Higher cerebral functions were unaffected, while the afflicted facial nerve's motor activities were unaffected. When clenching teeth and puffing out cheeks, air was found to escape through the left angle of the mouth, resulting in drooping of the mouth to the right side. The inability to completely close the left eye and lift the left eyebrow, as well as the absence of wrinkles on the left side of the forehead, indicated that the facial nerve's motor function was impaired; nevertheless, the sensory functions remained intact.\textsuperscript{12}(Table 2)

**Assessment criteria**
The House–Brackmann scale of facial nerve weakening revealed that grade IV facial paralysis exists (weak with incomplete eye closure).

**Samprapti (Pathogenesis)**
In the genesis of the condition, vitiated Vata with Kapha is implicated due to excessive exposure to cold wind. The Sandhi’s (joints above the clavicle) of Sira (head), Nasa (nose), Hanu (mandible), Lalata (forehead), and Netra (neck) are where Prakupita vata (aggravated vata) and Kapha dwell (eye). The Doshas have impacted Snayu (ligaments) and Kandara (tendons), causing symptoms on the right half of the face with all the characteristics of Ardita vata. In modern research, this disorder is similar to Bell's palsy, which is characterized by facial nerve palsy and the symptoms listed above.

**Management**
Management Of Facial Paralysis
Treatment of facial paralysis was started, as the patient admitted in Panchkarma OPD along with the nor bearing pain in left temporal area complaint. The patient took following Ayurvedic medication for 4 months.
Total duration of the treatment with admission was 4 months. During the treatment and follow-up (4 months), the patient was advised to avoid the exposure to wind, sunlight, dust, etc., as Vataprakopaka nidanas.

**OBSERVATION AND RESULTS**

**Clinical Parameters**
Symptoms such as eye closure (95 percent), speech (100
percent), and difficulty eating and drinking improved completely after four months of treatment. The reduction of deviation of the mouth, watering of the eyes, and pricking sensation in the eye was noted after the 30th day of treatment. Remission was reported in all symptoms after two months. The same drugs were given to the shaman of Doshas for the next four months. The patient was completely free of all symptoms, and the treatment was stopped.

DISCUSSION

In Ayurveda, Bell’s paralysis is referred to as Ardita vata. Despite the fact that this disease is gradually improving with time, adequate and prompt mediation organization is required to avoid irreparable effects. As a result, steroid organization as early as feasible is considered the first line of treatment in traditional treatment. In this example, treating Bell’s paralysis without steroid medication resulted in complete recovery within 7 days of treatment. When looking at the causative elements for Vata vyadh (Vata Dosh – dominating diseases – Ardita Vata in this case), one of the causative variables in the vitiation of Vata that was proven in this case is severe exposure to cold air.15,16

Treatment principle and rationale of treatment adopted

Because Vata and Kapha have a relationship, the Vata Kaphahara chikitsa should be accepted. Navana Nasya (putting cured oil drops in the nostrils), Moordhni taila (distinctive modalities of treatment of putting sedated oil over the head), Nadisweda (lomentations to the face through tubular structures), and Upanaha (use of a paste prepared of medications to the head) are the treatment lines mentioned for Ardita. The Mahamasha Navana Nasya and Sthaniya Nadisweda have been summoned to clear the Urdhwajatrugata doshas. Oral medications that combat Vata and Kapha dosha have been chosen to alleviate the remaining Doshas.17,18 Abhyanga with Mahanaryan taila (Bala – Sida cardifolia integrated into Balya Mahakashya by Acharya Charaka and possesses psychostimulant properties following up on the central nervous system due to its ingredient ephedrine) Swedana with Ksheerdhoom (A decoction prepared by Vatahara medicines with cow’s milk) and Tila taila (which provides a lipophilic basis for enhanced retention). The medications chosen here not only alleviate Vata, but also aid in the management of symptoms prior to Nasya by increasing blood flow to the peripheral arterioles, which aids in medication absorption. Nasya treatment involves administering therapeutic oil into the nostrils; this medicine is combined with Shringataka marma and distributes throughout all Srotas (vessels, nerves) to eliminate the vitiated Dosiha. Nasya aids the sensory system via the circulatory system. Talama energises the sense organs and nerves while also reducing mental depletion, fatigue, and controlling the enlarged or Dosa Vrudhi in the head. Orally, Ekangaveera rasa acts as Rasayan, Brihun, and Vishaghna.19,20 Due to the Balya and Brimhana qualities of the drugs found in Mahamasha capsule, it smother nerve inflammation, improves nerve repair, and provides muscle power. It protects neurological and muscle tissues from wear and injury. A mixture of all of these formulations may have aided in breaking the disease at various levels.

CONCLUSION

In this example, Navana nasya with Mahamasha taila followed by oral drugs for Bell’s palsy (Ardita vata) resulted in total improvement. During the course of treatment, no conventional medications were employed. In these circumstances, the entire Ayurvedic therapeutic approach has exhibited anti-inflammatory, nervine potion, nerve ending stimulant, and neurodegenerative properties.

Declaration of patient consent

The authors declare to having gotten all necessary patient consent papers. The patient has/have given his/her/their agreement for his/her/their photos and other clinical information to be published in the journal by filling out the form. The patients are aware that their names and initials will not be published, and that while every effort will be taken to keep their identities hidden, anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

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REFERENCES

4. www.healthline.com

Table 1 Shows Comparison of Bell’s palsy with *Ardita vata*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bell’s palsy</th>
<th>Ardita vata</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Deviation of the mouth toward right side.</td>
<td>Vakreebhavati vaktrardham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vakreekaroti nasa bhru lalata akshi hanustatha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Watering of eyes</td>
<td>Netramaavilam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Unable to blink the eye of affected side.</td>
<td>Stabdham netram, Ekasya akshon meelanam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sudden onset of deviation of the mouth and weakness.</td>
<td>Samutkshiptelititwaritah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Slurred speech</td>
<td>Vaak sanga</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Shows Findings before and after treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neurological evaluation showed</th>
<th>Before treatment</th>
<th>After treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optic nerve</td>
<td>Field of vision – normal in right, in left visual acuity was 6/18</td>
<td>Normal in right, in left visual acuity was 6/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trochlear nerve</td>
<td>Pupillary reflex direct – left diminished , right – normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pupillary reflex indirect - right and left normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trigeminal nerve</td>
<td>Motor Clenching of the jaw – deviated to the right side</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sensory- sensation over the right side – cold , hot -decrease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Superficial touch- decrease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nasolabial fold absent in the left side.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wrinkles on the forehead – decrease in the left side .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lagophthalmos -left side</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tongue deviated toward right.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jaw jerk – negative</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Force full closure of the eye – left eye not closed properly.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blow of cheeks – weakness in the left side .</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whistling – not proper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The taste was middle affected</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conductive deafness [ mild]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facial nerve</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory nerve</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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