



GLIMPSES OF ANCIENT INDIAN SURGERY

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KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION:-

Surgery is the most popular and important subject of the modern medical science. A surgeon, by virtue of his/her expertised knowledge and experience, can immediately give relief to a diseased from sufferings and can prove the Godness. A surgeon is an individual who can remove a foreign body, excise an unwanted growth, repair an injury and can give support to fractured bone to get united.

The origin of Indian Surgery (Shalyatantra) is said to be from the time of Dhanwantari who is respected and honoured as the "GOD OF HEALTH AND LONGEVITY" by the Ayurvedic fraternity (vaidya sampradaya) till now. Susruta is considered to be the first scholar to write the first and most important book on surgery before about 3000 years of Christ.

After thoughtful consideration, some important and unique concepts of the great scholar, Susruta, are highlighted considering the importance and utility even in the present time-

(1) Definition of foreign body and Surgery (Shalya and Shalyatantra):- Shalyatantra is the branch of Ayurveda (Medical Science) that deals with the procedures and techniques of extraction of the unwanted and harmful substances inside the body, like, piece of wood, stone, iron, piece of bone, pus etc. along with the knowledge of different instruments, cauterization etc.^[1]

(2) Selection and admission of students (Shishyopanayana):- A student for study of surgery should be selected from good family background, with good culture, good behavior, honesty, memory, patience, and good health^[2]. The selected students should be admitted in the course by performing the rituals (chanting of mantra, performing rituals to fire – homa) etc.^[3]

(3) Instruments (Yantra and Shashtra):- 101 number of Yantra (instruments used to keeping the patient and/or the diseases and/or patient)^[4], 20 types of shastra (instruments with sharpness)^[5] are advised to use in the different types of surgery.

(4) Practical training (Yogya):- After completion of the theoretical training a student of surgery should make himself/herself educated with practical knowledge for which some dummy (fruit, vegetable etc.) should be used^[6].

(5) Starting of practice of surgery (Bishikhanupravesha):- After completion of the theoretical and practical training one should start practice with full concentration, applying total memory and intelligence for diagnosis and treatment^[7].

(6) Application of alkali (Ksharakarma) – Ksharachikitsa can be considered as an unique procedure of treatment. For different types of skin diseases, ano rectal diseases like piles (arsha), fistula (sinus) etc., some abdominal disorders (udara roga), indigestion (ajirna), flatulence (adhman) etc. this treatment is indicated^[8].

(7) Cauterization (Agnikarma) - This is another important and special type of treatment that is advised to apply by using

warm probes made with gold, silver, copper, iron etc. in the conditions like some selected eye diseases (netraroga), skin diseases (twakroga), abdominal diseases (udararoga) etc.^[9].

(8) Leech therapy (Jalauka chikitsa) – Leech is advised to use in the diseases manifested due to some selected diseases^[10].

(9) Description of abscess (Shopha) – Diagnosis of abscess and drainage at proper time, complications that may occur due to neglect of abscess, different treatment principles of abscess are important and beneficial concepts^[11].

(10) Concept of bandage (Bandha) – There are mentioning of 14 number of bandage procedures depending upon the part of the body to be bandaged^[12].

(11) Post operative recovery (Vranitopasana):- Detail discussion and description of the procedures to protect the person with special reference to food, bed for rest, behavior etc. during post operative period^[13].

(12) Different types of ulcers (Vrana):- Relation between Dosha and vrana (anatomical and physiological constituents of the body and ulcer)^[14], discharge of the ulcers^[15] are interesting.

DISCUSSION:-

Susruta Samhita, the first written form of the knowledge and experience of the scholars and researchers on surgery in ancient India, is undoubtedly an important manual. The presently available Susruta Samhita contains 120 chapters in 5 sections. In addition to these the Uttarantra contains 66 chapters. Susruta Samhita can be considered as the treasure of knowledge on ancient surgery, anatomy, toxicology, preventive and social medicine and also of all the other branches of medical science. Detail study, evaluation, validation and application can be considered to be the demand of the time.

CONCLUSION :-

Dedicated, Systematic, Multi Disciplinary Approach On The Concepts And Principles Of Susruta Samhita Can Explore New Dimension In The Field Of Medical Science.

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