

## Surgery and Ayurveda



India always has remained a land of wisdom and intelligence. Its roll in the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge worldwide, especially in the field of classic mathematics, astronomy, humanities, agriculture, veterinary, and health care has widely been appreciated and acknowledged worldwide. Its skills, knowledge and dynamic tradition of healing backed by rich natural, medicinal flora, and mineral resources attracted the whole world. Ayurveda is considered as the mother of so many healing systems, including modern medicine whose history does not go back 200 years. Surgery is an integral part of the health care system since a thousand years, and it was being practised in India from the pre-historic era, as references regarding are available in Vedas. But it was in its highest glory during the period of Sushruta, somewhere during or before the 5th century B.C. In Sushruta Samhita, he has covered almost all the principles and aspects of the surgery especially in the field of trauma management, plastic surgery, anorectal surgery, burns, various abscesses, swellings, hernias, abdominal surgical diseases etc.

But due to the invasion of foreign rulers in India, this knowledge got distorted, damaged and stolen. During the Buddha period by following the principle of Ahimsa, the surgery was discouraged as it was considered as the inferior type of intervention. Mughals also tried to suppress the Indian knowledgebase, including Ayurveda. After that British succeeded to impose their ideas, knowledge and agenda in Indian minds, resultantly most of the Indians got carried away by their influence. This influence still can be seen in many Indian minds. British rule was not limited to India, but in so many countries of the world, which changed the way of the practice of medicine and the then known Allopathy became the leading health system. This system of medicine (Allopathy) integrated itself with other basic sciences like Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Computer science, Nuclear Science etc. and established itself as modern science. Ayurvedic surgery lost somewhere in the race and could not start despite the fact there are excellent surgical principles, procedures and medicines in the inventory of Ayurveda.

There is a strong need of Ayurvedic surgery and surgeon to come forward in the field to contribute more and give a further push to this highly advanced discipline. In Ayurveda, there are a lot of surgical principles and procedures which are still unexplored. These require to be practised at large for the welfare of society and science. Without the involvement of Ayurveda fraternity, these cannot be explored, and research cannot be done. Because modern fraternity as a community has a strong bias against Ayurveda and illogically opposes Indian surgery. They have no understanding and knowledge of this important science but oppose continuously. But being illogically critic and loud does not make any sense and cannot prove the things otherwise. The Government of India and Statutory bodies are expected to come forward to give a push to this field. It will enrich the present surgical knowledge and may avoid so many unethical and unnecessary surgeries.

Allowing Ayurveda surgeons to practice surgery should not be taken as a competition by modern surgical fraternity; instead, it will complement the system and will encourage ethical surgical practice. Unfair, illogical and biased criticism of Ayurvedic surgery and surgeons should be avoided at all levels. Ayurveda surgeons should also be cautious that they must train themselves up to the level of excellence, and it should be taken as a challenge and opportunity as well.

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