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A CRITICAL STUDY OF AETIOPATHOGENESIS AND SYMPTOMATOLOGY OF GRIDHRASI

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Abstract: Man is unique among his vertebrate cousins in stance of his upright stature. Spinal anatomy is a remarkable combination of strong bones, flexible ligaments and tendons, large muscles and highly sensitive nerves. The harmony of all these structures enables man to run with the pace of time. As the advancement of busy professional and social life, improper sitting posture in offices, overexertion, jerky movements during traveling and sports – all these factors create undue pressure to the spinal cord and play an important role in producing low backache and pain radiating down the leg. Ayurveda had identified this problem long back and named it 'Gridhrasi'. The word 'Gridhrasi' itself suggests the gait of the patient which is similar to Gridhra (vulture) due to pain. Gridhrasi is considered as Shoola Pradhana Vatavyadhi. All the Ayurvedic classics including those written in medieval period have described the aetiopathogenesis and symptomatology of Gridhrasi in concise form. Critical evaluation of Nidana and Samprapti of any disease the Rupa i.e. symptoms can be understood more efficiently thus helping correct diagnosis and better treatment.

Keywords: Gridhrasi, Sciatica, Aetiopathogenesis, Symptomatology

Introduction: Man is unique among his vertebrate cousins in stance of his upright stature. Other primates may enjoy the canopy of the tropical forest, sometimes climbing, sometimes semi-upright, but man alone is comfortable and confident with the upright bipedal posture. Spinal anatomy is a remarkable combination of strong bones, flexible ligaments and tendons, large muscles and highly sensitive nerves. The harmony of all these structures enables man to run with the pace of time. Man is taking the juxtaposition of strength, structure and flexibility of the spine for granted in everyday life.

As the advancement of busy professional and social life, improper sitting posture in offices, factories, continuous and overexertion, jerky movements during traveling and sports – all these factors create undue pressure to the spinal cord and play an important role in producing low backache and pain radiating down the leg. Likewise, progressive disorders affecting the pelvis and nearer structures are also precipitating this condition. In this way, this disease is now becoming a significant threat to the working population.

Ayurveda had identified this problem long back and named it 'Gridhrasi'. The word 'Gridhrasi' itself suggests the gait of the patient which is similar to Gridhra (vulture) due to pain. All the Ayurvedic classics including those written in medieval period have described the aetiopathogenesis and symptomatology of Gridhrasi in concise form.

Gridhrasi is considered as Shoola Pradhana Vatavyadhi. The cardinal sign and symptoms of Gridhrasi are Ruka (Pain), Toda (Pricking sensation), Stambha (Stiffness) and Muhurspandana (Involuntary Movements) in the Sphik, Kati, Uru, Janu, Jangha and Pada in order and Sakthishepan-Nigraha i.e. restricted lifting of the legs.

Literary Review

Vyutpatti: Gridhra + so - atonupasargitcha - Adding 'kah' pratya leads to Gridhra + so + ka by lopa of 'o' and 'k', 's' is replaced by 'sa' by rule 'Dhatvadeh' 'sah sah' 'Gridhrasi' derived. 'Gridhu' is the Dhatu which makes the word 'Gridhra' from which the word 'Gridhrasi' is derived.

Nirukti

"Gridhram Api Syati So Antakarmani Atonupasargakah,

Chancava Gridhra Iva Syati Peedayati, Gridhra Syati Bhakshati" (Sabdakalpadruma)

It means, the pain experienced in *Gridhrasi* is similar to that of the pain felt during the vulture piercing its beak deep onto the prey "*Gridhraamiva Syaati Gacchati*". [1] *Gridhrasi* is termed on the resemblance of the gait of the patient with that of the vulture, as it walks with limping a leg without lifting it up.

Paribhaasha: Stambha, Ruk, Toda, Grahana and Spandana are the distinctive features of Gridhrasi. It originates from the Sphik Pradesha and radiates down wards through the Prushtabaga of Kati, Uru, Janu, Jangha, and Pada. [2]

Sushruta opines that the vitiated Vata Dosha afflicts the Kandara producing Gridhrasi, where in the patient finds difficulty in extending the leg. The two Kandaras are one extending distally from the Paarshni to the toes, and other extending above from the Paarshni to the Vitapa. [3]

Nidana: Gridhrasi mentioned as one among the Vatavyadhi has no specific /Vishesha Nidana, as such, but the Samanya Vata Prakopakara Nidanas and Vatavyadhi Samanya Nidana can be considered as the Nidana for Gridhrasi.

Gridhrasi is one among the eighty Nanatmaja Vatavikaras, the causative factors for Vata Prakopa is to be considered as the Nidana of Gridhrasi.

All the etiological factors mentioned for *Vatavyadhi* or *VataPrakopa* [4] can be classified into the following headings:-

A. *Aharaja:* The causative dietetic factors included under this group have been again subdivided into the following 8 groups.

- 1. *Dravyatah*: In this group all the dietetic articles responsible for *Vata Prakopa* have been included.
- 2. *Gunatah*: This group includes the quality of dietetic articles like *Ruksha*, *Laghu*, *Sheeta* etc. which lead to the *Prakopa* of *Vata*
- 3. Rasatah: The various tastes of the dietetic articles, the excessive use of which lead to the Prakopa of Vata eg Tikta, Katu, Kashaya.
- 4. *Karmatah*: Excessive use of *vistambhi* article may lead to the *Prakopa* of *Vata*
- 5. *Veeryatah*: For instance, the *Sheeta Veerya* articles cause the *Prakopa* of *Vata*.
- 6. *Matratah*: Less eating (*Alpa Ashana*) or fasting (*Anashana*) comes under this heading.
- 7. *Kalatah*: The *Vata Prakopa* occurs at the end of digestion. Eating before digestion of the previous meal also leads to *Vata Prakopa*.
- 8. *Mithyopayogatah*: The violation of the rules like not to drink water when hungry or not to eat when thirsty also lead to *Vata Prakopa*.
- **B.** Viharaja (Habits and Regimen): Factors like Vega Dharana and Udeerana, Ratrijagarana, Ucchairbhashya (speaking loudly), Atyadhva (excessive walking), Atiyana (excessive traveling) provokes Vata Dosha. Also over indulgence in Vyayama, Vyavaya, Dhavana, Pidana, Plavana, Bharavahana (lifting heavy weight) etc. also result in the aggravation of Vata.
- C. Agantuja (External Factors): Patana, Pidana, Abhighata, Marmaghata etc. are considered as external causative or Agantuja factors for the provocation of Vata. 1. Manasika factors (Mental factors) Chinta, Soka, Bhaya result in VataPrakopa. 2. Kalaja (Seasonal factors) Varsha ritu, last part of day, night and in the last part of process of digestion Vata gets increased.

Table No 1: Showing the *Nidanas* of *Vatavyadhi / VataPrakopa*. [5-11]

Nidana		C.S.	S.S.	A.S.	A.H.	M.N	B.P.
Aharaja Rasa	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	-	+	+	+	-	+
Guna	Laghu	+	+	+	-	+	-
	Ruksha	+	+	+	+	+	-
	Sheeta	+	+	+	-	+	-
Karma	Vishtambhi	-	+	-	-	-	-
Veerya	Sheeta	-	+	-	-	-	-
	Adhaki	-	+	+	-	-	-
	Bisa	-	·	+	-	-	-
	Harenu	-	+	-	-	-	-
	Chanaka	-	·	+	-	-	-
Dravya	Kalaya	-	+	-	-	-	-
	Koradusha	-		+	-	-	-
	Masura	-	+	+	-	-	-
	Mudga	-	+	+	-	-	-

	Nivara	-	+	-	-	-	-
	Nishpava	-	+	+	-	-	-
	Salaka	-	-	+	-	-	-
	Sushkashaka	-	+	-	-	-	-
	Shyamaka	-	+	-	-	-	-
	Abhojana	+	+	-	-	+	+
	Alpashana	-	+	+	+	-	-
Karma	Vishamashana	-	+	+	-	+	+
	Adhyashana	-	+	-	-	-	+
	Pramitashana	-	-	+	+	-	-
	Atigamana	+		+	-	+	+
	Atihasya	-	+	+	-	-	-
	Atilanghana	+	+	+	-	-	-
	Atiplavana	+	+	-	-	-	_
	Atipradharana	_	+	_	_	_	_
	Atiprajagarana	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Atiprapatana	_	+	_		_	
	Atiprapidana	_	+	_	_	_	_
Kayika	Atipratarana	-	+	+		-	_
	Atiraktamokshana	_		_	_	+	+
	Atishrama	_		_			+
	Ativichestitam	+		_		+	+
	Ativyayama	+	+	+	+	+	-
	Atiadhyana		+	+			-
	Kriya Atiyoga	+		+	+	+	+
	Padati Aticharya	_	+				-
	Asama Bhramana,		+	-		-	-
	Chalana, Vikshepa, Asamotkshepa	-	т	-	-	-	-
	Balavat Vighraha	-	+	+		_	_
	Bhara Harana	_	+	+	+	-	_
	Diva Swapna	+				+	
Mithyayoga	Dukhasana Sayya	+				+	-
1/2011/03/08/0	Kashta Bhramana Chalana Vikshepa	<u>-</u>		+			
	Vegadharana						
	Vishamopchara	+ +	+	+	+	+	+
	Bhaya, Shoka, Chinta	+					
Manasika	Krodha	+		+	+	+	+
Munusika	Mada		-			+	-
		-		-	-	-	+
	Aparahna	-	+	+	+	-	+
Kalaja Agantuja	Apararatra	-		+	+	-	-
	Grishma	-		+	+	-	-
	Pravata	-	+	-		-	+
	Shishira	-	-	-	-	-	+
	Seta Kala	-	+	-	-	-	+
	Varsha	-	+	+		-	+
	Gaja, Ushtra, Ashwa,Shighrayana	-	+	-	-	+	-
	Patana						
	Marmaghata	-	+	-		+	-
	Dosha Asrika Sravana	-	+	-		+	-
	Dhatu Kshya	+		-		+	+
Anyahetuja	Ama	+	-	-		+	+
	Rogati Karshana	+	-	-		+	+
	Marmaghata	-	-	-	-	+	-
Samprapti: Ri	ght from the contact of the <i>hetus</i> to	and	Agni eta	c. The s	tudy of	Sampra	pti Vighatan

Samprapti: Right from the contact of the hetus to the manifestation of the disease, including the various stages is understood by the term Samprapti. The word 'Samprapti' means 'Samyak Prapti of Roga' that is the proper understanding of the disease process. The knowledge of Samprapti helps in the comprehension of the specific features of a disease like Dosha, Dushya, Srotodushti, Ama

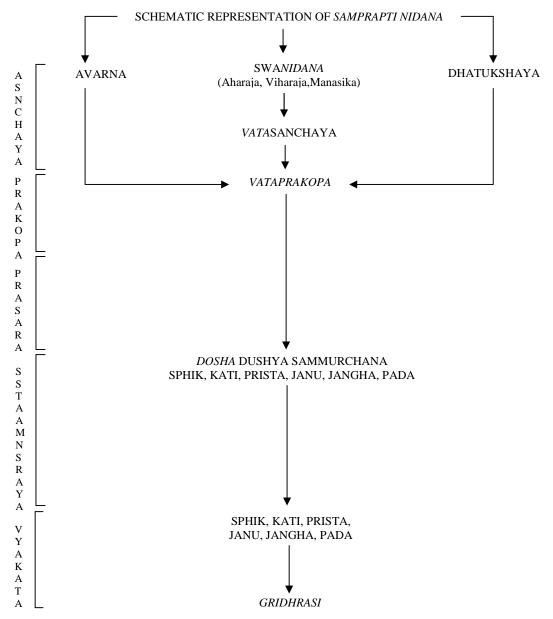
and Agni etc. The study of Samprapti Vighatana itself is treatment. Sushruta has described Samprapti process in six stages Sanchaya, Prakopa, Prasara, Sthanasanshraya, Vyakti and Bheda known as Satkriyakala. [12]

During Sthansanshraya Avastha the vitiated Dosha reach the particular Sthana and get lodged here and intimately mix with and vitiate one, two or more Dushyas in that

particular portion of body. This is the reason that though *Nidana* of all the *Vatavyadhi* are same but only due to the *Samprapti Vishesha* of disease *Vata* can produce so many *Vata* disorders [13]. If vitiated *Vata* is accumulated in Kati and lower extremities by *Srotosanga* it produces *Gridhrasi*. *Gridhrasi* is Shula *Pradhana Vatavyadhi* and Shula (pain) cannot be produced without involvement of *Vata Dosha*.

Vataja Gridhrasi is produced by Vata Prakopa or Vata vriddhi due to Dhatu Kshaya having symptoms of Stambha, Ruka, Toda and Muhu Spandana. Vata Prakopa Ahara -Vihara gives rise to aggravation of Vata and at the same time Ruksha, Khara, Laghu, Sheeta, Chala Guna of Vata suppresses the Snigdha, Guru, Mrudu,

Pichhila and Sandra Guna of Kapha which reduces the Sleshma. Reduced Sleshma in Prustha, Kati, Sakthi and Kandara is occupied by vitiated Vata. Thus vitiated Vata gets located in Kandara and produces the symptoms viz. Stambha, Ruka, Toda and Spandana in Kati, Prustha, Uru, Janu, Jangha and Pada in respective order. Agantuja Karanas Abhighata etc also produce Dhatu Kshaya instant causing Vata Prakopa without attaining the Chayadi Avastha and leading to Gridhrasi. Avarana is another pathology which causes VataPrakopa. When Kapha gets Anubandhatva, its symptoms like Aruchi, Tandra and Gaurava are added to the features of Vataja Gridhrasi and are termed as Vatakaphaja Gridhrasi. [14]



Samprapti Ghataka

Nidana : Vataprakopaka Nidana

Dosha : Vata – Apana , Vyana Vayu and Kapha.
Dushya : Sira, Snayu. Kandara, Asthisandhi,

Agni : Jatharagni

Ama : Nirama(Vata Pradhana) Ama (Kapha Pradhana)

Udbhavasthana : Pakwashaya Sancharasthana : Sarvashareera

Srotas : Vatavaha (Sanjyavaha and Chestavaha)

Srotodushti : Sanga Rogamarga : Madhyama

Vyaktasthana : Sphik, Kati, Prishtha, Uru, Janu, Jangha, Pada.

Bheda : Vataja And Vatakaphaja

Swabhava : Chirakari

Purvarupa: The symptoms which are vague, few and indicating the forthcoming disease are PurvaRupa. Madhava says that symptoms manifest during the Sthanasamshraya of vitiated Doshas. Prodromal symptoms are of two kinds and Vishesha viz Samanya PurvaRupa. Prodromal symptoms that give a clue regarding the forthcoming disease without giving an idea of the Doshas involved are called as Samanya PurvaRupa. Vishesha PurvaRupa are the specific prodromal symptoms that at the same time as indicating a disease, also give an idea of the Dosha involved. PoorvaRupa appears in the fourth stage of Kriyakala ie in Sthanasamsraya stage. Prodromal symptoms provide best clues regarding Dosha Dushya Sammurchana. Manifestation of a greater number of prodromal symptoms point to the severity of the morbidity and casts a shadow on the prognosis. It is important to diagnose and treat the disease at this stage, so that the further progression of the disease can be prevented. Gridhrasi is a Vatavyadhi and Vatavyadhi PurvaRupa can be considered for Gridhrasi also. As the PurvaRupa mentioned for Vatavyadhi is Avyakta and Alpatva [15] of Lakshana, the symptom of Gridhrasi revealed in mild form and with lesser intensity can be considered as the PurvaRupa of Gridhrasi.

Rupa: Expressions of actual symptoms occur at a stage when Dosha–Dushya Sammurchana has been completed. Rupa is also indicative of the site of affliction or actual pathology as well as to identify the type of disease. Complete manifestation of the disease is called as Rupa. Acharya Charaka, while describing Gridhrasi has listed Ruk (pain), Toda (pricking sensation), Stambha (stiffness) Grahana (restricted movements) and Spandana (twichings) in the region of Sphika Pradesha which extends either upwards to the Prishta Bhaga or to the leg in a

radiating manner through the Prishta Bhaga of Kati, Uru, Janu, Jangha and Pada as the cardinal symptoms of Vataja Gridhrasi. To be more precise about the track of pain, Chakrapani says that the pain starts at *Sphik* and then radiates to Kati, Prishtha, Uru, Janu, Jangha and Pada in order. In Vata Kaphaja type of Gridhrasi in addition to the above symptoms Tandra (stupour), Gaurava (heaviness) and Arochaka (loss of appetite) will be present. [16] Sushruta and Vagbhata have mentioned 'Saktanakshepam Nigrahniyat' ie one finds restriction in extending the leg due to severe pain. Madhavakara has mentioned the same symptoms as mentioned by Charaka. In addition to this, in MadhavaNidana, he had mentioned symptoms of Vata and Kaphanubandhavataja Gridhrasi. Some signs and symptoms like *Dehasyavakrata*, Janu, Uru Sandhi Spurana etc. have been defined as Vatika Lakshanas by Bhavaprakasha, Yogaratnakara^[18-20]. and *Madhaya*kara Vangasena has also added pain in Payu as one of the symptoms [21]. The symptoms *Vataja Gridhrasi* are described in details here:

Ruk: The word 'Ruk' denotes pain. Any kind of pain is always associated with Vayu^[22]. It is included under Vataprakopaka Lakshanas by Vagbhata ^[23]. When Vata alone is vitiated, it is severe and continuous but when coupled with Kapha it may be less severe. The pain in Gridhrasi is ascribed to a definite area. It starts from Sphik and then radiates through Kati, Prishtha, Uru, Janu, Jangha Upto Pada. The track of pain explained by Charaka exactly corresponds to the pathway of sciatic nerve. Hence Gridhrasi is correlated with Sciatica.

Toda: Toda means pricking sensation. It is caused by vitiated Vayu and is included under Vataprakopaja Vyadhies by $Madhava^{[24]}$. Also Vagbhata mentioned it in Vataprakopaja $Lakshanas^{[25]}$.

Stambha: Stambha means stiffness felt throughout the leg. Arundatta defines it as inability of the limbs to flex. While Hemadri, interprets it as loss of movement. [26] Especially the Sheeta and Ruksha Guna of Vata affects the muscles of the leg, the movements of leg are restricted. Also they are restricted due to pain, especially flexion at the hip joint and extension at the knee joint. When vitiated Doshas affects the Snayu, Sira and Kandara, Stambha, Sphurana and Supti are produced [27].

Spandana: These are the twitching sensation felt in the affected leg. By the word *Spandana*, *Chakrapani* signifies *Kampana* while *Dalhana* explains it as *Chalan* i.e. certain kind of movement is felt. It is also due to vitiated *Vayu*^[28] particularly *Vyana Vayu*. *Chala Guna* of *Vayu* is responsible for *Spandana*.

Sakthikshepa Nigraha: Sushruta has revealed this term first. It signifies restricted movement of the affected limb. The patient is unable to extend the leg i.e. Prasarana of the leg is difficult. Dalhana explained that because of the ill effect on ParshniKandara the movement of the leg is forbidden [29]. Vagbhata modified the term Kshepa as Utkshepa which means upward movement or elevation or rising. Arundatta clearly defined this by 'Pada Uddharane Ashakti' meaning the disability to lift the leg^[30]. If we analyse the symptoms in the light of modern medicine, it appears very similar to the restricted SLR (Straight Leg Raising) test which is done to assess the degree of limitation of the limb (hip) flexion, when knee is extended.

Dehasyapravakrata: This sign is mentioned in *Laghutrai* but not is *Brihattrai*. Because of extreme pain felt in the limb, the patient assumes a typical posture. He keeps his leg slightly flexed at the hip and knee hence his body appears to be in tilted position mostly to the affected side. This is described as the "sciatic tilt" or "sciatic scoliosis" in modern medicine.

Suptata: Bhavaprakasha and Yogaratnakara Anti have only mentioned this symptom. Chakrapani esp explains it as loss of movement of the leg and Agralso loss of sensation [31]. Supti is produced by pro Table No: 2 Showing Symptoms of Gridhrasi in Ayurvedic Classics

Sheeta Guna. As Vata and Kapha both possess the property of Sheeta Guna, both are responsible for producing Supti. These are the paraesthesiaes of the affected limb.

Vatakaphaj Gridhrasi

Tandra: The inability of the sense organs to grasp their subject, associated with heaviness of the body, and easy fatigue are the *Lakshanas* of *Tandra*^[32]. It is due to *Vata* and *Kapha Dosha* along with *Tamo Guna*. It is produced by *Guru Guna* of *Kapha. Tandra* is included under *Vinshatishleshma Vikara* and also under *Rasapradoshaja Vikaras*.

Gaurava: Gaurava means feeling of heaviness. It is due to *Kapha* especially *Guru Guna*. Patient feels heaviness all over the body especially in the leg. This makes the movement of the leg further difficult.

Arochaka: Charaka, Madhavakara and Yogaratnakara have included this symptom. Although the patient has proper appetite but still he can't enjoy the food due to loss of taste [33]. Here mainly Bodhak Kapha Dushti is found. Also, it is produced due to Rasadushti.

Mukhapraseka: It is described by Laghutrayi. It is also known a Lalapraseka. It is a symptom of Kapha Dushti specially Bodhak Kapha. But also occurs due to presence of Ama in the body.

Bhaktadwesha: It is the dislike for food. When *Kapha* is vitiated along with *Vata* in *Gridhrasi*, the power of Agni is suppressed. This leads to *Ama* formation which causes feeling of heaviness in the abdomen. Hence the patient develops dislike for food.

Sthaimitya: It is one of the twenty shleshmavikara. Patient feels that some wet cloth is wrapped around his body [34]. Hemadri interprets it as Alasya [35]. Sthira, Sheeta Guna of Kapha are responsible for producing Staimitya. This symptom is described by Yogaratnakara only.

Vahnimardava: Because of vitiated *Kapha* as *Anubandhadosha*, the properties of *Agni* especially *Jatharagni* will diminish, as a result *Agnimandya* takes place. This again leads to production of *Ama* which aggravates the *Vyadhi*.

Symptoms	C.S	S.S	A.H	A.S	B.P	MN	Y.R	SrS	H.S	
Common Symptoms in Vataja and Vatakaphaja Gridhrasi										
Sphika Purva Kati, Pristha, Uru, Janu,	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	
Jangha, Pada Kramat Vedana										
Ruk	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	
Toda	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	
Stambha	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	
Muhuspandana	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	
Sakthikshepanigraha	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Sakthiutkshepanigraha	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
Janu Madhya Vedana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Uru Madhya Vedana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Kati Madhya Vedana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Dehasyapravakrata	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
Janusandhispurana	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
Urusandhispurana	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Katisandhispurana	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
Janghaspurana	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Suptata	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-
Additional Symptoms in Vata-kapha	ija Gridhi	asi							
Tandra	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Gaurava	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-
Arochaka	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-
Vahni Mardava	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
Mukhapraseka	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
Bhaktadwesha	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
Staimitya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+

Discussion: Research is an endeavor to discover new facts or correlate old facts by scientific study of a subject or a course of critical investigation; as defined in Oxford Dictionary. Nowadays, Health is a serious business and costly too. Intervention related to people's health must be based upon sound Principles and Practices which must be continuously and critically evaluated. revolutions, modernization, competition and sedentary life style are the causes where young and the productive age groups are falling prey to many of the disorders, priory one among them being Gridhrasi.

Gridhrasi, known since the Samhita Kala is caused due to the vitiation of Vata Dosha. It is one among the Nanatmaja Vikara of Vata Dosha. The causes of Gridhrasi are not described in the classics, but the factors vitiating Vata are the Nidanas for Gridhrasi. Rukshadi Aharaja Hetus , Vegadharana, Atiyanadi Viharaja Hetus, Abhigatadi Agantuja and Shokadi Manasika Hetus are responsible for the provocation of Vata Dosha which leads to Vatavyadhi like Gridhrasi. Among the five subtypes Apana Vata and Vyana Vata play an important role in the causation of disease. This vitiated Vata afflicts the Snayu and Kandara resulting in difficulty in walking and restricted movements of the spine. Occasionally Kapha Anubandhatva may be seen with additional symptoms of Aruchi, Tandra and Gaurava.

Conclusion: Gridhrasi one among the Nanatmaja Vata Vikaras is characterized by a severe pain radiating from the Sphik, Kati Pradesha down to the toes. It is exemplified by Vataja symptoms like Ruk, Stambha, Toda, Grahana and Spandana. Additional symptoms like Aruchi, Tandra and Gaurava are seen in

Vatakaphaja type of Gridhrasi. Sharp Shocking radiating pain, numbness, weakness, tingling sensation and discomfort along the path of the Sciatic Nerve are the results of Compression, Irritation and Inflammation of the Sciatica Nerve, which is termed as Sciatica. After such a vast and complete literal review and discussion the atiopathogenesis and symptomatology of disease are clearly understood which will pave path for much better diagnosis and treatment of such a familiar but agonizing disease.

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