International Journal of Ayurveda Orientation

Volume 5, Issue 2, February 2020

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Received: February 09, 2020 | **Published:** February 09, 2020

Article ID: 142 | DOI: https://doi.org/10.67949/ijao.2020.142
www.ijao.in

A REVIEW STUDY ON SANGYAHARAN, MURCHHA, AND ITS SYNONYMS IN AYURVEDA SAMHITA WSR ANESTHESIA

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ABSTRACT: The concept of Sangyaharan (Anesthesia) in Ayurveda is a deeply rooted physiological and pathological state described across the Brihatrayi. This study reviews the terminology used by Acharyas Charaka, Sushruta, and Vagbhata to describe the loss of consciousness and sensory perception. By analyzing synonyms like Sangyanash, Murchha, and Moham, this review bridges the gap between ancient Ayurvedic wisdom and modern anesthetic principles.

1.

INTRODUCTION

Contemporary anesthesia involves the controlled, temporary loss of sensation for medical purposes. In Ayurveda, this is "Sangyaharan"—the removal of *Sangya* (consciousness). Ancient scholars recognized that during surgery (*Shastrakarma*) or toxic insults (*Visha*), the *Sangyavaha Srotas* (channels of consciousness) could be obstructed, leading to a state of non-perception of pain.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

· To review references of *Sangyaharan* and its synonyms in *Brihatrayi*.

· To evaluate the physiological basis of *Sangyanash* on Ayurvedic parameters.

· To establish correlations between classical states like *Murchha* or *Moham* and

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modern anesthesia.

3. MATERIALS & METHODS

This literary review collected data from the *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, *Ashtanga Sangraha*, and *Ashtanga Hridaya*. Specific emphasis was placed on *Sutra Sthana*, *Siddhi Sthana*, and *Nidana Sthana* and their respective commentaries like *Ayurveda Dipika* and *Nibandhasangraha*.

4.

OBSERVATIONS

AND SYNONYMS

A. Sangyanash

Denotes the complete loss of consciousness.

· **Contraindications:** In *Charaka Sutra* 14/17, *Nashta-sangya* is listed as a contraindication for *Sweda* (sudation).

· **Toxicology:** In *Paittika Visha*, *Sangyanash* is a cardinal symptom alongside hot breathing (*Ushna Nishwas*).

· **Trauma/Obstruction:** *Sushruta* notes that obstruction in the throat by ropes or hands leads to *Sangyanash* due to vitiated Vata and Kapha.

B. Murchha / Murchay

A state of fainting or transient loss of sensory perception.

· **Pathology:** Described as entering into *Tamas* (darkness) when *Doshas* involve the *Sangyavaha Srotas*.

· **Surgical Use:** *Ashtanga Sangraha* (Sutra 38/14) advises giving *Tikshna Madya* (strong wine) and food before surgery so the patient does not "Murchati" (faint) and remains unaware of the instrument (*Shastra*).

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C. Moham

Defined as *Vichara-ashakti* (inability to think) or *Vaichitya*. In *Sushruta Sutra* 46/6, it is equated with *Murchha* where a person falls like a log of wood (*Kashtavat*).

5. THE PHYSIOLOGICAL PATHWAY

Physiologically, *Sangyanash* occurs when *Doshas* (Pitta/Vata) and *Manasika Doshas* (Rajas/Tamas) affect the *Hridaya* (seat of consciousness).

Term	Context	Modern Correlation
Sangyanash	General loss of sensation	General Anesthesia
Murchha	Pathological fainting	Syncope
Moham	Mental confusion	Sedation
Madatya	Alcohol-induced state	Intoxication/Analgesia

6. PHARMACOLOGICAL TRIGGERS

Ancient surgeons utilized specific *Dravyas* to induce these states:

· **Madya (Wine):** Used as an anesthetic drug. *Sushruta* recommended *Guru Bhojana* (heavy meal) followed by *Madyapan* to ensure rapid action.

· **Sammohan Churna:** Described in *Bhojaprabandha* for brain surgery.

· **Indigenous Pre-medica:** Drugs like *Bhanga* (Cannabis), *Vacha*, *Jatamansi*, and *Sarpagandha* were used to induce trance and tranquility before procedures.

7.

DISCUSSION

Ancient scholars understood the "toxic" potential of anesthetic agents. *Chakrapani* notes that an unknown drug acts like *Visha* (poison) to cause *Sangyanash*, requiring controlled administration. The use of *Tikshna Sura* (strong alcohol) as an oral anesthetic provided the earliest systemic approach to what we now call general anesthesia. Furthermore, the

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stages of *Madatyaya* described in the texts closely mimic the modern four stages of anesthesia.

8.

CONCLUSION

Sangyaharan is a well-documented concept in Ayurvedic Samhitas. Ancient Rishis thoroughly understood sensory loss, pharmacological triggers like *Madya*, and pre-anesthetic preparation (*Poorva Karma*). While modern anesthesia has progressed, the hunt for effective herbo-mineral anesthetic drugs remains a priority for current researchers.

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