

Yoga for Hypertension – a Case Study

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Abstract:

Essential Hypertension leads to permanent harmful changes in blood flow to many organs and also places a burden on the Left Ventricle. Usually, these patients are treated with drugs (1,2). The effect of Yoga and Meditation (Vajrasana, Sukhasana, Shavasana, Pranayama, "Om" Meditation and Yoganidra) on blood pressure has been studied to explore the possibility of reducing the drug dosage and thus eliminating harmful side effects (1,4,6). The objective of this study is to evaluate the effect of yoga therapy (IAYT practices) and meditation on mild to moderate essential hypertensive patient. In this study one patient with hypertensive history was given IAYT (Integrated approach of yoga therapy) practices, Yoganidra and Om Meditation for 60 min daily in the morning and evening along with antihypertensive drugs (3,5,7). Different parameters were recorded at the beginning and again at the end of 1 week. Comparatively decrease in pulse rate, BP and weight were observed after IAYT practices. Result showed beneficial effect of IAYT (3).

Case Report

History of present illness: Mr. G P K is a 72 year old male (height is 162 cm. and his weight is 73 kg.) who came to Arogyadham (Sevagram) for an indoor 7-day yoga therapy treatment for hypertension. He had history of breathlessness, Giddiness and Pain in the neck, low back and knees.

Physical examination: His Physical (General) examination revealed pulse 76 beats/minute; Blood Pressure 178/96 mm Hg; respiratory rate 18 breath/minute; breathe holding time 9 seconds/minute; he had hypertension for 2 years and was on medication. His cardiovascular examination revealed that he did not have raised JVP (jugular venous pressure) and pedal oedema.

The management of hypertension at all the five levels of the Panch kosha

The practice of yoga includes physical postures and exercises, regulation of breathing, deep relaxation, meditation and yoga lifestyle modification (1,2). The techniques are capable of enhancing both physical and mental health. The psychopathological development of yoga practice is the basis of therapeutic effect (3). So, the improvement on disease process through yogic practice can be described as its positive effects (8,4).

IAYT practices followed for Hypertension	
1	Sukshma vyayama (Loosening exercises) Total 15 min Head and neck movements, Complete hand exercises, Shoulder exercises, Spinal twist and stretch, Hip rotation, Knee rotation, Ankle movements, QRT (Quick Relaxation Technique)
2	Asanas (Physical postures) One min each; Total (9 min) Ardha chakrasana, Vajrasana, Vakrasana, Setubandasana, Sarvagasana, Bhujangasana, Shalabhasana, Makarasana, Shashankasana.
3	Breathing techniques (Pranayamas) Hands in and out breathing (10 rounds/2 min), Hands stretch breathing (10 rounds/2 min), Tiger stretch breathing (10 rounds/2 min), Left nostril breathing (27 rounds/2 min) (Chandra Anuloma Viloma), Alternate nostril breathing (12 rounds/2 min) (Nadi Suddhi), Humming bee breath (Bhramari) (2 min).