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Research Article

EFFECT OF *PRABHANJANAVIMARDANAM TAILA NASYA* IN CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS - AN INTERVENTIONAL SINGLE ARM STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Cervical spondylosis is a long-term degenerative disease of the neck spine that impacts the bones and discs of the neck, as well as the spinal canal components. Currently, it is seen among both young and middle-aged individuals, as a result of inactive lifestyles and higher levels of work-related strain. In Ayurveda, cervical spondylosis can be clinically compared to Apabahuka, Viswachi or Greevastambha, with Nasya seen as a cost-effective and efficient treatment option. *Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila*, which is referenced in the *Tailaprakarana* of Sahasrayoga, is recommended for treating Ashiti vatarogas through methods such as Pana, Abhyanga, Nasya, and Basti karma. Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila serves as a pacifier for Vata and Kapha, as well as reducing swelling and it is strengthening, and rejuvenating. After taking into account both the *Dosa kopa* and vitiated *Dosa sthana*, *Nasya* treatment with Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila was chosen. Materials and Methods: The research was planned as an interventional before-after study. Twenty-five individuals who met the inclusion-exclusion criteria were chosen from the Panchakarma Outpatient Department of Government Ayurveda College Panchakarma Hospital, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram. Nasya karma was given to them in the evening (4-5pm), with 8 Bindu (4 ml) in each nostril, for 7 days. Evaluations were conducted using Visual Analog Scale (VAS) for pain and numbness, and Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for neck pain. Results and Discussion: The results were statistically analysed using Wilcoxon's signed rank test. Significant decreases in symptoms were observed across all these factors. The outcome remained consistent during a 14-day follow-up period. **Conclusion:** The research findings indicate that the use of Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila Nasya for seven consecutive days shows effectiveness in decreasing symptoms in individuals with cervical spondylosis (CTRI/2022/06/043112).

INTRODUCTION

Panchakarma offers a one-of-a-kind method in Ayurveda involving five specific procedures for internally purifying the body through the most direct route. This purification process enables the body to restore balance and rejuvenate quickly, as well as enhances the effectiveness of medications given afterwards. Panchakarma plays a comprehensive role in therapy by acting as a method for promotion, prevention, and treatment.



Nasya is highly valued for its effectiveness in treating disorders related to the upper respiratory tract. In *Charaka's* view, the nose serves as the entrance to the head. The medicine applied through the nasal passage penetrates the brain and removes the harmful *Dosas* causing the illness.^[1]

Cervical spondylosis is a long-lasting degenerative process that affects the cervical spine. It impacts the neck's vertebral bodies and intervertebral discs, resulting in herniated intervertebral discs, osteophytes, and ligament hypertrophy. This could potentially lead to the compression of the nerve roots and spinal cord. Cervical spondylosis typically manifests as neck pain. The overall occurrence rate among adults was 48.5%, while the rate for workers who use screens was 55%. As per the 2013 Global Burden of Disease Study, neck pain ranked among the

top 10 causes of years lived with disability in 301 acute and chronic diseases and injuries across 188 countries. Globally, it was ranked fourth, with second place being in China and India. Cervical spondylosis impacts both quality of life and the financial burden due to the costly surgery often required for treatment. Therefore, cervical spondylosis could emerge as a public health issue.^[2]

In Ayurveda, cervical spondylosis is often equated with Apabahuka, Viswachi, or Greevastambha, where Nasya is considered crucial in the treatment according to Avurvedic texts. Tailas are the most appropriate Snehadravvas for Nasva karma. Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila, found in the Tailaprakarana of Sahasrayoga, is popular oil used for treating diseases caused by Dosha. Chatushprayoga is recommended for Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila in voga. Since Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila is recommended for eighty different types of Vatarogas (Ashiti Vatarogas), the actions performed with this specific *Taila* in *Nasya karma* must be examined.[3] Therefore, the research designed to determine the impact Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila Nasya on cervical spondylosis.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design

It is an interventional single arm study with pre-post test.

Ethical Considerations

The study synopsis was placed before Institutional Ethical Committee of Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram. After various levels of scrutiny and subsequent modifications based on their recommendations, the Institutional Ethical Committee met on 03/08/2021, approved the proposal of the dissertation as per letter no. IEC 539-03/08/2021. The trial is registered with Clinical Trials Registry-India with registration number CTRI/2022/06/043112.

Study setting

Panchakarma O.P.D. of Government Ayurveda College Panchakarma Hospital, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram.

Study participants

Participants of all sexes aged 30-60 years with cervical spondylosis registered in the O.P.D., satisfying the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Criteria of selection of participants

Inclusion criteria

Participants of all sexes aged between 30-60 years; Participants satisfying the criteria as per Oswestry Disability Index for neck pain.

Exclusion criteria

Participants who are unfit for *Nasya karma*^[4,5,6]; participants with recent history of cervical spine injury.

Study drug - Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila

The medication for the research, *Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila* in *Mridu paka* was prepared at Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda Research Institute, Ollur, Thrissur, Kerala, India. The study drug was standardised analytically at Drug Standardisation Unit, Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India (Table 1).

Table 1: Ingredients of *Prabhanianavimardanam Taila*[3]

S.No.	Drug	Botanical name/English Name	Quantity
	Kashaya	Sida cordifolia	
1.	Bala		
2.	Shatavari	Asperagus racemosus	
3.	Shigru	Moringa oleifera	
4.	Varana	Crateva nurvala	
5.	Arka	Calotropis gigantean	
6.	Karanja	Pongamia pinnata	
7.	Eranda	Ricinus communis	
8.	Koranda/ Sahachara	Strobilanthes ciliates	
9.	Vajigandha/ Aswagandha	Withania somnifera	16 parts
10.	Prasarini	Paederia foetida	
	Varishta panchamula		
11.	Vilwa	Aegle marmelos	
12.	Kashmari	Gmelina arborea	

13.		Prompa commbose	
	Agnimantha	Premna corymbose	_
14.	Patala	Stereospermum suaveolens	
15.	Shyonaka	Oroxylum indicum	
	Kalka	Valeriana wallichi	
16.	Tagara		
17.	Amarakashta/ Devadaru	Cedrus deodara	
18.	Ela	Eletteria cardamomum	
19.	Sunthi	Zingiber officinale	
20.	Sarshapa	Brassica juncea	
21.	Choraka/ Shati	Kaempferia galangal	
22.	Satahva	Anethum sowa	
23.	Kushta	Saussurea lappa	
24.	Saindhava	Rock salt	1 2024
25.	Rasna	Alpinia galangal	1 part
26.	Kalanusarika/ Methika	Trigonella foenum-greacum	
27.	Vacha	Acorus calamus	
28.	Chitrakam	Plumbago zeylanica	
29.	Mamsi/ Jatamamsi	Nardostachys jatamansi	
30.	Sarala	Pinus roxburghii	
31.	Katurohini	Picorrhiza kurroa	
	Dravadravyas		
32.	Kshira	Milk Milk	8 parts
33.	Dadhi	Curd	4 parts
34.	Kanchika	Sour gruel	4 parts
	Snehadravya	JAPR	
35.	Tila taila	Sesamum indicum	4 parts

Diagnostic criteria

Once baseline data is gathered, a thorough history and examination were conducted using a clinical research form and X-ray evaluation of the cervical spine was done for spondylotic changes.

Intervention/ Procedure of Nasya

The research was carried out in the outpatient Panchakarma theatre of Government Ayurveda College Panchakarma Hospital, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram. Those who met the criteria for inclusion was chosen to take part in the study once they have given their consent. All the participants were subjected to Nasya karma (Table 2) with

Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila in *Madhyama matra* – 8 *Bindu* (4 ml) each nostril, in one sitting, consecutively for seven days in the evening around 4pm to 5pm by the principal investigator. The method of giving *Taila* was in the form of *Bindu*, where 1 *Bindu* equivalent to 0.5 ml. The disease condition was assessed before treatment (0th day), after treatment (8th day), and followed up again on the 14th day after treatment. The research equipment included the Visual Analogue Scale for Pain and Numbness, Oswestry Disability Index for Neck Pain^[7], and case proforma.

Table 2: Procedure of Nasya [8,9]

Phase	Intervention	Drug	Mode of administration	Dose	Time
Purva	Abhyanga	Tila taila	Externally		5-10 min/day
karma	Nadi sweda		Externally		5-10 min/day
Pradhana karma	Nasya	Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila (Mridu paka)	Nasal	4ml each nostril	4-5 pm

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Paschat karma	Dhumapana	Haridradi dhuma varti	Nasal	3 puffs thrice in each nostril
	Kabalagraha	Lukewarm water	Oral	Upto Kanthasudhi
Duration	7 days			

Assessment Parameters

Assessment was done by Visual analogue scale (VAS) for pain (score 0-10) and numbness (score 0-3), Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for Neck pain (Five stages of disability based on the total scores out of 50 – no disability (0-4), mild disability (5-14), moderate disability (15-24), severe disability (25-34) and complete disability (35-50) and *Samyak nasya lakshanas*. Assessment of Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) for Pain and Numbness and Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for neck pain was done before *Nasya* (0th day), after *Nasya* (8th day) and after follow-up (14th day after *Nasya*).

Sample size

Sample size was calculated as 25 participants satisfying the inclusion criteria.

Statistical analysis

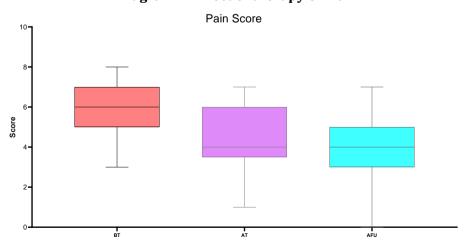
The statistical analysis was performed on the gathered data from study variables within the study population. The Wilcoxon signed rank test was used to determine the efficacy of *Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila Nasya* in cervical spondylosis. The study parameters were used to calculate the median, IQR, and 95% confidence interval. The calculated P value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

RESULTS Effect of therapy on Pain

Table 3: Effect of therapy on Pain

		N	Wil	coxon Signed Rank	s Test	
		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Z	P
	Negative Ranks	24 of /	mp://ijaps12.5	300		<0.001
BT vs AT	Positive Ranks	0	0	0	4.401	
DIVSAI	Ties	1	Lat.		4.401	
	Total	g 25	m _B			
	Negative Ranks	18	9.5	171		<0.001
AT va AEII	Positive Ranks	O Pul	MAPR O UPI	0	2.047	
AT vs AFU	Ties	7			3.947	
	Total	25				
	Negative Ranks	24	12.5	300		<0.001
DT A EII	Positive Ranks	0	0	0	4 227	
BT vs AFU	Ties	1			4.337	
	Total	25				

Diagram 1: Effect of therapy on Pain



(Box plot diagram describing pain score at before treatment, after treatment and after follow up. Lower and upper end of the whisker represents minimum and maximum score respectively. Lower border of the box represents 25th percentile and upper border of the box represents 75th percentile. Middle horizontal line represents median score.)

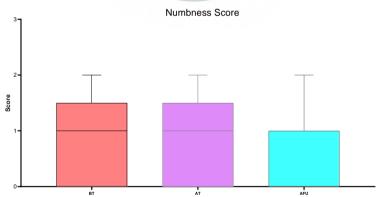
From the table, it was observed that the median of the pain score on 0^{th} day (before treatment) was 6 and IQR was between 5-7. The median of pain score on 8^{th} day (after treatment) was 4 and the IQR was between 3.5-6. The median of pain score on 14^{th} day (after follow up) was 4, and IQR was between 3-5. Wilcoxon signed ranks test showed that there was significant decrease in pain score BT (on 0^{th} day) - AT (on 8^{th} day) stage, AT (on 8^{th} day) - AFU (on 14^{th} day) stage and BT (on 0^{th} day) - AFU (on 14^{th} day) stage with p<0.001. This shows that the results are highly significant statistically (Table 3), (Diagram1).

Effect of therapy on Numbness

Table 4: Effect of therapy on Numbness

		N	Wilco	oxon Signed Rank	ks Test	
		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Z	P
	Negative Ranks	0	0	0		
BT vs AT	Positive Ranks	0	0	0	0.000	1.000
DIVSAI	Ties	25				
	Total	25				
	Negative Ranks	9	5	45	3.000	0.003
AT vs AFU	Positive Ranks	0	0	0		
ATVSAFU	Ties	16	Avurved	\sqrt{}		
	Total	25	hup://ijapr.in			
	Negative Ranks	9	5	45		
BT vs AFU	Positive Ranks	-0	0 arh	0	3.000	0.002
DIVSAFU	Ties	16	B		3.000	0.003
	Total	25	100			

Diagram 2 - Effect of therapy on Numbness



(Box plot diagram describing numbness score at before treatment, after treatment and after follow up. Lower and upper end of the whisker represents minimum and maximum score respectively. Lower border of the box represents 25th percentile and upper border of the box represents 75th percentile. Middle horizontal line represents median score.)

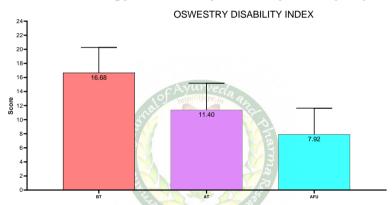
From the table, it was observed that the median of the numbness score on 0^{th} day (before treatment) was 1 and IQR was between 0-1.5. The median of numbness score on 8^{th} day (after treatment) was 1 and the IQR was between 0-1.5. The median of numbness score on 14^{th} day (after follow up) was 0, and IQR was between 0-1. Wilcoxon signed ranks test showed that there is no significant decrease in numbness score BT (on 0^{th} day) - AT (on 8^{th} day) stage, as p>0.05. Wilcoxon signed ranks test showed significant decrease in numbness, AT (on 8^{th} day) - AFU (on 14^{th} day) stage and BT (on 0^{th} day) - AFU (on 14^{th} day) stage with p<0.05. This shows that the study is significant statistically in AT-AFU stage and BT-AFU stage (Table 4), (Diagram 2).

Effect of therapy on Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for Neck pain

Table 5: Effect of therapy on Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for Neck pain

	S. Linear or therapy		Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test			
		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Z	P
	Negative Ranks	25	13	325		<0.001
DT *** AT	Positive Ranks	0	0	0	4.400	
BT vs AT	Ties	0			4.409	
	Total	25				
	Negative Ranks	25	13	325		<0.001
AT va AEU	Positive Ranks	0	0	0	4.403	
AT vs AFU	Ties	0			4.403	
	Total	25				
	Negative Ranks	25	13	325		-0.001
BT vs AFU	Positive Ranks	0	0	0	4 202	
DIVSAFU	Ties	0			4.383	<0.001
	Total	25				

Diagram 3 - Effect of therapy on Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for Neck pain



(Box plot diagram describing ODI score at before treatment, after treatment and after follow up. Lower and upper end of the whisker represents minimum and maximum score respectively. Lower border of the box represents 25th percentile and upper border of the box represents 75th percentile. Middle horizontal line represents median score.)

From the table, it was observed that the median of the ODI on 0^{th} day (before treatment) was 16 and IQR was between 14-19. The median of ODI on 8^{th} day (after treatment) was 11 and the IQR was between 8.5-13.5. The median of ODI on 14^{th} day (after follow up) was 8, and IQR was between 5-9.5. Wilcoxon signed ranks test showed that there was significant decrease in ODI, BT (on 0^{th} day) - AT (on 8^{th} day) stage, AT (on 8^{th} day) - AFU (on 14^{th} day) stage and BT (on 0^{th} day) - AFU (on 14^{th} day) stage, with p<0.001. This shows that the results are highly significant statistically (Table 5), (Diagram 3).

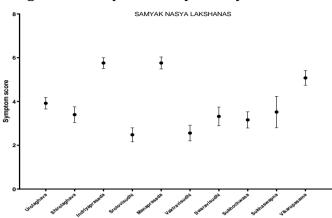
Analysis of Samvak Nasva Lakshanas [10,11]

Table 6: Analysis of Samvak Nasva Lakshanas

Symptoms	Mean	SD	95% CI for mean		
Symptoms	Mean	30	Lower limit	Upper limit	
Urolaghava	4	0.64	3.66	4.18	
Shirolaghava	3	0.87	3.04	3.76	
Indriyaprasada	6	0.60	5.51	6.01	
Srotovisudhi	3	0.77	2.16	2.8	
Manaprasada	6	0.66	5.49	6.03	
Vaktravisudhi	3	0.87	2.2	2.92	
Swaravisudhi	3	1.03	2.9	3.74	
Sukhochwasa	3	0.90	2.79	3.53	
Sukhaswapna	3	1.74	2.8	4.24	
Vikaropasama	5	0.81	4.74	5.42	

The above data represents the average of the days in which the participants attained *Samyak Nasya Lakshanas* during the treatment of *Nasya* (1-7 days) with 95% Confidence limit. From the table, it is clear that *Urolaghava* attained on an average of 4 days. In the case of *Shirolaghava*, *Srotovisudhi*, *Vaktravisudhi*, *Swaravisudhi*, *Sukhochwasa* and *Sukhaswapna*, an average of 3 days were taken for attainment. *Indriyaprasada* and *Manaprasada* occurred on an average of 6 days. *Vikaropasama* attained on an average of 5 days (Table 6), (Diagram 4).

Diagram 4: Analysis of Samyak Nasya Lakshanas



DISCUSSION

Effect of therapy in Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) - Pain

Out of 25 participants, 15 participants presented with moderate pain (pain score between 4-6). In these 15 participants, the pain became mild after treatment and follow up in 4 and 1 participant with mild pain after treatment and no pain after follow up. 6 participants presented with no change in pain after treatment and pain became mild after follow up. In 4 participants with moderate pain, there was no change after treatment and after follow up, but the score under moderate pain reduced after treatment and follow up, even though it was in moderate category of pain. 9 among the 25 participants presented with severe pain (pain score between 7-9). In these, the pain became moderate after treatment and after follow up in 6 participants and 2 participants presented with severe pain after treatment and moderate pain after follow up. There was no change in pain score of one of the participant with severe pain after treatment and after follow up, but the score under severe pain reduced after treatment and follow up, even though it was in severe category of pain. The chronic degenerative changes in the cervical spine along with long duration may be the reason for no change in the pain in that participant. Only one of the participant presented with mild pain (pain score between 1-3) before and after treatment and the pain score became zero after follow up. In that participant, the symptoms started only recently and the early intervention helped to reduce the disease in the beginning stage.

Effect of therapy in Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)-Numbness

13 out of total 25 participants presented with numbness. 6 participants presented with numbness before treatment and it remained the same after treatment. After follow up, the numbness score of 4 participants became occasionally present and for the other two, the numbness score remained the same. 7 participants had numbness occasionally present before treatment and there was no change in numbness score after treatment. After follow up, there was no numbness for 5 participants and for the other two, the numbness score remained the same. There was no numbness for the remaining 12 participants.

Effect of therapy in Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for Neck pain

Orthopedic physical assessment by David J. Magee classified the Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for Neck pain into five stages of disability based on the total scores out of 50 - No disability (0-4), Mild disability (5-14), Moderate disability (15-24), Severe disability(25-34) and Complete disability (35-50). Out of the total 25 participants, 13 participants presented with moderate disability and it became mild disability after treatment and after follow up. 3 participants had moderate disability before and after treatment and it became mild after follow up. One participant had no change in moderate disability before treatment, after treatment and after follow up and for one participant with moderate disability before and after treatment, there observed no disability with complete cure of the disease after follow up. 6 participants had mild disability before treatment, after treatment and after follow up. One participant had mild disability before treatment and the disability became zero after treatment and after follow up, with complete cure of the disease.

Effect on Samvak nasva lakshanas

It was observed that from 4^{th} day onwards participants attained *Urolaghutva*. *Urolaghava* observed as a feeling of lightness in chest region. As

Nasya is a procedure which removes Kapha dosha from *Urdhwajatru pradesa,* a similar type of *Kaphaharana* is expected from adjacent areas like *Uras*, which is one among the Kapha sthana. In this study, participants attained Shirolaghava from 3rd day onwards. By removal of Kapha dosha, the participant experienced lightness in the head region. Shirolaghava is considered as a tool to monitor Nasva karma, since absence of Shirolaghutva indicates Ayoga lakshana. Most of the participants attained *Indrivaprasada* on 6th day onwards. It was observed as a feeling of pleasantness of senses. By doing Nasya, proper expulsion of Dosa and thereby cleansing of Srotas happens. This may present as lightness of *Indrivas*. Most participants attained Srotovisudhi from 3rd day onwards. By doing Nasya, proper expulsion of Dosha and thereby cleansing of *Srotas* happens. From 6th day onwards all the participants attained Manaprasada and was observed as happiness of mind and this is due to reduction in pain from its initial condition. All the participants attained Vaktravisudhi from 3rd day onwards. It was observed as clarity in mouth. Nasva karma should be continued up to which the patient feels no taste of medicine in the mouth. Here the participants attained Swaravisudhi from 3rd day onwards and it was observed as clarity of voice. *Kantha srotas* became clearer due to proper expulsion of *Dosa*. From 3rd day onwards, participants got this Lakshana and observed as unobstructed breathing. Proper cleansing of the *Srotas* was noted as the reason behind this. All the participants attained *Sukhaswapna* from 3rd day onwards. It was observed as comfortable sleep. One of the main reasons for disturbed sleep is pain. As the pain reduces the person may get good sleep. From 5th day onwards all the participants got Vikaropasama and a decrease in symptoms was observed mainly in pain. Here, the Vatahara, Brimhana and Balya properties of the medicine helps to cure the

Effect of *Prabhanjanavimardanam Taila Nasya* in Cervical Spondylosis

Cervical spondylosis involves compression and inflammation of the cervical nerve roots. The drug transportation by lymphatic path can reach direct into CSF. Arachnoid matter sleeve that extends along olfactory nerve also cover spinal cord from foramen magnum to the level of S2. Spinal nerves that originate from spinal cord to peripheral structures are in close contact with this meningeal layer. The drug used for Nasya which is anti-inflammatory in character may spread quickly through meningeal arachnoid sleeve which extends to spinal cord and may stimulate cervical spinal nerves which has undergone inflammation or compression. The reduction of compression will automatically release nerve leading to relief from the pain. Nasya karma selected here

successfully helps to counteract the degenerative and inflammatory process. The drugs selected here are lipid in nature, that is, *Taila* and it is proven that lipid soluble micro-molecules present in the drug penetrate through the blood-brain barrier relatively easily via the lipid membranes of the cells and higher lipophilicity results in better transport of drug to the brain and other neuronal structures. The formulation Prabhanianavimardanam Taila contain Vatahara dravyas processed in Taila, the action of which can be expected in alleviating Vata, thereby preventing further degenerative process and the pain predominant features. Nasal-brain route has now become most promising fastest drug-delivery route. Clinically, Nasya is proved to be effective in a wide range of clinical entities with faster action. Also, it has been believed to have actions at neuro-endocrine levels. Nasya karma, being the only Panchakarma, which is believed to be having direct action on brain. researches has to be performed in this arena, exploring the totality of the process.

CONCLUSION

Nasya karma, one amongst the Panchakarma carries very high importance as it deals with the organ of high importance, the Shiras and is the treatment of choice in Urdwajatrugata vikaras. It is one amongst the line of treatment of Vataja vikaras. Cervical spondylosis is a common degenerative condition in the area of intervertebral disc of cervical spine with gradual formation of spondylotic ridges, osteophytic facet, ossification of the post longitudinal ligament and disc shrinks slowly presenting with symptoms related to pressure on spine, associated nerves and blood vessels resulting in neck pain, radicular pain, etc., which commonly affects the old age and middle age.

In this study, 25 participants of cervical spondylosis between the age group of 30-60 years were subjected to Nasva karma with Prabhanjanavimardanam taila in Mridu paka in the dosage of 4ml each nostril, performed for a period of 7 days in the evening time, between 4-5 pm. There were two drop outs in the study and all the participants completed the course of Nasya. All the participants presented with Samvak nasva lakshanas. The observation revealed maximum pervasiveness in the 30-40 years age group. 100% of the patients were having the symptom of neck pain. The assessment was based on Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) for Pain and Numbness and Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) for Neck Pain. The observations were analysed statistically with Wilcoxon signed ranks test and the results were statistically significant. Hence it can be concluded that Prabhanjanavimardanam taila nasya is effective in reducing the signs and symptoms of participants with Cervical spondylosis.

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