

## A Siddha review of fistula

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### Abstract

Fistulas were formerly associated with considerable mortality rates. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are 50,000-100,000 new cases of fistulas every year. The three humours maintain the upkeep of the human body through their combined functioning and when deranged they bring about peculiar effects. Siddha system of medicine can create great hope for controlling the fistula. It is considered that many such diseases have multiple etiologies; hence a multipronged approach is more suitable in their management. A detailed description about *Pakanthiram* is present in ancient Siddha texts “*Pararagasasegaram*” and “*Siddhar aruvai maruththuvam*” with symptomatology, their curative and preventive measures. This review explains the basic understanding and description of *pakanthiram* (fistula), symptomatology of which resembles with symptoms of fistula and, classification of *Pakanthiram*. Data was collected from '*Pararasasegaram*' and '*Siddhar Aruvai Maruththuvam*' about '*Pakanthiram*' related to modern aspect. The data was analyzed in terms of allopathic system. '*Pararasa Seagram*' has classified fistula in to six major groups; *Moola Pavunthiram*, *Suroni Pavunthiram*, *Yoni Pavunthiram*, *Pavunthira Odu*, *Thaarai Pavunthiram* and *Vilai Pavunthiram*. The first four major groups have been related to the perennial region. *Thaarai Pavunthiram* is concerned with artery and vein. Finally, *Vilai Pavunthiram* has been related to the intracranial space and upper spinal cord. The relationship between the ancient Siddha medicine sagacity and modern classification of fistula bears striking similarities.

**Key words:** Siddha medicine, *Pakanthiram*, fistula  
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