

Study on etiopathogenesis of Hemorrhoids

AAJ Pushpakumara¹ and MB Mandal²

Hemorrhoid is a disease affecting mankind for thousands of years. Prevalence of hemorrhoids is very much high all over the world due to changes of life style and dietary habits where people indulge less fiber diets. Hemorrhoids bother about 89% of all Americans at some time in their lives. The condition of the rest of the world has not shown much difference; the condition of our country is also a same. The real ground situation is not viewed from the figures; it may be double the actual figures because of cultural and social atmosphere many people suffering from ano rectal disease are very much reluctant to expose the condition, particularly females in Asian countries.

The etiology of hemorrhoids is still a matter of conjecture among proctologists. The contributory factors have been considered as heredity, occupation, excessive straining, lack of valves in vein, pregnancy etc. A group of proctologists believe anal infection as a principal cause of the haemorrhoidal disease whereas others have attributed this is to economic development leading to refined deitric ingredients with low residue. Similar controversies are reflected in their description of pathogenesis of the disease.

A number of researchers from time to time have contributed their views regarding the classification, symptomatology and the management of hemorrhoids. However, no attempt has been made to explore this matter in relation to the views mentioned in the various Ayurvedic text books, concerning the etiopathogenesis of hemorrhoids.

This investigation primarily concerned the study of etiopathogenesis of hemorrhoids specially the correlation between liver function and hemorrhoids. One hundred twenty three (123) cases of hemorrhoid were selected from the Ano-rectal Clinic of Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Hospital and Benars Hindu University, the investigation were done on routine blood, stool, analyses of gastric juice, liver function tests, pancreatic enzymes etc. Majority of cases recorded increase serum bilirubin level 39%, alkaline phosphate 58%, S.GOT 33% and S.G.P.T 44%. Most cases had an increased serum amylase, since the fat metabolism has decreased in most cases (75% of had low phospholipids and total lipid). It is most probably due to malfunction of the liver. This suggest most cases showed derangement of liver function. These finding correlate with previous work, the Ayurvedic hypothesis being that whenever there is derangement in the liver function it will result in poor digestion and those patients are prone to have a hemorrhoids. This study strongly suggests relationship particularly between disturbed liver functions and hemorrhoid.

Key words: Hemorrhoids, Etiology, Ayurveda, Ano-rectal clinics

¹ Department of Chikitsa, Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute, Yakkala, Sri Lanka

² Department of Physiology, Benars Hindu University, India