



# A CRITICAL STUDY ON LONG-TERM PRESERVATION OF SHAVA (CADAVER) ACCORDING TO AYURVEDIC AS WELL AS RECENT TECHNIQUES

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## ABSTRACT

Maharishi Sushruta served as the country's first surgeon. Acharya Susruta is credited as the invention of surgery in Ayurveda. Being able to dissect a dead corpse is crucial, in Sushruta's opinion, for becoming a great doctor and surgeon. Sushruta gives a brief explanation of dissection and preservation in the Sushruta Samhita. Good preservation practices need understanding of them. A dead body has a higher chance of being destroyed if the wrong preservation method is utilized to keep it safe. Acharya Charaka asserts that the Sharir Rachana requires a comprehensive knowledge of Shuksama and Sthula Sharir. A determined effort is undertaken to consolidate all of the material on Ayurvedic science that is now available, including information on how the body is gathered, stored, and conserved. The Ayurvedic preservation technique is different from the contemporary preservation system.

**KEYWORDS:** Dead body preservation, Dissection, Ayurveda etc.

## INTRODUCTION

Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita are the two primary texts of Ayurveda. Maharishi Sushruta, according to Ayurveda, was India's first doctor. There are a number of indicators that Sushruta is quite knowledgeable about Sharir Rachana. Sushruta describes the ayurvedic method of preservation and dissection in great detail. The Sushruta Samhita emphasized medical topics including the use of various equipment and surgical techniques. His work involves a significant amount of ancient Hindu anatomical thought. The fact that he believed students training to become surgeons should have a clear understanding of the human body's composition provides further convincing evidence that the knowledge about human anatomy was discovered through both observation of the human body's surface and human dissection. The development of surgery is significant when looking at the

barriers that inhibited the study of anatomy in ancient India. Hindu texts state that the human body is sacred after death. By using a brush-like broom to scrape off skin and flesh without the dissector having to strike the warps, Maharishi Sushruta, on the other hand, was able to get through the declaration and reveal his extraordinary understanding of human anatomy.<sup>1</sup>

### **PRESERVATION OF A CADAVAR**

- A persistent sickness does not result in death.
- A deceased body contains all of its bodily components.
- The dead had a lifespan of fewer than one hundred years.
- Death is not the result of poison.

### **MATERIAL FOR PREPARATION**

- Extremely cold rivers and sluggish currents
- Kusha
- Munja
- Kshan
- The bamboo cage

### **PRESERVATION PROCEDURES**

The Antargata mala was then taken off once the deceased corpse had been collected (intestinal faecal). The deceased corpse is then enclosed with a cage and bound with Munja, Kusha (Dharbha), Chal, and Kshan. For seven days, the cage containing the deceased was submerged in a slow-moving, wet river. After seven days, the corpse was retrieved from the sea.<sup>3</sup>

### **MODERN METHOD OF PRESERVATION OF SHAVA (CADAVER) METHODS**

Cadavers honor body science and are frequently used by medical students to learn about anatomy. Before doing surgery on real patients, surgical techniques are frequently tested on cadavers. Despite the fact that many institutions have adapted to utilize surgical templates and robots to instruct pupils. There is still a need for cadavers for practical training. In the United States, appendectomies, or the removal of the appendix, are still performed on live cadavers rather than through technological simulations 28000 times every year. Students gain practical learning experience through gross anatomy, a popular course in medical school that explores the visible architecture of the human body. Cadavers are now required for more than just academic research projects. The anatomy hafts and science treatment are two examples of organizations. The register helps move corpses to the most critical locations.<sup>4</sup>

The methods for keeping cadavers have changed throughout the past 200 years. Cadavers had to be utilized immediately away since there weren't any suitable safeguards to stop the body shape from rapidly decaying at the moment. In order to teach and conduct classes on human anatomy, preservation was necessary. Glutaraldehyde was the first significant chemical utilized for embalming and sustaining the body, despite leaving yellow stains

in the tissue that might obstruct investigation and analysis. The chemical most frequently used for embalming remains formaldehyde. It is a colourless solution that maintains the tissue's realistic look and enables long-term, effective preservation of the body.<sup>5</sup>

## **METHODOLOGY –**

The information on cadaveric preservation was gathered from a variety of articles, manuscripts, reliable websites, textbooks, Samhitas, and other sources.

## **PRESERVATION OF CADAVAR IN THE PAST**

The dead body of Raja Dasaratha was said to have been kept in a tailadrona during the Vedic era. Egyptian Pyramids: Egyptian pyramids have a reputation for holding onto corpses for a long time<sup>6</sup>

## **CADAVERIC PRESERVATION**

To become a doctor or surgeon, one must be able to preserve the dead body for an extended period of time with minimal impact and no harm to the body since any conditions may be quickly diagnosed. The preservation of dead bodies is a topic Acharaya Susruta addresses in the fifth chapter of Sushruta Samita. The ayurvedic method and the current preservation system are very dissimilar.<sup>7</sup>

## **PRESERVING A CADAVER**

- That there are no injuries in any portion of the body
- The dead body is between the ages of 50 and 60.
- Death is not caused by a long-term illness.
- That all of the muscles are intact;
- The dead body is not preserved after the post mortem procedure.
- Death is not caused by poisoning

## **PURPOSE FOR PRESERVING**

The goal, according to contemporary science, is to preserve the body's health for a very long time and to make every organ or structure visible.<sup>8</sup>

## **PRESERVATION MATERIAL**

1. Clinical Scalpel
2. Red lead-250 mg.
3. Surgical blade
4. Glycerine-3.5 litre
5. Water-3.5 litre
6. Pot
7. Canula
8. Water-4.5 litre

9. Spirit-4.5 litre
10. Carbolic acid or Phenol- 2.5 litre
11. Formaline-6 litre
12. Turpentine oil- 450 ml
13. Staining fluid

## **PRESERVATION PROCEDURES**

Gather the dead corpse and set it on the dissection table in the dissection room in the supine position. Over the dead person's skin lies a pot containing preserving fluid. The inguinal ligament should then fall or track between the pubic tubercle and the anterior superior iliac spine. Look for the femoral sheath after making an incision below the 4 cm inguinal ligament. In the femoral sheath, the femoral artery is located laterally while the femoral vein is located medially. To transfer preservation liquid from the pot into the circulation, a canula is placed into the femoral artery. By puncturing the allpin at several locations on the body, we can confirm the presence of fluid in every portion of the body. The left normal carotid artery will be used to preserve the deceased corpse.<sup>9</sup>

## **DISCUSSION**

The storage and dissection of a dead corpse are topics that are discussed in great detail in ancient writings. Sushruta established the dissection and preservation procedures used in science. Sushruta advises placing a dead corpse first in water from a slow-moving river if someone wants to keep it alive. To be able to think about the entire body, Sushruta suggests that we retain a dead corpse that has all of the bodily components. Whether or not chronic diseases are the cause of death, there may be changes in the internal or external parts of the body.<sup>10</sup>

According to Acharya Sushruta, the body shouldn't be kept when someone dies from poison. Given that the toxin in the deceased corpse might cause decomposition and impact various bodily components. As a result, a corpse should be maintained in the case of a natural death. According to Acharya Sushruta, a dead corpse will be dissected after seven days of preservation using kusha, khasha, and bark. Additionally, Sushruta warns against using a sharp edge to dissect. He claims that using bark and kusha khasha in dissection will yield comprehensive knowledge. According to conventional medicine, there are three ways to preserve a dead corpse.<sup>11</sup>

- Formalin solution
- Thiel solution
- Saturated salt solution.

## **Conclusion**

The deceased body must be preserved for dissection. Both Ayurveda and contemporary science identify the numerous preservation techniques. Ayurveda uses a straightforward and organic preservation strategy. In contrast to the western technique of preservation, which employs several chemical agents, the ayurveda approach uses no chemicals at all. The deceased body may suffer injury as a result of the chemical substances. This investigation has led us to the conclusion that the Ayurvedic preservation method is safe and natural, and that it may be utilized to preserve a body for a reasonable price.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST –NIL****SOURCE OF SUPPORT AND FINANCE -NONE****REFERENCE**

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