

Supremacy of *Shalya Tantra* over modern surgery

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Abstract

Sushrutasamhita describes the ancient tradition of surgery in India and is considered as one of the brilliant texts in ancient Indian medical literature. This treatise contains detailed descriptions of the way of teaching and practice of surgery by our great ancient surgeon, *Acharya Sushruta*, who had wide knowledge of surgery which has extreme relevance even in today's practice of surgery and other related surgical and medical branches. *Sushruta* was the famous surgeon of *Kashi*, known as *Banaras*. He used to teach and practice around 600 BC and had made significant contributions to various branches of medicine. *Sushrutasamhita* written by him is the foundation of Indian traditional system of medicine and it contains 186 chapters in which he has given description of 1120 diseases, 700 medicinal plants, 64 preparations from mineral sources and 57 from animal sources. He has given precise description of method of dissection, preservation of Cadaver, types of suturing and suture material used, *Yantra-Shastra* (instruments), minor and major operative procedures, *Bhagna* (fractures and dislocation), *Kaumarbhritya* (pediatrics), *Twak Vikara* (skin diseases), *Panchakarma*, and many more in addition to his well-known work of plastic surgery. *Sushrutasamhita* is considered as the landmark in the field of surgery and *Acharya Sushruta* is glorified as "Father of Indian Surgery". He performed surgeries in an era when no diagnostic facilities were available. Probably, it was his wide knowledge of basic science which made him such a versatile surgeon. The list of his contributions is never ending. In this review an attempt has been made to highlight the ancient surgical concepts of *Sushrutasamhita* which are being practiced even today based on same basic principles with later modifications and amendments.

Keywords: *Sushruta*, *Shalya*, *Shastra karma*, surgery

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