

# Plastic Surgery in Ayurveda



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## Abstract

From ancient Indian surgery, it has been observed that various operations successfully performed in those days also. In ancient period Acharya were doing surgery in Ayurveda. *Sushrut* was the first and famous surgeon of ancient science. There are so many examples and descriptions of surgery available in *Ayurvedic Samhita*. *Sushrut* has described plastic surgery like *Nasa-sandhan* (Rhinoplasty), *Karna-sandhan* (Auroplasty) and *Oshta-sandhan* (lipoplasty). Contribution of ancient Indian surgery in the field of plastic operation cannot be over-estimated.

It's true that in old days one of Royal punishment was to cut way ear-lobe, nose etc. Indian surgeon correcting such deformity by shifting the skin flap to reform the nose and ear. They had plenty of opportunity to do Rhinoplasty which was first to be done in this country and itself made Indian surgery unique. They also appreciated the importance of proper wound healing for successful plastic surgery operation. It is common man's thinking that there is no surgical treatment for disease in the science of *Ayurved*. After the turn over the pages of *sushrut Samhita*, one will understand that *sushrut* has laid done the basic concept of the present surgery. The present article is an attempt to highlighting on reference of ancient plastic surgery in *Ayurveda*.

**Keywords:** Plastic surgery, *Sandhan Karma*, Ayurveda, *Sushrut*.

## Introduction

Ayurved science of life which is divided into 8 branches. *Shalya* (surgery) is one of the branches of *Ashtanag* Ayurved [1]. In ancient time *Ayurveda* was at top point of mountain but in between there was long period of slavery and Indian become depend country on British government. This is period of decline period of Ayurved and now common man's thinking that there is no surgical treatment for disease in the science of ayurved. It takes a beet troubles to turn over the pages of *sushrut Samhita*, one will find that *sushrut* has laid done the basic concept of the present surgery. *Sushruta* is considering as father of modern surgery, because of his logical approach prudent and Clare view and marvellous presentation which is time tested. From ancient Indian surgery, it has been observed that various operations successfully performed in those days also. The various surgical procedures were divided in *chedya*, *bhedya* and *vedhya* [2]. *Chedankarma* was performed in those disease were suppuration is absent, swelling is herd and immovable or in those diseases where gangrene develops. The same procedure is still being adopted in modern science. Hand is best instrument for surgery [3].

## Materials and Methods

For the present review detailed literary study is performed. The Detail content of and references are analysed from available

text. Principal texts referred are *Sushrutasmhita* and some *Vedas*. Also relevant references are taken from other Research articles available from internet.

## Meaning of Plastic Surgery

Plastic surgery is a surgical speciality involving the restoration, reconstruction, or alternation of human body. It includes cosmetic or aesthetical surgery, hand surgery, microsurgery and treatment of burns [4].

## History of Plastic Surgery

The oldest surgical references found in Ancient Egyptian medical text [5]. This Reconstructive surgery technique was being carried out in India. *Sushruta* was a physician that made important contributions to the field of plastic and cataract surgery in 6th century BC. The medical works of both *Sushruta* and *Charak* originally in Sanskrit were translated into the Arabic language during the Abbasid Caliphate in 750 AD [6]. The Arabic translations made their way into Europe via intermediaries. After that surgical technique of *sushruta* is followed in Italy.

British physicians travelled to India to see rhinoplasties being performed by native methods. They Reported on Indian rhinoplasty performed by a *Kumharvaidya* which was published in the Gentleman's Magazine by 1794 [7]. Joseph Constantine

Carpue spent 20 years in India studying local plastic surgery methods. Carpue performed the first major surgery in the Western world by 1815 [8]. Instruments described in the Sushruta Samhita were further modified in the Western world. The Roman scholar Aulus Cornelius Celsus recorded surgical techniques, including plastic surgery, in the first century AD. The Romans also performed plastic cosmetic surgery. They were able to perform simple techniques, such as repairing damaged ears, from around the 1st century BC.

### References of Plastic Surgery in Vedas [9]

Description of *Sandhan karma* found in ancient times. During *Vedik* period science of *Sandhan karma* is very well developed. Reference of Magical operative surgery of *Ashwinikumaras* mentioned in vedas.

In anger Lord *Shiva* cuts the head of *Ganesha*, later on which is replaced with head of elephant. After that event *shree Ganesha* is known as “*Gajanana*” This is best example of transplantation which is well listen since childhood from our mothers and grandmother in stories.

*Bispala* is wife of king *Khela*. She lost her leg in war. *Ashwinikumaras* was transplanted her leg with an iron leg [10]. The lost part of body of *Rishi Atriwas* was re-joined by *Ashwinikumaras*. The body of *Acharya Shyaba* was cut into three parts. *Ashwinikumaras* immediately re-joined all parts and give him life [11]. Beside the Rigved, Padampuran also have written examples of reconstructive plastic surgery [12]. *Bhairav* cut the head of *Brahma* and *Dadhichi*. *Ashwinikumaras* re-joined their head. They also transplanted the head of *Yahnya*. *Dadhyancha* was the master of *Madhu Vidya*. *Ashwinikumaras* showed them interest in learning of *Madhu Vidya*. So they cut head of *Dadyyancha* and kept separate. Then they transplant the head of horse to the body of *Dadhyancha* and learnt *Madhu Vidya* from them. After learning *Madhu Vidya*, they transplanted his own head [13]. *Dakshya* cut head and trunk of *Chyavan*. *Ashwinikumaras* performed the first plastic operation to join them [14].

According to *Upanishad*, *Ashwinikumaras* also operated and repaired the excised head of *Yagyana* by *Rudra*. *Ashwinikumaras* were doing both homo and hetero transplantations at that time.

### Plastic Surgery in Ayurved

*Sushrut* has described plastic surgery. In plastic surgery particular *Nasa-sandhan* (Rhinoplasty), *Karna-sandhan* (Auroplasty) and *Oshta-sandhan* (lipoplasty) are mentioned in Ayurved. Contribution of ancient Indian surgery in the field of plastic operation cannot be over-estimated. It's true that in old days one of Royal punishment was to cut way ear-lobe, nose etc [15]. Indian surgeon has applied their injurious technique for correcting such deformity by shifting the skin flap to reform the nose and ear. They had plenty of opportunity to do rhinoplasty which was first to be done in any country and itself made Indian

surgery unique. They also appreciated the importance of proper wound healing for successful plastic surgery operation.

*Sushruta* has described 15 methods of *Karna-sandhan* (Auroplasty) repairs of the several ear-lobes [16] (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Showing Techniques of karna-sandhan-vidhi (Rhinoplasty).

Techniques of karna-sandhan-vidhi (Rhinoplasty)					
1	<i>Nemisandhanaka</i>	6	<i>Nirvedham</i>	11	<i>Hinakarna</i>
2	<i>Utpalbhedha</i>	7	<i>Vyayojinam</i>	12	<i>Vallikarna</i>
3	<i>Valluraka</i>	8	<i>Kapatsandinam</i>	13	<i>Yashtikarna</i>
4	<i>Asangima</i>	9	<i>Ardhakapatsandinam</i>	14	<i>kakoshataka</i>
5	<i>Aaharya</i>	10	<i>Sankhipta</i>	15	<i>gandakarna</i>

### Sandhanarthajivitamansa (pedicled skin flap) [17]:

If skin flaps unavailable from ear during Auroplasty than for *Sandhanprakriya* (plastic surgery) than it can take from *Gandapradesha* (living flap connected as base of cheek).

### karnasandha-vidhi (Auroplasty)

*Mahrshi Sushruta* described the detail procedure of karnasandha-vidhi (Auroplasty) in his *sushrutasmhita* [18].

### Nasa-sandhanvidhi (Rhinoplasty)

*Sushruta* mentioned *Nasa-sandhanvidhi* (Rhinoplasty) for nose either lost by disease or by trauma/accident. Description of *Nasa-sandhanvidhi* (Rhinoplasty) is available in *sushrutasmhita*. The original method of *Nasa-sandhan* (Rhinoplasty) reveals that first of all the leaf of creeper should be collected. It should be adequate in length and breath, to cover the entire severed portion. Then a patch of living hash of the size of previously trimmed leaf should be excised with an attached pedicals. So the excised skin flap is maintained by its vascularity. Thus skin flap is than over lapped to severe portion and stitched. The insertion of kamalnaal into nostril to vacillated respiration and to maintain the suture [19].

### Oshthasandhan-vidhi (lipoplasty)

*Maharshisushruta* mentioned *sandhan-vidhi* of china oshtha (lipoplasty) for *khandoshta* (harelip) [20]. *sandhan-vidhi* of china oshtha (lipoplasty) is same as *Nasa-sandhanvidhi* (Rhinoplasty). The only difference is that in lip surgery there is no use of stem of *Erandanaala*. In *Sushruta* it is also mentioned that, *Vaidya* who get skilled in these reconstructive surgery, become *Rajvaidya* i.e. who can treat the king. So From above review it can be said that, *sushruta* was the original plastic surgeon not only in India but also in the world.

### Conclusion

In Ayurvedic *achrya Sushrut* has described plastic surgery. *Nasa-sandhan* (Rhinoplasty), *Karna-sandhan* (Auroplasty) and

*Oshta-sandhan* (lipoplasty) and many more *sandhan* (plastic surgery) are mentioned in Ayurved. Contribution of ancient Indian surgery in the field of plastic operation cannot be over-estimated. All of this it made Indian surgery unique.

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