

# Dear Readers,

Menopause is the stage in a woman's life when the menstrual cycle stops. This is not a disease; rather it is a natural process in a woman's life. However, the stage when a woman has her menopause could be physically and mentally debilitating stage with several complications. When a woman is not menstruating for twelve consecutive months, then she has entered into the phase of menopause. Menses is called as Raja in Ayurveda. For this reason, the stoppage of the menses flow permanently, i.e. menopause is called as Raja Nivrutti, which literally means retirement of menses.

Every woman would experience the menopause, but the symptoms would be highly individualistic. Only few women are blessed with no disturbing symptoms of menopause. The extent of severity varies significantly from women to women. Ayurveda herbal supplements along with diet and lifestyle changes help to ease the menopausal transition. In this newsletter we will discuss about the Ayurvedic view of menopause and the herbal supplements recommended during menopause.

We welcome your suggestions and submissions.

Enjoy reading and get benefited with Ayurveda.

Vaidya Lakshmi Anoop

# Ease Menopause with Ayurveda



Generally, a woman is said to have had her menopause if there has been no menstrual flow for at least one year. This natural end to reproductive life of a woman occurs in a time period of 45-55 years of age. The decline of the menstrual flow occurs gradually as the subsequent month's progress. Once she enters this phase she is no longer fertile.

In Ayurveda, menopause is linked with aging, which is dominant Vata stage of life. Menopause is a culmination of all the three doshas of the woman's body. The menses themselves are pitta, while the woman may gain in her weight during this time, which indicates kapha imbalance. Since the woman may become moody and even lose her sleep during menopause, there is a strong

#### indication of the vata dosha.

Menopausal symptoms occur due to the vitiation of one or more doshas, mainly Vata dosha. The symptoms are experienced by 75-85% of woman. Diet containing hot spicy food, alcohol, caffeine and stressful lifestyle can increase it.

Unhealthy lifestyle vitiates all the doshas leads to Ama (metabolic toxin) formation which causes Srotorodha (obstruction of Artava Vaha Srotas or menstrual channels) and hence affects the proper functioning of hormones leading to menopausal symptoms. So these symptoms are actually a body's response to the individual to remind them to slow down the unhealthy lifestyle.

# Ayurvedic classification of signs and symptoms during menopause

Vata-type menopausal symptoms tend to include nervousness, anxiety, panic, mood swings, vaginal dryness; irregular menstrual periods, insomnia, constipation, palpitations, bloating and joints aches and pains.

Women with Pitta-type symptoms are often prone to anger, irritability, hot flushes, night sweats, excessive menstrual bleeding, urinary tract infections, excessive hair fall, skin rashes and acne.

Kapha type symptoms include listlessness, weight gain, oedema, feelings of heaviness of the body, sluggishness, lethargy, fluid retention, yeast infections, lazy, depressed, lacking motivation, and slow digestion.

### Ayurvedic Management of Menopausal Symptoms

Ayurveda advocates a holistic treatment of menopausal syndrome by utilizing various herbs and offers a reliable option to the conventional treatment. The herbs help to manage menopausal symptoms ensuring safety from associated risks that occurs with synthetic hormones.

They possess certain phytoestrogen. The estrogen or phytoestrogen connects with the body's estrogen receptors, which enable the hormones to function properly, thereby help smooth the transition through menopause.

### Few commonly used herbs effective in easing Menopausal Symptoms

Anethum Sova (Mishreya) acts as an emmenagogue which imparts active ingredients that increase more blood supply to the pelvic area and uterus.

Saraca Indica (Ashoka) is the best uterine tonic which strengthens the muscles of uterus and reduces vaginal discharge and pain.

Trigonella foenum graecum (Methika) contains estrogen-like saponins which help to improve uterine functions, reduce excess fat and levels of cholesterol, LDL and triglycerides safely and naturally.

Asparagus Racemosus (Shatavari) has phyto-estrogen which helps in hot flashes, night sweats, anxiety, etc and enhances libido.

Hemidesmus Indicus (Sariva) it is a blood purifier and corrects the Rasa and Rakta dhatu hence effective in issues like hot flushes.

Emblica Officianalis (Amalaki) is an anti oxidant, rejuvenator and has anti aging properties, thereby promoting health of all organs including the uterus. It is a good cardiac tonic, hair tonic and complexion enhancer.

These herbs address almost all the changes of the menopause without any side effects and have an

effect almost parallel to hormone replacement therapy and synthetic hormones medication.

Few classical preparations mentioned in Avurveda texts which help to smooth the transition through Menopausal symptoms are Chanraprabha vati, Phala ghrita, Pushyanuga churna, etc.

Product of the month – Sundarikalp tea (Menopause help)

Ingredients - Ashoka (Saraca asoka), Shatavari (Asparagus racemosus), Lodhra (Symplocos racemosa), Anantmool (Hemidesmus indicus), Jatiphal (Myristica fragrans), and Ela (Elettaria cardamomum).

Method of use - Sundarikalp tea is in the form of sachets. Dip one sachet in one cup of hot water and allow it to steep for 2 - 3 minutes and then take it as an herbal tea. One or two servings daily are recommended.

Benefits - Maintains women's health and beauty naturally. Helps cope with pre – menopause and post menopause effectively by reducing menopausal symptoms like hot flushes, night sweats, mood swings, vaginal dryness, enhances libido, etc.

For more details on Ayurvedic Teas please click here

Group from Italy successfully completed Ayurveda Training

Group from Italy successfully completed 9 day intensive Ayurveda Training at Chakrapani Ayurveda Center. Under the leadership of Mrs. Sadhbhawana Bharadwaj, they enjoyed their stay and learning at Chakrapani Ayurveda Center. On successful completion of the course, they were awarded course completion certificate. The certification ceremony and valedictory function was held on 29 the August at 11 am and was graced by Dr. Mita Kotecha who is a professor of Dravya Guna Dept., NIA, Jaipur. On the occasion, Prof. Arya Bhushan Bharadwaj gave inspirational speech and showered his blessings. Certificate and gifts were given to all students by Dr. Mita Kotecha and Mrs. Sadhbhawana Bharadwaj.



We wish them good luck for a prosperous & healthy future.



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