**Ayurveda and COVID-19 : Research and Clinical Updates**

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In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ayurvedic community has taken initiatives to respond to the challenge with research and public health initiatives. At the very outset, the Ministry of AYUSH imposed restrictions on unsubstantiated claims and misleading advertisements related to COVID-19 from the AYUSH sector. An Interdisciplinary R & D Task Force was constituted to work out strategies and action plan for research in AYUSH for preventive, management and rehabilitation strategies of COVID-19. As a result of the deliberations of the tast force, clinical trials in both preventive care and management of COVID-19 has been initiated. AYUSH-64, a herbal formulation, Glycyrrhiza glabra, Tinospora cordifolia, Piper longum and Withania somnifera are being tested in clinical trials. At present, more than 100 trials have been registered in the CTRI related to Ayurveda and COVID-19. In the meantime, as the pandemic escalated in many parts of India, the allopathic hospitals became overwhelmed with increasing number of patients and in cities like Delhi, Ayurveda hospitals were deployed to offer clinical care for mild to moderate cases of COVID-19. In many other places like Mumbai and Chennai, patients voluntarily started seeking care from Ayurvedic physicians. The outcomes of these clinical encounters clearly indicate that systems of medicine like Ayurveda can play a significant role in offering clinical care for COVID-19 patients and reduce the burden on the public health system in a country like India. We have also seen attempts to construct clinical profile of COVID-19 from Ayurvedic perspective and also formulate pragmatic protocol for its management. Case reports are also being published. On the other hand, pre-clinical studies are limited due to restricted access to lab facilitites. Evaluation of anti-viral activity of Ayurvedic herbs and formulations have therefore not progressed beyond in-silico studies. Even though there has been research and public health initiatives from Ayurveda and the AYUSH sector, restricted access to labs and patients have greatly limited the development of AYUSH based interventions for COVID-19.