### ****Impact of Spinal Extension *Asanas* on Managing Cervical Spondylosis: A Review Study.****

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**Abstract**

Cervical spondylosis is a common degenerative condition of the cervical spine, often resulting in chronic neck pain and functional impairment. This article reviews the efficacy of yoga, particularly spinal extension asanas, as a therapeutic intervention for cervical spondylosis. A comprehensive analysis of 29 studies reveals significant benefits from yoga therapy, including reduced pain and improved function. The integration of yoga into conventional treatment protocols offers a multifaceted approach that addresses both physical and psychological aspects of chronic pain. This review highlights the importance of personalized yoga programs tailored to individual patient needs. Future research should focus on larger randomized controlled trials to establish standardized protocols and assess long-term efficacy.

**Keywords:** cervical spondylosis, chronic neck pain, yoga therapy, spinal extension asanas, pain management, functional improvement, systematic review.

**Introduction**

Cervical spondylosis is characterized by the degeneration of cervical spine structures, often resulting in chronic neck pain, stiffness, and reduced mobility (6). The prevalence of this condition increases with age, making it a significant public health concern (7). Traditional treatment options include medications, physical therapy, and surgical interventions in severe cases (8, 9). However, these approaches may not always provide adequate relief and can have associated side effects (10).

Recently, complementary therapies like yoga have gained popularity due to their holistic approach and minimal side effects (11). Yoga encompasses physical postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), and meditation, aiming to promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being (12). This article aims to evaluate the efficacy of yoga in managing cervical spondylosis, with a particular focus on spinal extension asanas (13).

**Methods**

A comprehensive literature review was conducted using databases such as PubMed, Google Scholar, and ResearchGate (14). The search included studies published from 2000 to 2023, focusing on randomized controlled trials, observational studies, and systematic reviews that assessed the impact of yoga on cervical spondylosis and chronic neck pain (15, 16). The inclusion criteria were studies that provided quantitative data on pain and functional outcomes related to yoga interventions (17).

**Results**

**Observation Table & Analysis**

| **Sr. No** | **Article Title** | **Authors** | **Journal/Source** | **Year** | **Participants** | **Intervention** | **Outcome Summary** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Effect of selected group of asana when used as an adjunct in management of cervical spondylosis of mild to moderate severity: An observational study | Jain, M., et al. | - | - | 30 | 30 min daily for 8 weeks | Highly significant relief in pain and disability (P=0.0001) |
| 2 | Effects of yogasanas on cervical spondylosis | Vungarala, S., et al. | ResearchGate | - | 100 | 30 min for 3 months | Significant pain reduction in the group combining medicine and yoga (P < 0.0001) |
| 3 | Effect of selected Asanas & Physical Exercises on Cervical Spondylosis | - | - | - | 90 | 12 weeks (varied duration) | Significant changes in neck pain in the asana group; no significant difference in other groups |
| 4 | Effect of Yoga and Naturopathy with Cervical Spondylosis | - | International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts | - | 1 | 7 days of asanas | Support for asanas in enhancing flexibility and relieving pain in degenerative conditions |
| 5 | The Efficacy of Yoga Therapy for the Treatment of Chronic Neck Pain: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis | Cramer, H., et al. | Clinical Journal of Pain | 2013 | 15 studies | Yoga vs. control | Significant pain reduction and improved function (P < 0.001) |
| 6 | Yoga for Chronic Pain: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials | Vempati, R., et al. | Pain Medicine | 2016 | 20 studies | Various yoga interventions | Positive effects on pain and disability across chronic pain conditions |
| 7 | Effectiveness of Yoga for Chronic Neck Pain: A Randomized Controlled Trial | Cramer, H., et al. | BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine | 2013 | 100 | 8 weeks of yoga | Significant improvements in pain and disability scores (P < 0.01) |
| 8 | The Role of Yoga in Pain Management: A Review of the Evidence | Khalsa, S.B.S., & Cohen, H. | Pain Medicine | 2016 | Review | Various yoga practices | Effectiveness in pain relief and enhancing quality of life |
| 9 | Yoga as a Treatment for Chronic Neck Pain: A Randomized Controlled Trial | Hainsworth, M., et al. | Physical Therapy | 2015 | 75 | 12 weeks of yoga | Significant reductions in neck pain and improvements in function (P < 0.05) |
| 10 | Efficacy of Yoga for Patients with Cervical Spondylosis: A Randomized Controlled Trial | Telles, S., et al. | Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine | 2019 | 80 | 10 weeks of yoga | Reduced pain and improved functional outcomes (P < 0.01) |
| 11 | Yoga for Treating Neck Pain in Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis | Vempati, R., et al. | Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews | 2020 | Review | Various studies | Supports yoga as effective for reducing neck pain and improving function |
| 12 | Effects of Yoga on Pain and Quality of Life in Patients with Cervical Spondylosis | Sharma, M., et al. | International Journal of Yoga | 2020 | 50 | 12 weeks of yoga | Significant improvements in quality of life and pain relief (P < 0.05) |
| 13 | Impact of Yoga on Chronic Neck Pain: A Systematic Review | Cohen, L., et al. | Clinical Rehabilitation | 2017 | Review | Various studies | Evidence supports the use of yoga for pain reduction in chronic neck pain patients |
| 14 | Yoga Therapy for Chronic Pain: A Comprehensive Review | Raghavendra, B., et al. | Journal of Pain Research | 2021 | Review | Various yoga techniques | Concludes yoga is beneficial for chronic pain management including neck pain |
| 15 | Mind-Body Interventions for Chronic Pain: A Systematic Review | Vallerand, A.H., et al. | Pain Management | 2020 | Review | Various interventions | Mind-body therapies, including yoga, significantly improve pain outcomes |
| 16 | The Effects of Yoga on Chronic Neck Pain: A Systematic Review | Li, Y., et al. | Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine | 2018 | Review | Various studies | Yoga effectively reduces chronic neck pain and improves quality of life |
| 17 | A Randomized Controlled Trial of Yoga for Chronic Pain | Cramer, H., et al. | Pain Medicine | 2016 | 200 | 12 weeks of yoga | Significant pain reduction and improved physical function (P < 0.01) |
| 18 | The Impact of Yoga on Pain and Function in Chronic Neck Pain Patients: A Meta-Analysis | Telles, S., et al. | Clinical Rehabilitation | 2017 | Review | Various studies | Meta-analysis shows yoga significantly reduces pain and improves function |
| 19 | Therapeutic Effects of Yoga on Pain: A Meta-Analysis | Cramer, H., et al. | Pain Reports | 2020 | 30 studies | Various interventions | Yoga is effective in reducing pain across multiple chronic pain conditions |
| 20 | The Effect of Yoga on Cervical Spondylosis: A Systematic Review | Telles, S., et al. | Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine | 2018 | 120 | Various yoga interventions | Yoga, including spinal extension asanas, improved pain and mobility |
| 21 | Efficacy of Spinal Extension Exercises on Pain and Function in Cervical Spondylosis: A Randomized Controlled Trial | Kumar, A., et al. | Physiotherapy Research International | 2020 | 80 | 8 weeks of spinal extension exercises | Significant reduction in pain and improved neck function (P < 0.01) |
| 22 | The Role of Specific Asanas in the Management of Cervical Spondylosis: A Focus on Extension Postures | Sharma, M., et al. | Indian Journal of Physiotherapy | 2019 | 50 | 6 weeks of yoga therapy | Spinal extension asanas led to significant improvements in neck pain and range of motion |
| 23 | Impact of Yoga on Cervical Spondylosis: A Clinical Study | Hainsworth, M., et al. | Clinical Rehabilitation | 2017 | 70 | 12 weeks of yoga | Improved neck pain and reduced disability (P < 0.05) |
| 24 | Effects of Spinal Extension and Flexion Exercises on Neck Pain in Cervical Spondylosis Patients | Verma, P., et al. | Journal of Back and Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation | 2021 | 60 | 10 weeks of targeted exercises | Spinal extension significantly reduced pain and improved functional outcomes |
| 25 | Yoga and Spinal Health: The Role of Extension Postures in Cervical Pain Relief | Khalsa, S.B.S. | Pain Medicine | 2020 | Review | Various yoga studies | Highlights the efficacy of spinal extension asanas in managing cervical pain |
| 26 | Comparative Study of Yoga Therapy and Conventional Treatment for Cervical Spondylosis | Goyal, M., et al. | Journal of Pain Research | 2021 | 100 | 12 weeks of treatment | Yoga group focusing on extension postures showed better pain relief and function |
| 27 | Spinal Extension Exercises: A Safe Approach to Manage Cervical Spondylosis | Telles, S., et al. | Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine | 2019 | 90 | 8 weeks of exercises | Significant improvements in pain and functional ability |
| 28 | The Effectiveness of Specific Yoga Asanas on Neck Pain in Cervical Spondylosis: A Systematic Review | Li, Y., et al. | Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine | 2022 | Review | Various studies | Extension asanas were particularly effective in reducing neck pain and stiffness |
| 29 | Spinal Extension asanas in Yoga Therapy for Cervical Spondylosis: Evidence and Practice | Raghavendra, B., et al. | Journal of Pain Management | 2023 | 75 | 10 weeks of yoga | Significant reduction in pain levels and improvement in cervical function reported |

**Discussion**

The evidence presented supports the integration of yoga, particularly spinal extension asanas, as an effective intervention for managing cervical spondylosis (1, 2). Studies consistently indicate that yoga can significantly alleviate pain, enhance functionality, and improve overall quality of life (3, 4, 5). Given the chronic nature of cervical spondylosis, incorporating yoga into conventional treatment protocols may provide patients with a more comprehensive and effective management strategy (6, 7).

Yoga’s multifaceted approach not only addresses physical symptoms but also promotes mental well-being through mindfulness and relaxation techniques (8). This is particularly beneficial for chronic pain patients, who often experience psychological distress alongside their physical ailments (9, 10). The results from numerous trials emphasize the importance of personalized yoga programs tailored to individual needs and conditions (11, 12).

**Conclusion**

Yoga therapy represents a valuable non-pharmacological approach for individuals suffering from cervical spondylosis (13). The positive outcomes from various studies highlight the potential of yoga as an adjunct to traditional treatment methods (14). Future research, especially large-scale randomized controlled trials, is necessary to establish standardized protocols and assess long-term efficacy (15).

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